

Newspaper Clips

January 18, 2014

Hindu ND 18/01/2014 P-11

Coming, an Indian ranking system for higher education institutions

Anita Joshua

NEW DELHI: With the country's higher education institutions failing to make the cut on international ranking lists year after year, a move is now on to develop an Indian ranking system that would help portray the proper metrics of importance, and rank institutions accordingly.

This proposal — mooted in the report of the Ranking Committee which was submitted to the government on Thursday at the retreat of the Indian Institute of Technology directors — got the Union

Human Resource Development Ministry's nod and now it is for the IIT Council to meet and provide the contours.

According to the proposal, an India-generated ranking system would ensure that the large set of institutions across the country are properly ranked and placed in proper perspective, factoring in aspects that are peculiar to India.

One model that is being considered is China's, which for the past decade has been coming out with the Academic Ranking of World Universities. This is conducted by

ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, an independent organisation on higher education information which is not legally subordinated to any university or government agency.

Though a clearer picture of how the ranking agency will be structured will emerge only after the IIT Council takes a view, Ministry officials maintained that it would not be confined to IITs. In the long run, the plan is to make this an independent ranking agency, which could change the discourse in the world education market like the Chinese ranking did.

अब देश के उच्च शिक्षा ढांचे में रूसा करेगी सुधार

भाषा. नई दिल्ली

दक्ष शिक्षकों एवं आधारभूत संरचना की कमी, शिक्षण संस्थाओं के गुणवत्ता मूल्यांकन का ढांचा एवं तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थाओं की कमी जैसी समस्याओं के मद्देनजर मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के राष्ट्रीय उच्चतर शिक्षा अभियान (रूसा) के तहत अनेक शिक्षण संस्थाओं ने सहयोग मांगा है।

मंत्रालय ने रूसा के तहत सभी राज्यों से प्रस्ताव तैयार करने और राज्य उच्च शिक्षा परिषद गठित करने को कहा है। मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि रूसा के तहत राज्यों की शिक्षण संस्थाओं से करीब 500 आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं। जिन संस्थाओं से आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं

उनमें सरकारी संस्थान, गैर सहायता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय और राज्य विश्वविद्यालय शामिल हैं। गौरतलब है कि राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा सलाहकार परिषद (केब) की बैठक में रूसा पर विचार किया गया जिसे केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने कुछ समय पहले मंजूरी दी थी जिसे स्वतंत्रता के बाद उच्च शिक्षा के विस्तार का पहला बड़ा प्रयास माना जा रहा है।

सभी प्रदेश से राज्य उच्च शिक्षा परिषद गठित करने और राज्य उच्च शिक्षा योजना बनाने को कहा गया है। राष्ट्रीय उच्च शिक्षा अभियान के तहत 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना एवं आने वाले वर्षों के दौरान 98 हजार करोड़ का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। जिसमें से 23 हजार करोड़ मंजूर भी हो गए हैं।

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4 मई से भरे जाएंगे जेईई एडवांस के फार्म

देहरादून । इस साल आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई एडवांस के लिए फार्म 4 मई से भरे जाएंगे। प्रवेश परीक्षा करा रहे आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने प्रवेश परीक्षा और एडमिशन का विस्तृत कार्यक्रम जारी कर दिया है। इस साल यह परीक्षा 25 मई को होगी। जेईई एडवांस का फार्म वही छात्र भर सकते हैं जो जेईई मेंस के टॉप 1.5 लाख में शामिल हों।

New IIMs set admission cut-off at 96.82 percentile

BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 17 January

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Kashipur, Raipur, Ranchi, Rohtak, Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) and Udaipur have announced their short-list percentile cut-offs for Written Ability Test (WAT) and Personal Interview (PI). The cut-off has been fixed at 96.82 percentile overall, meaning those scoring below this percentile in the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2013 will not be eligible for further processes in admission to these IIMs.

The six new IIMs (Kashipur, Raipur, Ranchi, Rohtak, Trichy and Udaipur) have a common process of WAT& PI to be coordinated this year by IIM Trichy. With respect to the section-wise percentile cut-offs, a candidate is required to score 70.77 percentile in the Quantitative Ability and Data Interpretation section and 71.09 per-

centile in the Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning section.

"The list of candidates for WAT & PI for IIM Kashipur, IIM Raipur, IIM Ranchi, IIM Rohtak, IIM Trichy & IIM Udaipur will be available on the website on January 22, 2014 for access," said a notice on the IIM Trichy website.

Post this short-listing process, the names of the candidates will be announced. After this, each candidate goes through the ability test and interviews before the final selections. Further, other criteria like academic background, work experience and gender diversity are taken into account by the individual IIMs to bring out the final list of candidates for admissions.

The older IIMs including Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Bangalore have already given their CAT cut-offs for the further short-listing process of students. The minimum required percentile ranges from 90 percentile to 95 percentile.

CAT candidates confused over scores

Some of the candidates who appeared in the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2013, are not satisfied with their percentile scores and have pointed to discrepancies in the system. Candidates have said on social media and other avenues, there have been huge differences in their percentile scores in the two sections of CAT. They complained their overall percentile had dropped.

Some students personally went and met the CAT convenors to address their concerns. Candidates have given their written concerns to the CAT convenors, which have been sent to Prometric, the US-based testing agency that conducted the examination.

However, Prometric has said the system is accurate and reliable. "Prometric's number one

priority for delivering the CAT is to provide accurate scores for candidates to differentiate themselves and earn placements in distinguished B-school programmes. For CAT 2013, we have conducted additional quality control to verify that 100 per cent of our reporting is accurate and our methodology is fair, reliable and determines the right scores according to candidate performance," said Soumitra Roy, general manager, Prometric India. He said they provide a scoring process that is secure, reliable, accurate and recognised as a global best practice. According to Indian Institute of Management direction, Roy added that it was their job to heighten the exam's difficulty and hence only the best performing test takers earned the highest scores.

BS REPORTER

ASI to set up carbon dating lab at IIT-G

Determining relic antiquity to become more easy

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: Archaeologists will no more have to wait for years to determine the antiquity of the relics that they dig out from ancient sites and to know the historical significance of the discoveries.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is set to fund the establishment of a laboratory for carbon-dating at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar, in a joint collaboration with a premier engineering college.

The proposed laboratory will use modern chemical analysis and carbon dating tools to determine the antiquity of the relics. The services of the facility will be available to any organisation, including universities and state archaeological departments against "certain fee".

Since the ASI will fund the establishment of the laboratory, it will avail its facilities "free of cost". The proposal to set up the laboratory first came from IIT-Gandhinagar, which has already set up a centre for archaeological studies.

"We are in process of preparing a memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) to be signed between us (ASI and IIT-Gandhinagar)," additional director general of the ASI B R Mani told *Deccan Herald*.

The budget for the establishment of proposed laboratory, however, is yet to be placed before the ASI. "We have asked them for it," he added.

The move assumes significance as India does not have many laboratories which carry out scientific tests to determine the age of fossils and relics. Those, which are available, are either overburdened or not up to mark.

The ASI, which has taken up many excavation works across the country, has always faced problems in getting the dates of their relic samples determined due to dearth of such facilities.

"There is always a huge backlog in the laboratories available in the country. This delays our work," a senior Culture Ministry official said.

A senior official of the ASI said samples for determination of date were earlier sent to Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, and Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow.

DH News Service

Google unveils contact lens for diabetics

It Will Measure Glucose Level In Real Time, May Spell End Of Painful Jabs

Javed Anwer | TNN

New Delhi: The engineers inside Google X are hard at work. And this time they have come up with a contact lens that will measure the glucose level of a person in real time. The product is still in early stage of development. For now Google is testing prototypes and how they can be best used.

If successful, this contact lens may help diabetics say goodbye to painful needles that they have to use several times a day to successfully monitor their blood glucose level.

In a blog post explaining the contact lens, Google said that glucose level in a human body can be measured from tears. "But as you can imagine, tears are hard to collect and study. At Google X, we wondered if miniaturized electronics — think: (silicon) chips and sensors so small they look like bits of glitter, and an anten-



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SWEET NEWS

na thinner than a human hair — might be a way to crack the mystery of tear glucose and measure it with greater accuracy," the blog post explained.

Google X is special division inside the web company that works on future technologies. It is headed by Google co-founder Sergei Brin. Google Glass, which is

essentially a small computer with a tiny head-mounted display, also came out of Google X. Glass too started as a prototype but last year it was sold to early adopters. It is likely to be widely available in retail stores this year.

For now, Google has not shared any details on the availability of the contact lens. "We're in discussions with the FDA (the US government that regulates health products), but there's still a lot more work to do to turn this technology into a system that people can use," said a Google spokesperson. The company hinted that this glucose-monitoring contact lens, whenever it comes to the market, will likely sold by "partners who are experts in bringing products like this to market".

The current prototype of the contact lens can record the glucose level every second. "The product measures glucose levels in tears using a tiny wireless chip and

miniaturized glucose sensor that are embedded between two layers of soft contact lens material. We're testing prototypes that can generate a reading once per second. We're also investigating the potential for this to serve as an early warning for the wearer, so we're exploring integrating tiny LED lights that could light up to indicate that glucose levels have crossed above or below certain thresholds," explained the official blog post.

While it started as a web search engine and still makes most of its money from displaying web advertisements, in the recent years Google has become very ambitious, arguably the most ambitious technology company. It is working on several technologies that are straight out of future. The company is developing driverless cars, which use sensors, cameras and virtual map technologies, to travel on roads without any assistance from humans.

HT Kolkata

Drop in Indians at UK varsities raises concern

Prasun Sonwalkar

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: The umbrella body representing British universities on Friday said it was a matter of “concern” that the number of Indian students coming to the UK continued to show a decline, and called for a “welcoming climate” for genuine international students.

Figures released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on Thursday revealed the decline in the number of Indian students that started in 2011-12 continued in the last academic year (2012-13), leading to a record 25% reduction overall.

Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of Universities UK, said: “Despite growing demand globally, international recruitment figures in the UK over the last few years have not done justice, either to the global success of the UK’s universities, or the sector’s ability to tap into this substantial growth market”. The consistent drop in Indians students is mainly attributed to the scrapping of the post-study visa .

HT Mumbai

POLICE YET TO TRACE MISSING IIT-B STUDENT

MUMBAI: The police are yet to find Shiv Teja, a 25-year-old PhD student from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), who has been missing from the campus since Monday.

Shiv's parents arrived in the city on Thursday and efforts to trace him are on.

"There is still no clue, but we are hopeful. The hostel warden informed the police about the incident. He spoke to his parents last Friday," said Rashmi Sablania, IIT-B spokesperson.

Shiv is pursuing PhD in electrical engineering. The warden got suspicious, when he saw newspapers of January 14 and 15 lying outside his room .

The Powai police have registered a case. "His mobile phone is switched off," said a senior police officer.

HTC

Conservation, not technology, will help meet water needs: IISc director

Bangalore, Jan 17, 2014, DHNS:, Deccan Herald

Villages added to BBMP will get Cauvery water: Minister



No amount of technical solutions can help in meeting the increasing demand for water in the City, according to P Balam, the director of Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Only conservation and equitable distribution of water supply would address the problem.

“Although technical solution is the need of the hour to utilise the existing water resources, there is no escape from standard exercises of conversational activities. Even at IISc, more stress is laid on research on water,” Balam said on Friday at the 46th annual convention of the Indian Water Works Association (IWWA), being held for the very first time in Bangalore.

Prof Balam said that while newer technologies should be adopted, government bodies, consumers and other stakeholders must not shy from water conservation. He then recalled how water was being supplied round the clock in 1980s and how it was rationed subsequently because of growing population.

Bangalore Urban district In-charge Minister Ramalinga Reddy mentioned that nowadays every household expected drinking water in their taps round the clock. The engineers and other professionals, the consultants and contractors working in the sector should always keep in mind that the government had to meet the requirements of even the poorest man — from drinking water to sanitation facilities at his home.

Reddy said that drinking water to 110 villages, part of the BBMP, would be supplied after the proposed allocation of 10 tmc (thousand million cubic feet) of water from River Cauvery. This would also reduce the pressure on ground water, he said.

At the event, T Venkataraju, the BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief, took over as IWWA chairman from V R Kalyankar.

Dr Sukumar Devotta, former director of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, delivered the Dr Modhak Memorial Lecture on ‘Augmentation water availability from non-conventional water resources’. He explained how zero liquid discharge, which is mainly recycled and reused, has been made mandatory for leather, textile and dyeing industries in Tamil Nadu and how it has helped conserve water.

BWSSB Chairman M D Ravi Shankar, in Raman Endowment Lecture, explained the board’s services to the urban poor.

IIT techno-management fest kicks off on high note

TNN | Jan 18, 2014, 02.02 AM IST

BHUBANESWAR: Wissenaire'14, the annual [techno-management festival](#) of [IIT Bhubaneswar](#), began here on Friday.

Dr BK Das, joint director, Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, inaugurated the event.

World renowned mentalist Ehud Segev from Israel performed on the inaugural evening.

"The technological extravaganza is packed with a perfect combination of technical and management events," said Umesh Chandra Sahoo, chairman, Wissenaire'14.

The second day of the three-day event will see another mega show 'Teknite' by Vilas Nayak, speed painter, and Vineet Vincet, a beatboxer, musician, and performing artist from India, who entered the Limca Book of Records by creating the largest human beatbox ensemble with 2,136 participants.

He also holds a Guinness World Record for the largest human beatbox ensemble.

On the last day, Guinness world record holders Parkour Team and noted "Twin Jugglers" will perform at Janata Maidan as part of the techno carnival.

IIT unity plan for better rank

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

New Delhi, Jan. 16: The Indian Institutes of Technology have fallen back on the old saying unity is strength after being ranked embarrassingly low among global universities for successive years.

At a brainstorming session here today, directors and chairpersons of the 16 IITs discussed whether the tech schools should be projected as a single entity when agencies like the Times Higher Education, Quacquarelli Symonds and Shanghai Jiao Tong University ranked institutions.

If the idea is followed through, sources in the HRD ministry and some IIT directors said, the premier institutions were likely to score higher on parameters like volume of research, technology transfer, international students, international faculty and peer comment.

"We are considering this idea that all the IITs will present themselves as one entity or brand. We are going to write to the ranking agencies on this," higher education secretary Ashok Thakur said after the meeting.

Only four IITs ranked among the top 500 world institutions in 2013, while three figured on the list the previous year. None ranked among the top 200.

Asked if such a single-entity projection was possible, Thakur said some of the top universities in the world had several campuses at different places but are considered single institutions.

"If the foreign universities' multiple campuses... can be considered as one entity, why not the IITs?" he said. "In fact, the IITs have been created under one law, the Institute of Technology Act."

Not every IIT director agreed that the plan would work. Some said it would weaken the case of the IITs because of the disparity in achievements.

The older IITs, for example, have a better record of citation per faculty — or work of a faculty cited by another faculty in a research paper published in a peer-reviewed journal.

If all the IITs are branded as a single entity, this section said, the citation-per-faculty score would come down because the average would have to be taken.

IIT Kanpur director Indranil Manna suggested the IITs should participate in the category of technological institutions. “Institutions like Harvard University have a wide range of subjects and departments. The IITs only focus on engineering education. It would be better if we compete among technological universities,” Manna said.

Another director doubted whether the IITs could be projected as a single entity. “Each IIT is an autonomous institution. They don’t share faculties and students,” he said. “How can they be considered as a single entity?”

The final decision will be taken after a panel set up by the Standing Committee of the IIT Council gives its report.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140117/jsp/nation/story_17833024.jsp#.UtoZAbS6bIW