

Newspaper Clips

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HT Mumbai

India 66th in global innovation index

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: India ranks 66th in innovation capacity and efficiency among 142 countries of the world, according to the report “Global Innovation Index (GII) 2013” published jointly by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

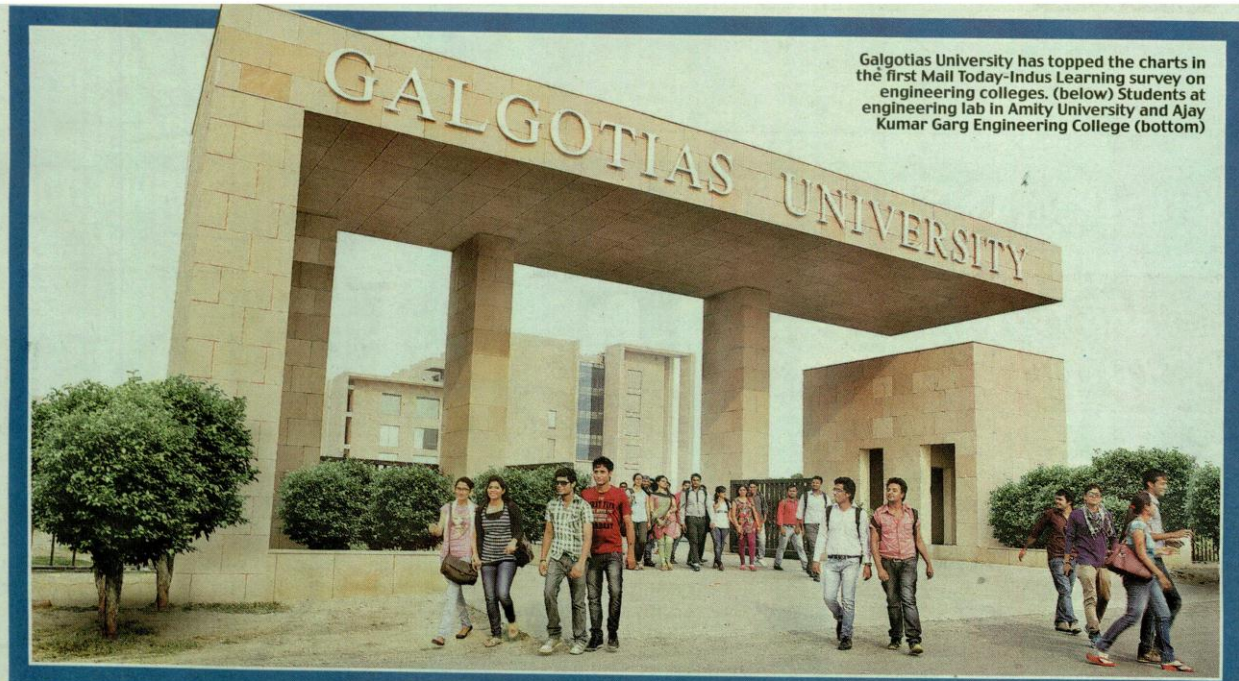
The GII 2013 used 84 indicators including the quality of top universities, availability of micro finance and venture capital deals among others to gauge innovation capabilities in a country.

India ranked first in the Central and South Asia region followed by Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka, and 11th overall in innovation efficiency ratio. The strength areas for India are gross capital formation as

WHAT THE REPORT SAYS

- Explores how innovation has benefited from ‘local specifics’ in different parts of the world
- Too many innovation strategies have been focused on trying to replicate previous successes elsewhere
- Methods should be rooted in local comparative advantages, history and culture

percentage of GDP, investment in new business, industrial cluster development, computer and information services exports and creative goods exports, among others. India ranked poor in areas such as political stability, ease of starting business, school life expectancy, pupil-teacher ratio and knowledge absorption among others.



Galgotias University has topped the charts in the first Mail Today-Indus Learning survey on engineering colleges. (below) Students at engineering lab in Amity University and Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College (bottom)

ENGINEERING A NEW DAWN

The first Mail Today-Indus Learning survey zooms in on top technology institutes

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

GALGOTIAS University's engineering college has emerged as the top private engineering institution as per the first Mail Today-Indus Learning Engineering and Technology Institutes Ranking.

The survey based on the perception of students, faculty members, alumni and HR managers evaluated a total of 74 engineering and technology institutions in Delhi NCR along with institutions from Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

The second and third position went to Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi and Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College, Ghaziabad. Some of the other top ranking institutions are Amity School of Engineering and Technology, Noida, ITM University, Gurgaon, Krishna Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ghaziabad, Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology, Delhi, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, JSS Academy of Technical Education, Noida and S.R.M. Institute of Management and Technology, Modinagar, Ghaziabad.

The rankings based on snowball sampling, completes the first phase of the two-part survey. Snowball sampling is a technique where existing study subjects recruit future subjects from among their acquaintances. The sample group eventually appears to grow like a rolling snowball providing the necessary data for useful research. A total of 400 respondents comprising students, parents, HR experts and

faculty members took part in the perception study.

The second part of the survey, which will follow the 'fact-file-questionnaire' methodology, will be limited to engineering and technology institutes in and around Delhi-NCR. Scores will be assigned to individual institutes during this phase based on the information provided by the respondents on various parameters such as course curriculum, intellectual capital, placement, international exposure, infrastructure, industry interaction and potential to network. The final rankings will then be prepared by combining the perception survey and the fact file scores.

"We follow a 360 degree approach to the survey by looking at both hard facts as well as market perceptions," said Divesh Mehta, CEO and Chief Editor, Indus Learning, a company specialising in educational products and services. "Perception of the market is never far away from an institute's performance," he said.

Institutions will also be required to submit proof of their claims while being considered for the final rankings.



TOP PRIVATE ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES IN DELHI NCR & UTTAR PRADESH

NAME OF INSTITUTE	LOCATION	RANK
Galgotias University	Greater Noida	1
Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology	Delhi	2
Ajay Kumar Garg Engineering College	Ghaziabad	3
Amity School of Engineering & Technology	Noida	4
ITM University	Gurgaon	5
Krishna Institute of Engg & Technology	Ghaziabad	6
Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology	Delhi	7
Jaypee Institute of Information Technology	Noida	8
JSS Academy of Technical Education	Noida	9
SRM Institute of Management & Technology, Modinagar	Ghaziabad	10

Source: Mail Today-Indus Learning Perception Survey

The first phase of the two part survey was based on snowball sampling



RUSA will improve standards of higher education: Pallam Raju

20 new Central varsities, seven IITs to be set up during 12th Plan

PBD BUREAU

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 2

DEPLORING the fact that the quality of education in India remains below global standards, Union HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju today said the aim is to improve the situation in 12th 5-year-plan for which a Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is being launched.

"It is a stark reality that quality, particularly in higher education, is not up to the international standard and the Central government is taking a slew of measures to improve the situation," Raju told reporters here.

Maintaining that the focus was to improve teaching-learning quality and research, the Union minister said funds would be made available through RUSA to universities and colleges to strengthen higher educational institutes and make them the centres of academic excellence.

Stating that the gov-



ernment plans to open many higher educational institutes, including 20 new Central universities and seven IITs during the 12th plan, RUSA would go a long way in elevating the status of deserving institutes to that of Central universities.

The statement came a day after Raju, while addressing the convocation at Central University of Odisha at Koraput, said it was unfortunate that no Indian university has found place among the top

200 varsities in the world and sought innovative reforms in higher education to improve quality.

In a bid to improve the quality of teaching, it is planned to start teacher training schools in all Central universities, he said, adding that concrete steps would be taken to consolidate the new IITs and other institutes.

Regarding Odisha, Raju said the total amount released by the Centre to the state for various schemes on school educa-

tion from 2009 to 2013 was Rs 6,488.77 crore, while the fund given during 2013-14 stood at Rs 837.12 crore.

As many as 173 blocks in the state were identified as educationally backward, he said, adding that altogether 9,483 primary schools have been sanctioned under Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan (SSA) in Odisha out of which 8,946 have been opened.

Out of Odisha's total 89,383 habitations, 85,858 have been covered by pri-

mary schooling facility within one km. At upper primary level, 87,299 habitations are covered within 3 km, he also said.

Meanwhile, the state Congress submitted a memorandum to the HRD Minister urging to take necessary action over misappropriation of funds under Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan (SSA) in state. The party also urged the minister to set up a Central institute of management for the poor and meritorious students in the state.

HT Chnadigarh

Renewable energy technology developed by UK university, IIT Ropar launched

Bahadurjeet Singh

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RUPNAGAR: A new renewable energy technology for biomass conversion from agriculture waste, developed by scientists of the European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) at Aston University (AU), United Kingdom (UK) in international research collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, was formally launched at village Khwasapura near here, on Tuesday.

The technology developed with funding from the Oglesby Charitable Trust at AU is housed in a container unit that can be transported between rural locations by a tractor and is operated by the villagers themselves.

Robert Berry, executive dean, school of engineering and applied science at Aston University said, "Every year farmers throughout India burn millions of tonnes of crop

residue. This burning process has a negative impact on the environment and economy as this straw is wasted and has serious implications on health and society due to the smoke and fumes produced."

Berry said the project titled Energy Harvest takes agricultural waste left over from the harvests such as rice and wheat straw and EBRI's technology heats them in controlled conditions. The process generates oil, gas and biochar. Each one of these products is useful and means that the harvest waste now has a value as it is put to use rather than simply being burnt.

"The oil produced can be mixed with diesel and used in engines to drive water pumps found on the agricultural land in the region, the gas can be used for power generation while the biochar can be used as a fertiliser to increase crop growth," he added.

The technology has the potential to stimulate growth



■ Officials from Aston University, UK, and British Deputy High Commission, Chandigarh during launch of a renewable energy project at Khwasapura village near Rupnagar on Tuesday.

HT PHOTO

and provide a cost-effective, reliable and sustainable form of decentralised power generation to address the local needs of heat and energy. Berry further added.

IIT Ropar Director MK Surappa said "I am delighted that IIT Ropar is collaborat-

ing with EBRI on this project. IIT Ropar has provided laboratory facilities to enable essential testing and research to be conducted. Technical support throughout the trials that have taken place has also been given."

Suppa added that open field

burning is a big problem for India and he hopes this project will provide a socially and economically viable solution for farming communities, not only in Punjab, but also for the rest of the country.

"The farmers of village Khwasapura will be provided oil produced through the technology for running the diesel engines to see the benefits of the same. This innovative technology will also be made available as a pilot phase in village Hussainpur, Ladal of Rupnagar district."

Oglesby Charitable Trust chairman Michael Oglesby, British deputy high commissioner at Chandigarh David Elliot, Professor Aston Business School Prasanta Dey, EBRI director Andreas Hornung, AU associate professor Sudhakar Sagi, IIT Ropar registrar A Palanivel, IIT Ropar associate professor, school of mechanical materials and energy engineering Harpreet Singh were also present on the occasion.

IIT-B placements unaffected by recession

Bhavya Dore

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MUMBAI: Despite global economic uncertainty, recruiters made 322 offers in the topmost salary bracket to students of the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IITB) this year.

Though the number is the same as last year, the salary brackets have been scaled up, with the top bracket moved up from Rs9.5 lakh and above to Rs10 lakh and over. Subsequent brackets have also been revised upwards this year.

It [placement] has been roughly the same as that of last year

AVIJIT CHATTERJEE
placement incharge, IIT-B

The latest data is from the institute's interim placement report for 2012-2013, with the final report due by the end of the month once placements are completed by mid-July.

So far, 267 companies have made 1,043 offers to IITB grads. In 2011-12, 262 compa-

nies had made 1,060 offers, but the figure is likely to reach or even breach last year's mark after the procedure is completed.

"It has been roughly the same as last year," said Avijit Chatterjee, professor in-charge of placements at IITB. He estimated the average salary this year at roughly Rs8 lakh per annum, an upward movement compared to Rs7.5 lakh last year.

"Unlike the general atmosphere of uncertainty due to global economic slowdown and

recession, IIT-Bombay entered its placement season with confidence due to its high quality of students and strong corporate relationships," said the introduction to the report. A sector-wise analysis of the report showed that engineering and core areas continued to be dominant, with more than two-thirds of the students opting for science, engineering and technology-oriented jobs.

The other big recruiters were companies in the consulting, financial services and analytics sectors.

Tribune ND 03/07/2013 P-8

Belling a fake CAT

Deserving candidates let down

TOOLS of information technology have proved unreliable in creating a fool-proof system for the highly competitive CAT (combined entrance test), which ensures the entry of only the very competent into the prestigious management colleges in India. As it turns out, it is the tampering of these very guards that has put the credibility of the examination under scrutiny. So much so that a case has been lodged under Section- 420 of the IPC and Section- 60 of the Information Technology Act in Kozhikode on the basis of a complaint by the CAT convener that claims the results were doctored to accommodate the undeserving. The news has sent shockwaves across all CAT contenders-past, present and future.

The whole episode reads like rigging of a school level examination in Bihar or UP. An examinee who scored just four marks in CAT 2012, eventually got a score of 94 on his marks card, by just prefixing 9 to the score. This blatant manipulation has eroded the faith in the prestigious exam. The students with doctored high marks have already taken admission in reputed B-schools, other than the IIMs. Hopefully, their admissions will be cancelled, but many deserving candidates have lost their chance to get entry into the IIMs. Last month the Mumbai-based Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies had unearthed a "racket" where 87 candidates had used forged identities for a national-level MBA admission test.

Such irregularities are observed on a regular basis in prestigious and highly competitive examinations. When scores of a few are tampered to be placed on a high ranking, it automatically brings down the percentile of the deserving candidates. To begin with, an independent agency should be assigned to inquire into the whole episode and severe punishment should be given to the guilty, irrespective of their position, to restore faith of the deserving in the system.

Deccan Herald ND 03.07.13 P-9

This business of education

► *It is time to rid education of the politics of caste and financial greed.*

**Sundeep Manghat
Balasubramaniam R.**

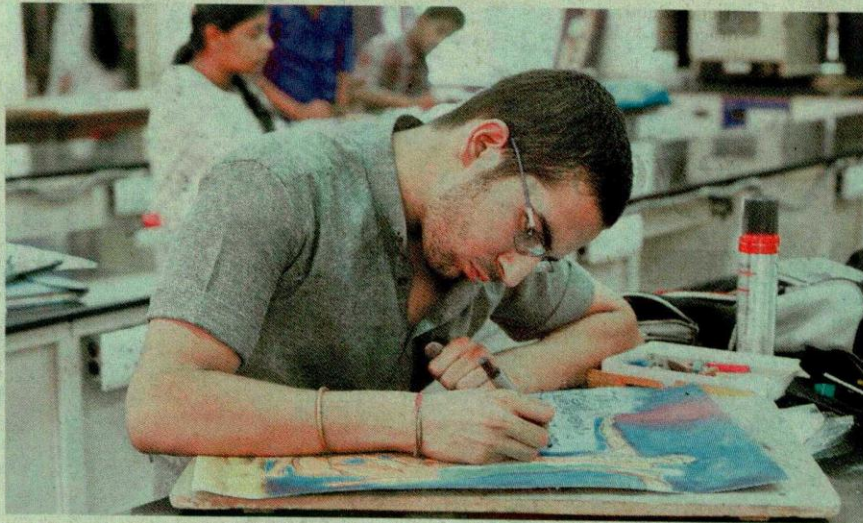
One of the most important issues facing parents is the education of their children. The state of education in India has led to despair and in some cases, destitution.

The education at university level is based on extreme competition and a gruelling selection process. A whole industry has grown out of this eco system, and it needs a closer examination. One of the most daunting aspects is the payment of capitation fees to private higher education institutions, the so-called management quotas and the reservation system based on caste. We believe that some fundamental issues have to be tackled urgently.

The establishment of private colleges and universities has indeed increased capacity in the sector, but at what cost? Most of these institutions are registered as charities and pay no tax. However, they also seem to be able to collect management fees and allocate seats on management quotas. This dichotomy needs to be addressed.

MAKE AUDIT MANDATORY

In the first instance, there should be strict rules regarding allocation of management quota seats in the study of medicine and engineering. These are areas where there is a vested public interest: doctors are licensed to practise and at some level en-



Create your own framework... foreign players can't address our concerns.

gineers build things that the general public consumes or utilises. The risks and costs associated with non-deserving students practising these professions and endangering the lives of the public under authority is tantamount to culpable manslaughter on behalf of the government.

CAPITATION FEES

It is fair that institutions registered as charities need not pay tax; however, the caveat is that they should be indeed be charities and not profit-making institutions. In the current system, educational institutions are registered as charities, and yet actively seek and in some cases flagrantly demand capitation fees for admission (in cash, of course).

The payment of such fees, though illegal, cannot be stopped immediately, so instead we ask that the accounts of education institutions be audited as

per the requirements of the Companies Act, and that such accounts be filed mandatorily annually.

Further, all revenue and surplus generated must be exclusively used for the institution and no funds must be disbursed for any other purpose, unless prior government sanction is gained and this information is made available to both the students of the institutions, their guardians and the public at large. If the surplus of the institution is not used within three years of it first being generated, then the same should be taxed by the government or returned proportionately to the contributors. What is the use of charitable institutions collecting money for "charity" if it is not used expediently?

We both were at university when the findings of the Mandal Commission were adopted and reservation was mandated across the nation. It has been

nearly 25 years, a generation, and yet the statute remains on the books, is extended, and used as a political tool with the customary disruptions and accusations that such extension entails.

We believe it is time to make reservation needs-based and create an enlightened admission policy that awards points to students of schools from disadvantaged areas, irrespective of their caste. The usage of caste as an identity and as a means of social change has run its course. In this millennium, India and Indians must forge their identity on the individual merits of achievement and ability, not on an accident of birth.

FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

The latest trend in education is the setting up of foreign universities with Indian partners within India. This raises some interesting questions regarding not only the rationale but also the politics of the policy.

Foreign universities do not set up outposts in other countries out of altruistic motives or on the basis of universal education. They are driven by profit and economies of scale. The student travelling abroad experiences a new country and culture and gains invaluable education outside the classroom, which cannot be replicated within India.

However, the notion that being issued a certificate from a foreign university makes the student more marketable to employers or intellectually more mature is ridiculous at best and racist at worst.

It is also interesting to note that foreign governments, on behalf of their universities, want India to change the investment policy on education; at the same time, they are tightening the policy on student visas to their country. Greed, to paraphrase Gordon Gekko, is legal, but has hypocrisy been added as a requirement too?

The changes that India needs have to come from within, they cannot come from abroad or from private investors/institutions.

There has to be stricter enforcement of new university registrations, the collection of fees, the focus on creating a nationwide 12th standard exam and the reduction in the number of entrance exams. The citizens must demand more from their institutions and themselves.

Population statistics show that India has the largest youth population in the world. We will fail them and ourselves if we let things go on as usual. Education is claimed to be great equaliser of society and it is a privilege not for the privileged.

Manghat is an academic in the UK and Balasubramaniam is an independent consultant in India.

Deccan Herald ND 03.07.13 P-2

'Seat allocation for dental course at AIIMS unfair'

High Court pulls up medical college for reserving no seat for OBCs

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday said the formula adopted by AIIMS for allocation of seats to various categories in the Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) course, which started in July this year, is not just and fair as no seat was reserved for OBC category.

The court, however, declined to interfere with this year's course and asked the Centre and AIIMS to allocate seats as per the provisions in the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act in future.

"The formula adopted by respondent 1 (AIIMS) is not in conformity with the legislative mandate since sometimes the reserved category candidates are getting more than their due shares and sometimes they are not getting the share which ought to have come to them," Justice V K Jain said.

The court order came while disposing of a plea filed by one Anusar Gupta, first rank holder in OBC category in post-graduate MDS course, who was refused admission on OBC seat in the institute for this year's course. "There is no legal sanctity behind the formula adopted by AIIMS for allocation of seats amongst various categories in the MDS course. Considering the meagre number of seats available in various specialities, the legislative mandate cannot be achieved in case the formula adopted by respondent No1 is allowed to continue. The formula applied by it is neither legal nor just and fair," the court also said.

The court rejected Anusar Gupta's plea for a direction to AIIMS to reserve 27 per cent

HC: Considering the meagre number of seats available in various specialities, the legislative mandate can't be achieved in case the formula adopted by AIIMS is allowed to continue

seats out of the total seats for OBC category in MDS course, and allow him for admission.

"I am of the view that the admission process requires no interference by the court and should be allowed to be completed as per the allocation notified in the prospectus," the court said.

Filing the plea through counsel Nitin Kumar Gupta, the petitioner said there are five seats allotted for MDS course, but not a single seat has been reserved by the institute this year for OBC category students, which is illegal as there is a provision of 27 percent reservation of seats for OBC candidates in every institute.

The plea said, "He has been denied admission in OBC category due to wrong and illegal calculation or allocation of seats for OBC candidates, wherein not even a single seat has been reserved for OBC candidates (27 percent reservation) despite having a total of five seats." The counsel told the court that AIIMS has failed to adhere to allocation of 27 per cent total seats for OBC category candidates, which is contrary to the settled law.

CITIES THEY LOVE

From the ghats of Varanasi to the beaches of Chennai, we travel with eight students across India to visit cities they've studied in and fallen in love with

VARANASI: Everything has its own place in the ancient city of Varanasi. Students here enjoy both work and play. The Ramnagar ka Quila is a favourite with the students of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). "One had to cross a Tankwallah Bridge over the Ganges to get there. There is a Vishwanath Temple on campus," says BHU alum Rohit Singh Dangli. Everything from enjoying the Banarasi aloo bhujia and paan to spending long hours by the banks of the river Ganga, "It was so much a part of our lives," says Dangli. The city of narrow gullies is also known for its nightmarish traffic as well as its Holi celebrations



HYDERABAD: It's not just the forts, monuments and museums that enchant people visiting this historic city. Many youngsters come here for higher studies from within India as well as outside. While you get your fill of history by visiting the Golconda Fort, the Charminar and other popular destinations, you could consider many institutions for a degree. These include University of Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, English and Foreign Language University, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics and IIT Hyderabad. Lurliansam Vaiphei travelled all the way from Manipur to get an education here



BENGALURU: Other than giving you a chance to keep your fingers on the pulse of the IT industry, this city gives you ample options to pursue higher studies too. Some of the popular institutions include IIM Bangalore, Indian Institute of Science, National Law School of India University and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences. "The weather here is awesome 24X7. The pub scene is amazing. People are educated, nice - from your teachers to the mochi fixing your shoes - every one treats you with respect," says Ankita Saha who came from Delhi to study here



KOLKATA: For Gaurav Mishra, who was born in Jharkhand, did his schooling from Delhi and is now studying at Presidency College in Kolkata. "Kolkata is a better city than Delhi." Besides the art, culture and film scene immensely popular here, places that one can visit are Howrah Bridge, Victoria Memorial, Eden Garden and Park Street. Students flock to the city to pursue their higher education from institutions such as University of Kolkata, Jadavpur University and IIT Madras. According to Tom Benny Augustine, a final-year student at Loyola College, "Some of the things that one must do is to grab some quick lessons in Tamil and visit the East Coast Road and Marina beaches"



CHENNAI: This city is prominent not just for its politics, food, culture and films, but also for its beaches and temples. It does not have a rocking campus scene like certain other cities up north or in the west, but its institutions are known for many different things such as dress codes, discipline and remedial classes or training for students. Major institutions here include Loyola College, Elnraj College, Stella Maris College and IIT Madras. According to Tom Benny Augustine, a final-year student at Loyola College, "Some of the things that one must do is to grab some quick lessons in Tamil and visit the East Coast Road and Marina beaches"



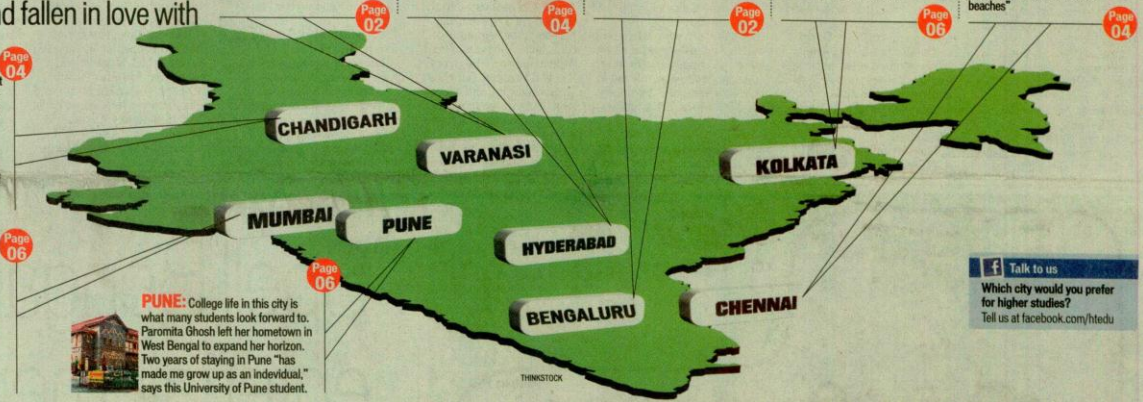
CHANDIGARH: This first planned city in India post independence is home to many good educational institutions such as DAV College, Government College for Girls, and Government College for Men, that are affiliated to Punjab University. It is also known for its Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research. "Besides regular studies, we have a lot of societies for academic and cultural activities," says Piyush Sharma, a student of DAV College who recommends Sukhna Lake, Rock Garden and Botanical Garden to newcomers



MUMBAI: This city of dreams attracts thousands of people from across the country to pursue their ambitions. It's home to major institutions such as IIT Bombay, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and University of Mumbai. "Mumbai is a vibrant city. It gives you the feel of an international city, exposing us to a multi-cultural environment," says Priyanka Sunelja, an economics student at St Xavier's College. Places such as Marine Drive, Bandra and Colaba Market are popular among visitors and locals alike



PUNE: College life in this city is what many students look forward to. Paromita Ghosh left her hometown in West Bengal to expand her horizon. Two years of staying in Pune "has made me grow up as an individual," says this University of Pune student.



Talk to us
Which city would you prefer for higher studies?
Tell us at facebook.com/htedu