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Mint ND 09/07/2015 P-5

QUALITY EDUCATION

IISc Bangalore ranks No. 5 in BRICS university standings

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NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Science, (IISc) Bangalore, has emerged No. 5 in a ranking of 404 universities in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) region. This is the first time any Indian educational institution has broken into the top 10 of the rankings published by London-based QS, previously known as Quacquarelli Symonds.

This is the first time IISc has submitted data for the QS ranking. In 2014, IISc did not formally provide the data, and was ranked 13. When a university does not provide data, QS sources data available from websites, employers and peers.

However, the clear leader in the QS BRICS university rankings, released in Delhi on Wednesday, is China. Tsinghua University, Peking University and Fudan University from India's northern neighbour occupy the top three ranks in the QS survey. Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University is at No. 4, followed by IISc. In total, there are 110 Chinese universities among the top 400 and 67 among the top 200. For India, the corresponding numbers are 94 and 31.

"India has seen a rise of more than 50% in the number of insti-

TOP BRICS UNIVERSITIES

While their numbers increased in the 2015 list, top Indian institutes slid in their rankings from the previous year.

Ranking		University
2014	2015	
1	1	↔ Tsinghua University
2	2	↔ Peking University
5	3	↑ Fudan University
3	4	↓ Lomonosov Moscow State University
13	5	↑ IISc, Bangalore
13	13	↔ IIT Delhi
15	16	↓ IIT Bombay
16	18	↓ IIT Kanpur
17	20	↓ IIT Madras
20	24	↓ IIT Kharagpur

Source: BRICS University Rankings by QS
AJAY NEGI/MINT

tutions listed in the latest ranking of the top 200 universities in BRICS countries," QS said in its ranking booklet. "The Indian Institute of Science has come straight into the ranking in the top five in the first year in which it has submitted a full set of data."

"We are considered the best research-oriented university. It feels good to be in the top 10 list among BRICS universities, but we would like to be in the top 100 list of world university ranking," said Govindan Rangarajan, chairman of division of interdis-

ciplinary research at IISc.

Including IISc, there are five Indian institutions in the top 20.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is at the 13th rank, same as last year. IIT Bombay, at 16th place, dropped one place from last year. IIT Kanpur at 18th place and IIT Madras at 20th place are the others in the top 20 of the rankings.

The University of Mumbai has made the maximum progress in the top 100 list. It jumped from 68th position last year to 58 this year.

The University of Calicut pro-

gressed nearly 100 places to reach the 100-110 bracket from the previous 200-plus bracket.

Similarly, Aligarh Muslim University and the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, have made significant progress from the outside-200 list to 110-120.

After ranking the top 100 institutions, QS gives ranking in brackets of 10.

Balvinder Shukla, vice-chancellor of privately run Amity University, said Indian universities can enter the top 200 list, provided they supply enough data to the ranking agency. Amity has been ranked in the 141-150 bracket, the same as last year. "Structured data supply, improvement in research papers, and its publication, are getting attention of academicians in India of late, and they have realized that by doing so, their own brand value will grow internationally," she said.

Karthick Sridhar, vice-chairman of Indian Centre for Academic Rankings and Excellence, which helped QS in India in the ranking process, said more Indian universities participated in the ranking process this year and gave required information leading to better performance. "If the trend continues, then their ranking shall certainly improve in the world university rankings, but Indian universities need to better their performance in two key areas—academic reputation and employer reputation, other than research paper publications," he said.

No Indian university features in the separate rankings of top 200 world universities, published by QS, or Times Higher Education, another international ranking agency in London.

Amar Ujala ND 09/07/2015

P-16

कम अंक आने पर 73 छात्रों को आईआईटी ने निकाला

रुड़की (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी रुड़की ने प्रथम वर्ष के दो सेमेस्टर में पांच सीजीपीए से कम अंक पाने वाले 73 छात्रों को संस्थान से निकाल दिया है। बुधवार को हुई सीनेट की बैठक में छात्रों की ओर से 22 जून को दी गई मर्सी अपील पर सुनवाई के दौरान पूर्व में लिए गए निर्णय को यथावत रखा गया। संस्थान के निदेशक प्रो. प्रदीप्त बनर्जी ने कहा कि यह पहले से ही तय था। जिसके आधार पर छात्रों को नोटिस दिया गया था। उन्होंने कहा कि यह छात्रों की भलाई के लिए ही किया गया है, क्योंकि आने वाले सालों में अच्छा नहीं कर पाने पर इनके लिए कोई अवसर नहीं बचता।

उन्होंने छात्रों के उज्ज्वल भविष्य के लिए शुभकामनाएं दी। छात्रों के भविष्य को लेकर सीनेट में हुई मंत्रणा में विगत वर्षों के अनुभवों को ध्यान में रखते हुए फैसला लिया गया। सूत्रों के अनुसार कई सालों में शुरू के सेमेस्टर में कम सीजीपीए लाने वाले छात्र बेहतर नहीं कर पाए। जिन्हें बाद में

आईआईटी रुड़की में पांच से कम सीजीपीए पर कार्टवाई

मर्सी अपील पर हुई सुनवाई में सीनेट का फैसला

एक मौका तो भगवान भी देता है

कुशीनगर निवासी राज महेश्वरी भी उन छात्रों में से एक था। जिन्हें संस्थान से निकाल दिया गया है। फैसला आने के बाद राज की मां अलका पनपानिया बार-बार यही कह रही थी कि एक मौका तो भगवान भी देता है। लेकिन, उनकी भावना सीनेट के फैसले को नहीं बदल पाई।

जाकर संस्थान से बाहर निकालना पड़ा। इसके चलते भी इन छात्रों को राहत देने का आधार नहीं बन पाया। इससे पहले सीनेट का जैसे ही फैसला आया तो छात्रों के चेहरे मुरझा गए और अभिभावकों का गला रुंध आया।

Statesman ND 09/07/2015 P-7

IIT Roorkee base for Railway Research Centre

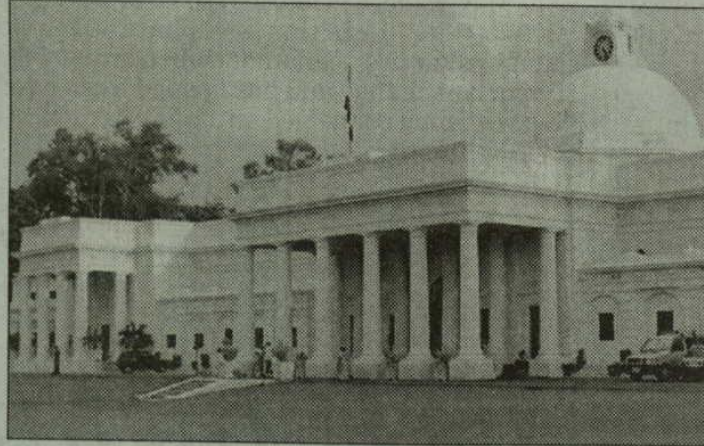
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Dehradun, 8 July

To bring to reality the dream project of prime minister Narendra Modi of introducing bullet trains in the country, a Railway Research Centre is being set up in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee.

The scientists of IIT Roorkee who are already working on different research programs on Railways would also be contributing to introduce bullet and high speed trains in the country.

Railway Research Centre would be established shortly in the IIT Roorkee campus with the help of Ministry of Railways, government of India while the work would start only after the signing of MoU, Prof Pradipt



Banerjee, director of the Institute said. The scientists of the institute who are already working in the field of railway engineering would be involved in this centre. Here in IIT the scientists are working on different research titles related to railways. Scientists of Civil

, Mechanical, Electrical, Computer Science and Engineering departments are working on different research projects which includes railways.

These would be involved in the Railway Research centre where study and research related to the fast

speed trains in the country would be done.

Introducing fast speed and bullet trains in the country is a dream project of the Modi government.

The government is said to be at the verge of finalizing the process of developing infrastructure in this regard and the Railway research centre is a step in the direction.

"Study on different projects on Railways is already ongoing in the institute," Prof Pradipt Banerjee said adding that the projects which are ongoing today could be helpful in operation of the bullet trains in future.

The IIT Roorkee also had an MoU with the Southampton University in the year 2014 for combined research on rail programs.

Times of India ND 09/07/2015 P-7

8 more drones to join duty soon

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New Delhi: Delhi Police on Wednesday finally took the step of buying eight new drones, a year after a tender was prepared to acquire more of these unmanned aerial vehicles. The plan is to buy them from DRDO or IIT Delhi, but officers said bids would also be invited from foreign firms.

Sources said the cameras fitted in drones would be able to record high resolution videos and the operator would have to remain just 300 metres away. The vehicles will have a vertical take-off and landing capability and would be maneuverable within closed spaces.

The UAVs would be quad-copters constructed out of carbon fibre composites fitted with CCD cameras with a 270-degree

EYES IN THE SKY



THE SPECS

- 1m quad-copter weighing less than 2kg with high-resolution night-vision cameras
- 2.5-hour battery backup
- Max speed of 40km/hr
- Service ceiling of 300-500m

Range
5km²

WHAT THESE DRONES CAN DO

1 GPS-guided autopilot with terrain mapping and anti-crash sensors

2 Can spot human activity from 5km

3 Can monitor crowd, and also map roads and traffic

pan capability.

The drones would also be fitted with GPS-guided mini radars to map the terrain and alert the operator about possible collision with objects if it goes out of sight.

They are likely to cost between Rs 20,000 and 50,000.

The UAVs will be used to keep an eye real time on protesters and public during events and the footage used for post-incident analy-

sis. Police currently use private cameramen or borrow footage from TV channels.

The drones used during the Trilokpur riots were hired from a private company.

Even traffic police can use one for monitoring traffic jams and effect of waterlogging during the monsoon. Senior officers of Delhi Police have held meetings with DGCA to chalk out the technical requirements of the drones to make them flyable in the city. "We have asked for information on the models available in the market," said a senior police officer.

The initial choice for Delhi Police, sources said, would be to get a variant of the DRDO Netra or a model developed by IIT-D students. The UAVs would also be tested for Indian conditions before an order is placed with foreign firms.

Financial Express ND 09/07/2015 P-19

APPOINTMENT

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION

P K Singh has taken over as Executive Director (Southern Region) in Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC). Prior to this, he was responsible for entire project appraisal as well as for all Power Finance Corporation (PFC) business development related to states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. He is B. Tech (Electrical) from IIT-BHU, M. Tech (Energy- and Environment Management) from IIT - Delhi and MBA (Global Energy) from Bauer College of Business, University of Houston, USA.



Prof with RSS link to be IIM-L director?

[Isha Jain](#), TNN | Jul 9, 2015, 01.39 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Lucknow/Prof-with-RSS-link-to-be-IIM-L-director/articleshow/47995169.cms>

LUCKNOW: After 16 months of dithering, the Union HRD ministry has reportedly zeroed in on three names for the post of director of IIM-Lucknow. TOI has learnt that the institute is likely to get a full-time director by July-end with the file now with the appointment committee of cabinet (ACC), headed by the Prime Minister.

Sources revealed that the three names recommended by the search-cum-selection panel include IIM-L's Professor Bharat Bhasker of information technology and systems and Professor Shailendra Singh of human resource development and Professor VK Gupta of IIM-Indore's finance and accounting department.

Prof Bhasker is also the "sah-sanchalak" of RSS' Lucknow unit. Senior RSS functionaries, who don't wish to be named, say he has the task of motivating youth.

The post of the director is lying vacant for the past 16 months after Prof Devi Singh's extended second term ended in September last year. Singh's second term had ended on March 9, 2014 after which he was given a six-month extension.

All applications for the post of director were invited till January 24, 2014. However, the appointment was put on hold with model code of conduct coming into place due to the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP government at the Centre took the process ahead only for three months when it took charge in May. Then, in September, it scrapped the earlier process at a time when the search-cum-selection panel has already shortlisted three names.

On September 9, 2014, MHRD had issued orders directing the senior most faculty member, Prof Rajiv Kumar Srivastava, to be appointed as interim director for a period of six months or till appointment of regular director or until further order Prof Srivastava's term expired on July 7.

Bharat Bhaskar is IIM-L's new interim director

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

Prof Bharat Bhaskar was named as the new interim director of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIML) on Wednesday for a period of three months or till the appointment of a regular director. He replaces Prof Rajiv Kumar Srivastava who stepped down as interim director of the premier B-School on Tuesday, citing health reasons.

Sources said that first Prof Yogesh Agarwal was contacted to take the additional charge because he was the senior most after Prof Srivastava. But after Prof Agarwal refused to take additional responsibility citing health reasons, Prof Bharat Bhaskar who was next in hierarchy was named as interim director. Prof Bhaskar specialises in information technology and systems.

Prof Bhaskar who was in Noida, told HT that he had received an email and would come back to Lucknow on Wednesday evening. Sources said Prof Bhaskar was roped in only when Prof Agarwal turned down the offer.

At one point of time, IIM-L management considered forming a committee comprising two deans and headed by a professor.

Prof Srivastava's decision of stepping down had deepened the administrative crisis in the business school and brought back into focus a series of controversies that have blighted premier higher educational institutions lately. But with Prof Bhaskar having taken the post for three months, the crisis has been defused at least for now.

After Prof Devi Singh's tenure ended in September 2014, Srivastava was given the charge of interim director for six months or till the appointment of a regular director. When the sixmonth term ended in March, he was asked to continue as it was expected a new director would be named by the end of June. But on July 7, he relinquished office.

Fund crunch leads IIT-Patna to curb facilities

Hindustan Times (Bhopal)

From what was planned on drawing boards to execution of the project on ground, the Indian Institute of Technology, Patna (IIT-P), has had to curtail several facilities at its permanent campus in Bihta due to acute fund crunch.

From what was conceived in its detailed project report (DPR), more than 50% funds have been curtailed. This has forced the institute to compromise on facilities like the girls' hostel, lecture hall complex, auditorium, gymkhana, guest house, hospital, primary and secondary schools, an additional boys' hostel and market facility.

The library, which was to be housed in an iconic building, has now been accommodated in the administrative building itself. The two-lane campus roads of the academic and residential blocks have been reduced to single lane.

The 250-capacity girls' hostel has been the biggest casualty. As a result, the 100- odd girls enrolled now will be accommodated on a twin-sharing basis in B-type faculty quarters for associate and assistant professors.

The boys' hostel, with a capacity of 900, is also insufficient, given the fact that the institute already has around 1,000 students for its undergraduate (B.Tech), post-graduate (M.Tech) and research (Ph.D) programme. Another batch of 200 undergraduate students will join in August. The IIT-Patna is looking at 2,040 students by 2017 and 5,000 students by 2020.

The IIT-P had sought an additional Rs 600 crore for completion of construction of the first phase. However, the ministry of human resources & development (MHRD) slashed it down to just Rs 100 crore for 2015-16.

As per the initial DPR, the construction cost was estimated to be Rs 2,200 crore. With the Centre reluctant, the DPR for the first phase was revised to ` 560 crore from ` 950 crore, of which the Centre paid Rs 400 crore.

IIT-P director Prof Pushpak Bhattacharyya told HT: "We had to curtail several facilities due to fund crunch. However, our classrooms, laboratories, hostels, administrative and residential sections are ready."

The funds, said sources, have been curtailed to fund new IITs at Tirupati, Raipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa and Kerala.

IIT-M to light 50 Rajasthan villages with solar power

Jodhpur, Jul 7 (PTI) IIT Madras will light up 50 villages in Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts using solar energy.

<http://www.niticentral.com/2015/07/08/iit-m-to-light-50-rajasthan-villages-with-solar-power-322307.html>

Jodhpur Power Distribution Company MD Arti Dogra today said 23 villages of Baap Panchayat Samiti in Jodhpur and 27 villages of Jaisalmer have been chosen for this pilot project.

Centre will be providing Rs 10 crore for this project, she said.

About 4000 houses in these villages would be provided electricity under this project using solar energy.

The villages could not be provided electricity earlier as there was no power network around them, she added.

The project will comprise installation of a tubelight, a LED, one fan and a battery charger with the solar panel for each household, she said, adding there would also be a provision for installing solar panel in a cluster.

"These remote villages could not be provided with electricity as there was no power network around them," the MD said.

A group of three students of IIT Madras will survey the villages this week, after which the terms and conditions, including the cost of the project, would be laid down, Dogra said.

Computer science, electrical engineering stay top choices of IIT aspirants

[Yogita Rao](#), TNN | Jul 9, 2015, 12.58 AM IST

Mumbai: Computer science and engineering (CSE) emerged as the most popular choice for many of the 25,000 students who filled their choices for the 10,006 IIT seats during the first-ever joint seat allocation process this year. For the 990 computer science seats across the 18 IITs, there were 2.07 lakh applications, making it an average of 209 contenders for every seat.

Data released by the Joint Seat Allocation Authority after the first round shows electrical and mechanical engineering stand second and third on the students' list of preferences. Civil engineering is fourth. Since this data was not made available prior to the admission process this year, the popularity of courses cannot be compared to previous years. CSE and electrical engineering have been the top choices for at least a decade, say educationists.

Ajinkya Mohgaonkar, Mumbai's second topper (with all-India rank 34) was confused between mechanical engineering and CSE, but finally settled with CSE. "I was keen on mechanical as I loved physics, but after consulting my brother and a few seniors, I decided to opt for CSE. It has a very good scope in future and the subjects are new to me. I will enjoy learning the programming language."

A professor from IIT-Bombay, the organising institute for JEE (Advanced) this year, said CSE's popularity is purely due to the placement opportunities available. "The best of the lot choose computer science, and they get picked for the best of the jobs. It's a circle. If good students start choosing other courses, the placement opportunities may get better there too."

Another professor pointed out that IT-enabled sectors are growing and they need infrastructure. "A lot of research is required and we need graduates to contribute to the sector," he added.

If absolute numbers are taken into account, more students applied for mechanical engineering (2.06 lakh), but since there

are 1,172 seats available, each had 176 candidates vying for it. On the contrary, fewer applications were received for electrical engineering (1.97 lakh), but with 1,082 seats, the number of students vying for each of these seat was 182, making it the second best choice with students. There are 970 seats available in civil engineering and 153 students applied for each of them, taking it to the list of top four student choices.

Mechanical engineering is an evergreen choice. While other trends keep changing, the job opportunities in mechanical engineering remain. Civil engineering, professors claim, could be an emerging trend as there are a lot of infrastructure projects coming up●

Govt: Foreign campuses plan delayed, not shelved

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New Delhi: Foreign campuses will have to wait a little longer as government has decided to have more discussions with stakeholders and take a decision on a few policy issues. This was decided after the HRD ministry's presentation on Foreign Education Providers Bill to PM Narendra Modi on June 22. A highly placed source said, "The idea is not being put in cold storage."

Sources said that after the presentation by education secretary Vinaysheel Oberoi, Modi said the Centre's immediate focus should be on rolling out Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN) launched by the government last year. Sources said that it is likely that Prime Minister's Office and commerce ministry will play a proactive role in finalizing a policy framework for allowing foreign campuses in India.

One of the key bottlenecks to the plan could be a Supreme Court order that says education cannot be used for profit-making. Most foreign universities intending to set up campuses in India would look to make some profit and even repatriate it. However, the earlier version of the bill prepared during UPA-II did not allow this. The bill also made it clear that foreign educational institutions

Tribune ND 09/07/2015 P-8

Commodification of education

Imposition of a uniform curriculum will curtail the liberal mind

SHELLEY WALIA

THE hegemonic imposition of a uniform curriculum under the leadership of Smriti Irani focuses attention on the intent to bureaucratise education that would, no doubt, suffocate scholars and scholarship across the country. With this new agenda on the cards, it now appears that any change in the ongoing exercise of shaping a syllabus would sadly and ridiculously require the endorsement of an unimaginative bureaucracy in the UGC office.

How many of us academics would like to endorse that? Are we prepared to be handmaidens to an anti-intellectual ideology? Without participation in reshaping our own curriculum, we will become guilty of following the colourless lens of oppressive perspectives without an academic cause.

The recently-floated idea of centralising the drafting of curriculum at all levels of higher education proposed by Smriti Irani, the HRD Minister, displays blatant contempt for public voices and ensures the end of autonomy and critical inquiry. Irani's initiative of introducing uniformity in curriculum across the nation so all universities follow a homogeneous syllabus obstructs the free practice of innovation, experimentation and formulation across disciplines. By upholding a narrowly tailored system, she has initiated an assault on decentralised democracy and heterogeneity. The MHRD and a compliant UGC — the very constituents of the government machinery specifically required to safeguard and sustain higher education and its generation of an engaged citizenry — thus end up brutalising higher education.

Quite on the contrary are Prof Romila Thapar's views of drafting the syllabus at the JNU: "We were given substantial time to frame syllabi based on our new concepts of courses suited to a semester system. In the Centre for Historical Studies members of the faculty constantly debated and discussed what should be included in our courses. We would discuss different proposals intensively. There were disagreements, compromises and agreements, and it was also one of the most intellectually exciting years for me inasmuch as I was forced to think analytically about many aspects of the discipline of history."



Can we allow our syllabus to turn into something ordinary and invisible?

The rigorous and democratic exercise she outlines would surely and certainly be overruled under the new dispensation. Since any adjustment in a syllabus would need the approval of the UGC, education would become merely a wing of neoliberal, right-wing forces that would impart skills suitable to the state economy and the

professional skills altogether. John Dewey, the American philosopher and educational reformer, recognises the necessity of gainful employment through education which integrates daily work with "all there is in it of large and human significance". Such a system inculcates a culture of openness that allows learning through "the

A uniform curriculum promoted by the BJP will promote the ideology of a market-driven, capitalistic economy that heeds only to consumerism and instant profit

corporate sector all right, but also reduce instruction to a technicality.

A uniform curriculum promoted by the BJP would provide a system that churns out citizens more immersed in self-growth than in social responsibilities, promoting not a free development of interests or the substantive growth of the democratic process through education, but the ideology of a market-driven, capitalistic economy that heeds only to consumerism and instant profit. As Terry Eagleton has appropriately emphasised: "Across the globe, that critical distance is now being diminished almost to nothing, as the institutions that produced Erasmus and John Milton, Einstein and Monty Python, capitulate to the hard-faced priorities of global capitalism."

Such an argument must not lead to the impression that an interdisciplinary curriculum is in favour of jettisoning

process of living". The uniformity that is sought by the reigning ministry is contrary to such a system though it is fundamental to the bureaucracy's shenanigans of straitjacketing the academia that would lead inevitably to the closing of the liberal mind.

What we need to understand is this: the imposition of a uniform curriculum retards radical imagination, which, in turn, displaces the academy's broad intellectual engagement with society that is necessary for local needs as much as for the larger national concerns. We need to look beyond the campus to a life of continuous learning through enhancing and restructuring the processes of understanding ourselves as well as the world to which we contribute in our own small way. We would like to rediscover our own free space in which, no matter how despotic our government may be, we would have the stamina to fashion

our own freedom. Educational activism has to respond to the hegemonising tendency of established structures of disciplines and curricula, moving into a new era of post-disciplinary where research becomes a collective and comparative enterprise.

The retrogressive politics of the MHRD undermine the very *raison d'être* of a curriculum that needs to reflect critical radical thought through engagement with the central aims of higher education that go beyond mere skill-imparting training. Such an exercise would have to involve brainstorming sessions among the faculty, the students and the research scholars who alone can help to retard the gradual demise of the university as a "centre of humane critique". Liberal learning must be seen as a priority over specific and narrow requirements of a job.

The government has to realise that education calls for a diverse participation in a globally engaged democracy. A curriculum imposed from above in a culturally diverse country like India will smother the interaction that a student has outside the university. The educational experience of a student cannot pan out in isolation from its geographical context and within the constraints of a uniform national syllabus. Education cannot be imparted at the cost of a decentralised democracy that emphasises self-governance, civic virtue and individual freedom in institutions of higher learning, supporting engagement between academic learning and nation-building.

What we need is to introduce some colour into the drab uniformity of the curriculum and flaunt our insubordination of repressive regimes so as to imaginatively articulate and shape our vision for the future of higher education in India. What the present government does to our education system is what we allow it to do. The significant question that is called for at the moment is: do we, in fact, know what we want? I think many of us would agree that we cannot negate ourselves under the authority of a system with ideological limitations. And we cannot allow our syllabus to turn into something ordinary and invisible because that is what it would become through the very nature of its uniformity.

The writer is a Professor of English at Panjab University, Chandigarh