Newspaper Clips
July 3, 2014

Business Standard ND 3/07/2014 P-19

Indian universities vie for international recognition

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 2 July

Till 2013, Panjab University, one of India's oldest (132 years old), was content with its reach and progress. However, a letter of invitation to participate in world university rankings from the *Times Higher Education* (THE) magazine, changed that. As a result, Panjab University hit headlines, being ranked the topmost university in India, beating even the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The university was placed at 226 among 400 institutions worldwide in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013, while IIT Kharagpur was placed at 250. The IITs — Roorkee, Delhi and Kanpur — figured in the 351-400 band. This year, the university was ranked 32nd and the top from India on Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings.

"Till last year, we were not extensively exposed to the idea of rankings. But our vice-chancellor decided that we participate. The rankings, though unsolicited, have helped us analyse our strength and weaknesses," said Lalit Bansal, chairman, Panjab University.

From dismissing these rankings initially to using the same as a bench-marking exercise now, Indian universities, including the IITs, say the ranking exercise has become a tool for a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis.

For instance, BITS (Birla Institute of Technology and Science) Pilani is using the rankings to measure up to national and international institutions of repute. It figured in the 201-250 bracket in the top 300 list in Asia released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) this May.

"While participating in the ranking exercise, we wanted to subject ourselves to examination by a third party and thereby find out the areas we are strong in and the areas we lag. We are using this as a bench-marking exercise," said B N Jain, vice-chancellor, BITS Pilani.

BUSINESS EDUCATION

Deccan Herald ND 3/07/2014 P-8

UGC panel to decide fate of 41 deemed varsities

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission has initiated a process for fresh assessment of 41 deemed universities which were sought to be de-recognised on the basis of the 2009 Tandon Committee report.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has set up a four-member sub-committee to complete the exercise in a time-bound manner as the Supreme Court in January had directed the regulator to submit its advice on the status of these institutes to the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry by July 31.

The sub-committee set up by the UGC will assess the qualities of these varsities in terms of their available physical and academic infrastructure, as well as their academic performance and research output, sources said.

The panel headed by UGC vice chairman H Devaraj comprises of Sanjay Dhandhe and V S Chouhan besides a senior official of the HRD Ministry.

Representatives of these institutes will appear before the sub-committee and they will make a video presentation of their institutions and respond to queries.

DH News Service

क्वालिफाई होने के बावजूद छोड़ दिया आई.आई.टी.

करीब 750 छात्रों ने एडमिशन प्रक्रिया में नहीं लिया हिस्सा

नई दिल्ली, 2 जुलाई (ब्यूरो): जहां एक तरफ आई.आई.टी. मुम्बई टॉपरों का पहला च्वाइस बना हुआ है, वहीं दूसरी ओर आई.आई.टी. एडवांस्ड में सफलता हासिल करके एडमिशन के लिए क्वालिफाई घोषित करीब 750 छात्रों ने एडमिशन प्रक्रिया में भाग नहीं लिया। इस साल करीब 18061 कैंडिडेट को रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए एलिजिबल कहा गया था लेकिन एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक सिर्फ 17311 छात्रों ने च्वाइस फील किया।

आई.आई.टी. में एडमिशन के लिए च्वाइस फीलिंग अनिवार्य प्रक्रिया है, जिसके आधार पर छात्रों का एलॉटमैंट किया जाता है। एक्सपर्ट का अनुमान है कि इनमें से कई ने प्राइवेट यूनिवर्सिटी या फिर विदेशों में पढ़ाई करने के लिए भी आई.आई.टी. छोड़ने

का फैसला किया होगा। उधर, पटना, मंडी, जोधपुर, हैदराबाद, भुवनेश्नर जैसे नए आई.आई.टी. को भी छात्र कम पसंद कर रहे हैं जबकि इसकी जगह बी.आई.टी. और कई प्रमुख एन.आई.टी. भी छात्रों की पसंद बने हुए हैं। हालांकि एन.आई.टी. के लिए अभी मैरिट लिस्ट की घोषणा नहीं हुई है।

आई.आई.टी. के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस साल सीट खाली रहने की कोई संभावना नहीं है क्योंकि सीट से करीब दोगुने कैंडिडेट को रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए चुना गया है।
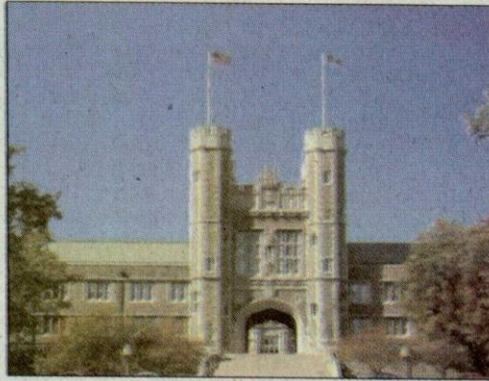
Washington varsity, Mumbai IIT tie up for MBA programme

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 02 July

Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, today announced the launch of their new joint Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme.

It is aimed at grooming and advancing leadership skills and careers of senior professionals to international executives and future business leaders. The new programme is claimed to be the first of its kind to confer an MBA degree from both an Indian and an American university and will be modeled after Washington University's Executive MBA programmes in China and the

United States.
The curriculum will focus on leadership

development and innovation, including theoretical and practical training, and integrate local and cultural perspectives. "This joint program with IIT Bombay strengthens that network and provides an opportunity for innovative executives to make a real difference in their own countries in a direct and observable way," said Mahendra R. Gupta, Dean of Olin Business School, Washington University.

The programme will be spread over 18 months, where classes will be offered four days per month in Mumbai and it will end with a two-week capstone experience at Washington University. The first session will commence in 2015. Washington University and IIT Bombay have worked together since 2009.

At 315m, India has the most students in world

10.5m Of Them Aged 0-4: Census

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

India has the second largest population in the world so most population-related numbers are bound to be big, but even so, recently released Census 2011 data throws up a startling statistic — the number of students is a gigantic 315 million.

This is not only the largest student body in the world, but Indian students would make for the fourth biggest country in the world, nearly touching the US which has a population of 318 million. For comparison, China's student pop-

'Not working': 16 crore Indian women do only household work

Nearly 160 million women in India — or 45% of the working age population aged between 15 and 59 — do only household chores and reported themselves as "not working", according to the 2011 Census. This Great Invisible Workforce is forced to stay at home largely due to social pressures and partly as the result of economic policies that offer no opportunities to women. In a gender bender, the census gives figures for men exclusively doing household duties too — all of 58 lakh men across India. **P 9**

ulation is about 252 million as per Unesco statistics.

The student population has a slightly bizarre component to it—more than 3.3 million of them are above 30 years of age. Over 12 lakh are above 60 years and 1.2 lakh above 80 years. This suggests there was something wrong in the way questions were posed

or framed, or some were talking about their dreams. But this grey area is small —just over 1% of the total.

What is more puzzling, a jaw dropping 10.5 million students are in the 0-4 age group, meaning 10% of all kids in the age group are in schools or creches.

Lens on India-Mauritius edu pact signed during Pallam Raju's stint

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

> **The agreement was signed in November 2013 when then HRD minister MM Pallam Raju was not attending office as he was involved in the Telangana stir. No official of Indian varsity body was part of the team. Yet, a pact was inked**

New Delhi: On June 13 when the full meeting of the University Grants Commission referred the January 2014 agreement between Tertiary Education Commission (Mauritius) and UGC to the HRD ministry, it did not realize what closer scrutiny would reveal. What has emerged threatens the fate of the latest agreement.

Sources said during review of the 2014 agreement, it was found that in section 12 on mutual recognition/ equivalence of qualification, there is a reference to Memorandum of Understanding signed between TEC and Association of Indian Universities. AIU is involved in giving equivalence and recognition to foreign degrees.

The agreement was signed in November last year when then HRD minis-

ter MM Pallam Raju went to Mauritius along with UGC chairperson Ved Prakash and others. At that point, Raju was not attending office in Delhi as he was protesting formation of Telangana. No official of AIU was part of the delegation. Yet, an agreement was signed. Now it has been found that AIU-TEC agreement does not consist of signature of officials of both countries. "It seems documents were signed separately and exchanged later," a source said. Later, in January 2014, UGC and TEC signed the agreement.

What is even more worrying is that AIU and TEC had signed an agreement for

five years in 2010. "The agreement should have been renewed in 2015 but for reasons not known, the two sides signed a new one at the end of the third year. It raises serious questions about intent behind the agreement," a source in TEC said.

Sources in Mauritius, UGC and AIU say that a lot that has been done since last year to help Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (EIILM) owned by Sunil Jeetah, brother of Rajesh Jeetah, minister of tertiary education, science research in Mauritius. EIILM is a private Indian university based in Sikkim. Sources say when EIILM's offshore cam-

pus was set up in 2007, UGC had sent a letter that it was not a recognized institute. "TEC did not abide by the UGC letter as well as TEC-UGC agreement of 2007 and EIILM was allowed to continue. In fact, in September 2013 UGC asked EIILM to close down its Mauritius campus," a senior TEC official said.

But after the AIU-TEC pact of November last year and UGC-TEC agreement of 2014, TEC official said, something "ridiculous happened." On June 3, TEC listed a number of institutions, mostly off-shore campuses of Indian institutes including EIILM, who were not allowed to admit students this year. On June 11, TEC through a statement said awards from all institutions recognized and all programmes accredited by the TEC are recognized. But this recognition is confined to Mauritius.

Deadly flu strain created for pandemic research

Scientists Worried About Virus Escaping Lab

Steve Connor

A controversial scientist who carried out provocative research on making influenza viruses more infectious has completed his most dangerous experiment to date by deliberately creating a pandemic strain of flu that can evade the human immune system.

Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the University of Wisconsin-Madison has genetically manipulated the 2009 strain of pandemic flu in order for it to "escape" the control of the immune system's neutralising antibodies, effectively making the human population defenceless against its reemergence.

Most of the world today has developed some level of immunity to the 2009 pandemic flu virus, which means that it can now be treated as less dangerous "seasonal flu". However, The Independent understands that Kawaoka intentionally set out to see if it was possible to convert it to a pre-pandemic state in order to analyse the genetic changes involved.

The study has not been published yet, but some scientists who are aware of it are horrified that Kawaoka was allowed to deliberately remove the only defence against a strain of flu virus that has already demonstrated its

© Glowimages/Corbis

DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT

ability to create a deadly pandemic that killed over 500,000 people in the first year of its emergence.

Kawaoka has so far kept details of the research out of the public domain but admitted on Wednesday that the work is complete and ready for submission to a scientific journal. The experiment was designed to monitor the changes to the 2009 H1N1 strain of virus that would enable it to escape immune protection in order to improve the design of vaccines, he said. "Through selection of immune escape viruses in the laboratory under appropriate contain-

ment conditions, we were able to identify the key regions (that) would enable 2009 H1N1 viruses to escape immunity," Kawaoka said. "Viruses in clinical isolates have been identified that have these same changes in the viral protein," he said.

Some scientists however are shocked and astonished at Kawaoka's latest and most audacious work on flu viruses, which follow on from his attempts to re-create the 1918 flu virus and an earlier project to increase the transmissibility of a highly lethal strain of bird flu.

"He took the 2009 pandemic flu virus and selected out strains that were not neutralised by human antibodies. He repeated this several times until he got a real humdinger of a virus," said one scientist who was present at Kawaoka's talk. "He left no doubt in my mind that he had achieved it. He used a flu virus that is known to infect humans and then manipulated it in such a way that it would effectively leave the global population defenceless if it ever escaped from his laboratory," he said. "He's basically got a known pandemic strain that is now resistant to vaccination. Everything he did before was dangerous but this is even madder. This is the virus," he added. THE INDEPENDENT

Nasa gets new eye in sky to track carbon pollution

Srinivas Laxman | TNN

AP

A Nasa image shows Delta 2 rocket with the Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 satellite being launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, Wednesday

In the first-ever mission of its kind which will make 24 measurements each second, Nasa on Tuesday launched a flight dedicated to studying atmospheric carbon dioxide, the leading human-produced gas driving changes in the earth's climate.

It will allow scientists to make daily detailed measurements of carbon dioxide at a global level amounting to nearly 100,000 measurements of the gas every day. To carry out the scientific study, the spacecraft will be positioned 704km above earth and the first science observations are expected to begin in 45 days after launch.

As the Delta 11 rocket carrying the spacecraft designated as OCO-2 (Orbiting Carbon Observatory) lifted off at 3.30pm (IST) at the Vandenburg Air Base in California, the launch commentator at the mission control centre declared: "OCO-2 will track a greenhouse gas driving changes in the earth's climate."

There was just a 30-second launch opportunity on Tuesday afternoon. Nasa explained that the timing had to be precise because OCO-2 will join a constellation of five other international earth observing satellites functioning close to each other and make simultaneous observations of the earth. Had OCO's launch been too early or late it would have missed the right track.

According to Nasa, the mission will produce the most detailed picture to date of natural sources of carbon dioxide as well as what is known as their "sinks" — places on earth's surface where CO2 is removed from the atmosphere. The observatory will study how these sources and "sinks" are distributed around the globe.

Jul 03 2014 : The Times of India (Delhi)

Delhi's drainage, desilting & flood control a big fraud: CAG

Josy Joseph
New Delhi
TNN

`Agencies Make Tall Claims, Lie About Projects'

Stuck on a waterlogged road, many of you would blame the monsoon for your misery . This report should dispel that notion. In its audit of Delhi's drainage, desilting and flood control measures, the comptroller and auditor general of India has unearthed systematic fraud and neglect, showing how taxpayers' money is virtually going down the drain.

The report, which could be tabled in Parliament soon, reveals a series of scams involving several city agencies.

Consider this. During 2010-13, the flood control department removed 8,30,000 cubic metres of silt from the Najafgarh drain and Trunk Drain no. 1. But only about 1,00,000 cubic metres of it was moved away . When asked why the rest was dumped right next to the drains, the department said its banks were large enough and the silt wouldn't go back in.

The report says under the Delhi master plan of 2001, authorities were supposed to al so prepare a master plan for drainage. A committee was set up for this purpose in 2005, but it did nothing until 2012.
That's when the work was handed over to IIT Delhi.
However, government agencies have till date not handed over any data to IIT Delhi, and thus the work is stuck.

Simultaneously , the Delhi Jal Board was to prepare a master plan for sewerage. No such work is available even today. That's not all. Delhi's flood control department has not conducted any topographical survey of Yamuna since 2005, citing staff shortage. Without this data, dimensions for storm water drains and other key components cannot be planned.

The audit also reveals a consistent pattern of agencies resorting to lies. For instance, PWD on June 15, 2013 claimed that desilting of all

its drains was complete, and no silt was left behind. However, on September 10, 2013, the department admitted in an internal status report that it had removed silt completely only from 80km of road, and partially from 158km.
For another 40km of its roads, the department had no knowledge if desilting had taken place at all. Test audit of key waterlogging points showed a bizarre pattern. Even on days when rainfall was moderate and the water level of Yamuna remained well below the danger level, waterlogging was reported at various locations, the audit said. This belied the usual excuses of departments about heavy rains and high water level of Yamuna being key reasons for flooding of roads.

This also points to the fact that the Delhi's storm drains are faulty. It turns out that these drains are designed to cater to a maximum of only 25mm rain in an hour whereas experts have suggested that the city should storm drains that can cater to 62.5mm rain during a 30-minute duration.

The audit points to several instances of shocking delay. In August 2009, after residences of high court judges along Purana Qila road were flooded, NDMC engaged IIT Delhi to study the problem. IIT suggested remodelling of drain

number 14. MCD gave the contract only by March 2013. After five years of the disaster, just 10% work is complete.

A final draft of the CAG report on 'Flood control and drainage system in Delhi' was sent to the Delhi government recently. Sources said the audit was ordered by CAG S K Sharma during the last mon

soon, in the wake of widespread reports of hours-long traffic jams and waterlogging.

The report is also a narrative of the larger urban decay of Delhi. Dumping of waste in drains and Yamuna are rampant. The audit said this is also a crucial reason contributing to our misery every monsoon.

YOUR MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN
What the CAG audit of Delhi's drainage & desilting reveals

➤ Panel set up in 2005 to prepare a master plan for drainage **did nothing till 2012**, when work was shifted to IIT Delhi. Project still stuck because **agencies haven't handed over any data to IIT**

➤ Similarly, there's **no sign of a master plan for sewerage**, to be done by DJB

➤ In 2010-13, flood control dept **removed 8,30,000 cubic metres of silt** from Najafgarh drain and Trunk Drain no. 1, but took away only 1,00,000 cubic metres. The rest was **dumped next to the drains**. Dept said banks were large and silt wouldn't go back in

➤ At waterlogging points such as **ITO, Ashram Chowk and Adchini T-junction**, depts claimed to have carried out remedial measures but **cops continue to report flooding**

➤ **No topographical survey of Yamuna** done since 2005 because flood control dept is 'short staffed'

➤ In 2013, PWD claimed it had completed desilting of its drains. In an internal status report, it admitted **large sections were not desilted**

TROUBLE SPOTS, TROUBLING CLAIMS

Adchini T-point on Aurbindo Marg | After flooding in 2012, a new drain on road number 11 was completed in Jan 2013. But flooding reported again by police in June and July 2013

Ashram Chowk | PWD said waterlogging in 2010 was because of choking which it claimed to have cleared immediately. In 2013, traffic police reported clogging again

ITO-Tilak Marg | Flooding in 2012. PWD claimed it had cleaned up clogged drains. But police reported flooding in 2013

Tibetan Market | After flooding in 2010, agencies said remedial measures had been taken. But market was flooded again in 2011 & 2013

Purana Qila Road & Mathura Road | In August 2009, after houses of HC judges were flooded, NDMC appointed IIT Delhi to suggest remedies. IIT recommended remodelling of drain number 14, which fell under MCD control. MCD gave out contract in March 2013. Project was to be completed by September 2014. But just 10% work has been done

IIT cutoffs across boards see a surge

http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx

NEW DELHI: Students have performed better this year across boards - as has been revealed by the higher 20 percentile cutoffs of different boards that were put on the JEE (advanced) website on Tuesday.

As students competed to make it to the 20 percentile, the cutoff required to be in that bracket has gone up substantially. Academicians and experts, however, feel that it was two years since the new format for IIT admission was introduced and it was time to go for a thorough review.

The 20 percentile cutoffs for different boards this year varies from 93.03 % in Andhra Pradesh board to 51% in Tripura board.

The government had introduced a new format for IIT selection in 2013 that had pushed students to do better in their board exams.

In this format, only the top 20 percentile students from each board were eligible to get admission in the IITs. Before 2013, the only eligibility criteria for admission to IITs was to get a 60% in the board exams.

Former president of IIT Delhi faculty forum Sanjeev Sanghi told HT, "It has been two years since the format was introduced. It is time we go for a review of it and fix it at a certain level. We had earlier also suggested that there should be an option of either 20 percentile or 80%, whichever is lower. The percentile system does not work favourably for the boards that give very high marks."

Dheeraj Sanghi, a professor at IIT Kanpur, agreed. "The 20 percentile system is a good criterion for making students more focussed on boards. The problem arises when some boards start giving marks liberally. It has become like a lottery. While this does affect IIT admissions to some extent, the bigger problem is for NIT admissions. We should review this format and what it is has achieved in two years."

While the 20 percentile cutoff for CBSE was 81.6% last year, this year it has increased to 83.2%. For Andhra Board, this has increased from 91.8% to 93.03%, for Karnataka board from 86% to 93%, for ISC from 83.2% to 85%, Tamil Nadu board from 90.9% to 91.7%. Some boards like Andhra, Gujarat, Goa and Punjab have more than one system of marking for 12th and so have different percentiles.

IIT-Indore students invent machine which gives voice to hearing impaired

http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx#

INDORE: Trying to contribute their bit to the society, two engineers from IIT-Indore (batch 2014), have come up with a new device for the speaking and hearing impaired.

Referring to the device as 'Awaaz- the voice of the speaking and hearing impaired' the duo, creators of machine, Ashok Pancilly and Kunal Chaudhary, initially started with the project as an assignment for their semester break.

"We would often visit the city on our off days and would get to see a number of people struggling with basics of life. And when I say basic I refer to fundamentals like communication. The reason for which was, that they were just not able to hear and speak like us," said Pancilly.

Pointing that this motivated both of them to go ahead with the idea for the invention of a new device, it took more than a year's time, till they were actually able to come up with something different, "We wanted to build something which is unique, convenient and easy to use. As many hearing and speaking impaired individuals are not lucky enough to get a proper education, so our focus was on the simplicity of the device. One which could be easily accessed by all," added Panilly.

Making use of sign language gestures of the (speaking impaired/those who can't speak) and voicing them out, 'AWAAZ' generates a voice for every action which is performed on its screen. "One simply needs to wave its hand over the screen and it deciphers it to speak out with emotions what the user actually wants to convey," explained the duo.

Referring that the main objective of the device is to give these special children of god a voice of their own so that they can overcome their disability, the duo has plans to patent it soon as well. "We are already in the process of getting it patented. Also, we have applied for a US patent, so that it can be used at a global level," said Ashok Pancilly.

Carrying out tests for the device at deaf and dumb school at Sindhi colony in Indore, both Kunal and Ashok are also carrying out multiple tests at various schools in different cities. Analysing the cost to come down to somewhere around 4,500 for a device, they both feel that it can be made more cheaper, if some NGO of the department of social justice pools in to give a subsidy on it.

Green tribunal orders impact assessment of IIT-M campus

TNN | Jul 3, 2014, 03.49 AM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Green-tribunal-orders-impact-assessment-of-IIT-M-campus/articleshow/37666362.cms

CHENNAI: The State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority should complete the impact assessment on the IIT Madras campus and file a status report within 15 days, directed the Southern bench of National Green Tribunal on Wednesday.

The bench of judicial member Justice M Chockalingam and expert member R Nagendran said SEIAA could provide environmental clearance on merits. As the admissions were on and the future of students was at stake, the status reports had to be submitted on the stipulated date, they added.

Based on a petition filed by an environmentalist saying IIT-M was felling trees and constructing buildings without approval, the NGT bench on March 4 ordered the administration to stop construction of all buildings on the campus. On March 13, IIT-M wanted construction of seven buildings to be permitted as they were in the last stages of completion. The NGT bench refused. On May 5, IIT-M submitted that the campus was not in a forest area and it could not complete the process of seeking building planning approvals earlier due to administrative and academic reasons.

Separately, in response to an application from IIT-M registrar for construction of two hostel blocks, one for men and women, the NGT directed the CMDA to consider the request and file a status report. On June 11, CMDA said it had submitted on June 6 the Planning Permission Application to its panel on multi-storeyed buildings. Three days later the panel sent its recommendations to the state government which were pending approval, said the CMDA.

When the matter came up for hearing, counsel for IIT sought adjournment stating that SEIAA clearance would be completed within a month. Countering this, M Santhanaraman, counsel for the petitioner, said IIT-M had completed

construction on the entire campus without the environmental clearance certificate. As such post-construction environmental clearance could not be given.

The matter was posted to July 17 for hearing.

Three Premier Edu Institutes to be Set up in Tirupati

http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/Three-Premier-Edu-Institutes-to-be-Set-up-in-Tirupati/2014/07/03/article2312377.ece

CHITTOOR: Three prestigious education institutions are likely to be added to the district to turn it into a knowledge hub.

Post bifurcation, the Centre, which has proposed to make Tirupati a knowledge hub, had asked the State government to provide at least 1,000 acre land to set up the three institutions and the land for these had been identified by the authorities.

The three premier institutes include an IIT, Central University and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and the Centre had asked the State government to identify land for setting up them in the district.

Chittoor district collector K Ramgopal said, "The Centre want 300 acres to set up an IIT, 500 acres for Central University and another 200 acres for setting up the IISER near Tirupati.

We had identified the necessary land in Renigunta, Srikalahasti and Erpedu mandals and have sent a report to the government as well."

The administration had selected large tracts of assigned land for the purpose as it would be easy to acquire it and hand over the same to the authorities concerned, if the identified land is selected for setting up the institute. It has also decided not to include any of the endowments land in the proposed land as the High Court had already ruled not to touch endowments land. To give endowments lands, we need permission of the Court, he said.

Meanwhile, the state government too had sent the proposals to the concerned authorities. Officials concerned with each institute will send a separate site selection committee, which will decide about the viability of the identified land to set up the institute at that place, Ramgopal said.

Some of the factors that the Centre would be looking into while identifying land for setting up the institutes would be its connectivity -- both road and air -- and also the social life and social infrastructure there, Ramgopal said.

The identified lands would be near to the highway and all the three mandals, and should be easily accessible to Renigunta airport, which is on the outskirts of Tirupati, the Collector said.

District officials are hoping that the officials concerned would be visiting the district and inspecting the identified lands soon. If they are not satisfied with the identified lands, they might seek alternate lands, officials said.

Modi govt should help export Indian higher education, say educationists

Prasun Sonwalkar, Hindustan Times London, June 29, 2014

First Published: 22:41 IST(29/6/2014) | Last Updated: 00:13 IST(30/6/2014)

http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/modi-govt-should-help-export-indian-higher-education-say-educationists/article1-1235057.aspx

Educationists from 20 leading Indian private universities gathered at the House of Commons for an awards ceremony to fly India's flag in the global higher education market, and announced plans to create an 'education hub' on the lines of medical tourism and IT services.

The awards were given by a consortium of Indian private universities called SkillTree, after an 'audit' of courses in the universities over two years. Out of a total of 674 universities in India, 183 were private, educationists at the event said.

Sushma Paul Berlia, chancellor of Apeejay Stya University, told HT: "The Narendra Modi government should help private universities tap global higher education markets in the same way the British Council helps British universities recruit international students. There is so much that we can offer to international students".

India, she said, may not figure in major global university rankings, but there were several universities and institutes that offer 'very good education' to students from developing countries and to people of Indian origin in countries such as Britain and the US.

The awards ceremony was followed by a party at Madame Tussauds, where leading Indian and Indian-origin people such as Lord Swraj Paul, Keith Vaz, Navnit Dholakia, Dame Asha Khemka and Baroness Verma joined the Indian private universities' push for a global presence.

According to Berlia, higher education could be a net foreign exchange earner for India at a time when a major increase in fees was prompting students in western countries to look at alternatives for cheaper but valuable education. Studying in India would help prepare them for jobs in a major global market, she said.

Shekhar A Bhattacharjee, founder of SkillTree, said: "India is a great destination with great institutions; India's higher education system has witnessed tremendous growth in recent times. 'SkillTree Great Place to Study – India Edition' showcases 20 institutions in the country which have great global practices".

The 20 universities and institutions awarded included G D Goenka University, Goa Institute of Management, Manipal University, XLRI – Xavier School of Management, Whistling Woods International, and Apeejay Education Society & Apeejay Stya University.