Newspaper Clips
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India leads S Asian nations in Times varsity rankings

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New Delhi: India is the leading South Asian country in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2016, with 16 institutions in the top 200.

Led by the Indian Institute of Science in the 27th place, there are eight universities/ institutions among the top 100. This is the first time that an Indian university is making it to the top 30. Two universities from Singapore — National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University — claimed the top two spots. The rankings were announced on Monday and for the first time the list has been expanded to 200.

In all 22 countries were represented, up from 14 in 2015. This is the fourth edition of the Asia university rankings and the spotlight has been on the role of government-backed excellence programmes driving up university performance across the continent.

Phil Baty, editor, THE rankings, said: "India has made great gains in this list in recent years — just three institutions appeared in the top 100 in 2013 — but the nation still has a long way to go to compete with Asia's leading university nations, such as China, Japan and South Korea, and it scores particularly weakly on internationalisation."

"However, the South Asian institutions are some way behind their counterparts in East Asia, particularly Singapore, China and South Korea, in attaining world–class status, due to a relative lack of funding and an absence of clear government-led drives to put leading universities at the heart of economic growth strategies."

The report also cited some initiatives designed to promote world-class universities. These initiatives have become commonplace across Asia and are driving up the performances. For example, China's 'Project 985' is designed to turn universities like Peking University and Tsinghua University into 'super-elite' institutions.

India too has announced plans to develop an excellence initiative to help 20 institutions compete on the world stage.

ELITE CLASS

Indian institutions among top 100

Rank	Institution
27	Indian Institute of Science
43	IIT Bombay
51	IIT Kharagpur
60	IIT Delhi
62	IIT Madras
65	IIT Roorkee
80	IIT Guwahati
84	Jadavpur University

Indian Institute of Science

TOP 3 IN ASIA

Rank	Institution
1	National University of Singapore
2	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
2	Peking University, China

Mint ND 21.06.2016 P-06

HIGHER EDUCATION

Reforms panel bats for financial autonomy at elite institutions

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

In 2014, there was a debate on whether two shortlisted "foreigners" should be paid more than the stipulated salary for heading two top B-schools in India—the Indian Institutes of Management in Ahmedabad and Bengaluru (IIM-A and IIM-B).

The two persons were Ashish Nanda from Harvard Law School and Sushil Vachani from Boston University. After the boards of both institutions held talks with the Union government, an agreement was reached. Both joined as directors at IIM-A and IIM-B respectively. But nobody except the government and their boards knows exactly how much they were offered in salary.

Coincidentally, both IIM-A and IIM-B opposed a controversial IIM Bill in 2015 which, among other things, wanted to vest more power in the hands of the government and restrict the autonomy of educational institutions.

Things seem to be changing now, and a government panel led by former cabinet secretary T.S.R. Subramanian has recommended that top-rated educational institutions in India be given greater autonomy including the freedom to fix salaries of their staff—a break from the controlled pay structure decided by bureaucrats sitting in New Delhi or in state capitals.

The panel was set up to make recommendations that would pave the way for new education policy after a gap of nearly three decades.

The Subramanian committee has recommended that financial autonomy of institutions be linked to their performance, according to a new accreditation system for higher educational institutions that it suggests. It says the institutions will be ranked based on an "objective examination" and awarded grades from A at the highest level to G at the lowest level.

The institutions assessed at the lowest level would be served notice for immediate closure. Those on the level just above shall be warned to improve their position or face closure.

"On the upper end of the scale... the institutions... would have total autonomy in all respects, including fixing faculty salaries, fee structure, entering into collaborations, etc," recommended the committee in its report to the human resource development ministry.

An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) professor, who declined to be named, said IITs, IIMs and some leading universities have had "differences" with the government on the issue for the last few years.

"The report, if accepted, will be a huge relief for the top institutions in terms of achieving financial autonomy and paying a differential salary structure like corporates for attracting quality talent," the professor said.

"Nobody is suggesting autonomy without responsibility, but authorities need to realize that top institutions are at that level because they are responsible and conscious," he said.

As India lacks enough "higher education institutions of quality", the committee has suggested that over the next decade at least "100 new centres of excellence in the field of higher education need to be established".

And these institutions should be provided enough autonomy—both academic and financial—to manage all aspects of their operations. "A climate needs to be created to facilitate establishment of 100 such institutions in both private and public sectors over the next 10 years. This may include brand new institutions, as well as existing institutions upgrading themselves to levels of excellence. To achieve this, a liberal and supportive regulatory environment will need to be put in place," it said.

Underlining that funds are vital for establishing quality institutions, the committee suggests that private institutions coming up with definite plans be given a free hand. "If a sponsor is willing to invest, say ₹1,000 crore over a five-year period and the proposal is accompanied by a broad credible plan of action, full autonomy should be offered for choice of subjects, location, pedagogy, recruitment of faculty from India or abroad as well as freedom to fix tuition fees," it said.

However, such ventures should have a provision that over a five-year period, they will undergo "careful scrutiny by the official accreditation/evaluation agency".

"The institution needs to figure in the highest quality bracket; failing which the approval is subject to be withdrawn. Subject to this stipulation, these new initiatives should be totally free from any regulation from national or state agencies, except the obligation to accept a state-sponsored student quota, based on a formula stipulated elsewhere," said the report, a copy of which has been reviewed by *Mint*.

The Subramanian panel report suggests that the institutions of excellence could be established as Section 8 companies under the Companies Act. Section 8 companies are not-for-profit in nature and are registered under the ministry of corporate affairs. Trusts and societies are registered under state government regulations. A Section 8 company also has higher credibility among donors, government departments and other stakeholders.

It suggests that a Council of Excellence needs to be established for fostering excellence in identified institutions. "The guiding principle would be excellence, coupled with no interference in the management of these institutions, along with full autonomy to each institution to chart its own way forward."

The committee suggests that the evaluation of such institutions be made stringent, but there will be "considerable flexibility in the approach in order to respect the academic freedom of the assessed institution".

> Recommendations include the setting up of 100 new centres of excellence in the next decade

Economic Times ND 21.06.2016 P-06

Hyd, Where Angels No More Fear to Tread

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Hyderabad: Startups in Hyderabad are seeing an uptick in funding as investors return to the city after a hiatus caused in part by the political instability in the region.

According to Tracxn, which collects data on the Indian startup industry, 25 Hyderabad-based ventures have been funded so far this year, compared to 20 during the same time period last year and the list is only getting longer.

NowFloats, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) startup, is close to raising Series-B funds, confirmed Jasminder Singh Gulati, its cofounder, without revealing more details.

Endiya Partners, an early-stage venture capital fund has committed to investing an undisclosed amount in two start-ups here — a SaaS and a digital health company – making this their first investment in startups from the city. Their previous investments have been in companies from Bengaluru and Gurugram.

Sateesh Andra, managing director of Endiya Partners, attributes this increase in investment activity to a healthy startup ecosystem which is slowly being built in Hyderabad.

"The universities here – ISB, IIIT-H, BITS – academic infrastructure, R&D centres, MNCs, T-Hub, certain angel investors active in the city, and folks like us – a combination of all this presents a very healthy ecosystem," said Andra. "We will see more and more of these startups getting funded and growing big."

MyDentistChoice, a B2B ecommerce startup, received angel funding of $150,000 two months ago and hopes to raise Series funding by the end of this year. "Visibility for Hyderabad star-

Towering Up

VENTURES FUNDED

25 So far this year

20 Same period last year

Indian Iris Gets Seed Fund

Ahmedabad: The Indian Iris, a policy research and consulting startup focused on analysing and simplifying government policies and schemes, has raised an undisclosed amount as seed fund from Ahmedabad-based investment firm Timbru Ventures, reports **Vishal Dutta**. The startup was founded last year by alumni of IIT-Roorkee, IIM-Ahmedabad, IIM-Bangalore and IIIT-Bangalore along with support from the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM Ahmedabad.

tups is growing for sure, and we see a lot people approaching us for next-level funding," said Siva Prasad, cofounder of MyDentistChoice.

Aruna Reddy from the Indian School of Business agrees that the ecosystem in the city is becoming more startup-friendly, but she worries that as more startups come up, the first-time failure rate could discourage the new entrepreneurs.

DECCAN HEARLD ND 21.06.2016 P-05

Odisha Govt to bear expenses of 3 poor students

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: Odisha government on Monday announced to bear all expenses towards study and boarding of three poor students who recently cracked All India Entrance Tests.

"I congratulate them for achieving such feat despite financial hurdles. The state government will bear the expenses incurred towards study and boarding during their course period," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said after felicitating the trio.

Patnaik also handed over one laptop each to Narayan Mallik from Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district who cracked the AIIMS entrance and Rajanikant Nayak and Kailash Chandra Bhakta who cleared the IIT-JEE examination this year.

Narayan Mallik secured 13th position in the AIIMS entrance in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category, while Rajanikant Nayak from Denua village under Baruan block of Mayurbhanj district secured all-India ST rank of 245 in the IIT-JEE.

Kailash Chandra Bhakta, hailing from Dahibhata village of Nabarangpur district, has secured a rank of 1,114 among the tribal candidates.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 21.06.2016 P-06

मेहनत करें, सफलता मिलेगी: आईजी बंसल

कोटा|रविवार को यहां आईआईटी जेईई एडवांस सम्मान समारोह का आयोजन आईएल ऑडिटोरियम में हुआ। मुख्य अतिथि आईजी विशाल बंसल ने छात्रों को शुभकामनाएं दीं। कहा कि सफलता का कोई शॉर्ट कट नहीं होता है। छात्रों को अपने टारगेट को ध्यान में रखते हुए उसे प्राप्त करने की दिशा में काम करना चाहिए। विशिष्ट अतिथि डॉ. विजय सरदाना ने कहा कि हमारे देश में ह्यूमन रिसोर्स की कमी नहीं है। इस मौके पर छात्रों और टीचर्स ने रंगारंग कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किया। निदेशक नरेंद्र अवस्थी ने संस्थान की उपलब्धियों के बारे में बताया। समारोह में ऑल इंडिया 14 वीं रैंक प्राप्त करने वाले रोहित चौधरी को 1 लाख 51 हजार रुपए का चेक दिया गया। छात्रा वर्ग में ऑल इंडिया प्रथम स्थान वाली रिया सिंह को 51 हजार रुपए का चेक दिया गया। प्रथम 50 रैंक के छात्रों को 1 लाख 21 हजार, 51 से 100 वीं रैंक वाले को 75 हजार, 101 से 200 वीं रैंक वाले 7 छात्रों को 51 हजार, 201 से 300 वीं रैंक के 2 छात्रों को 31 हजार, 301 से 400 वीं रैंक के 8 छात्रों को 21 हजार, 401 से 500 रैंक वाले 11 छात्रों को 11 हजार दिए गए।

HINDUSTAN TIMES 21.06.2016 P-04

21 students of RailTel's CSR Akansha Super 30 crack JEE Mains

It was a proud moment for RailTel when 21 students of its CSR initiative Akansha Super 30, Dehradun made it to JEE Mains for admission to IIT, NIT- the premier league and other Govt engineering colleges of India. Seven students have made it to IIT (Adv) whereas remaining would make it to NIT and other government engineering colleges.

Seat allotment for IITs on June 30

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Seat-allotment-for-IITs-on-June-30/articleshow/52844479.cms

Kanpur: The students who had successfully cleared the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE-Advanced) will be informed about their seat allotment on June 30. On this date, the IITs will be alloted to them for pursuing BTech course in a particular branch such as computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering etc.

This year 10,575 seats in 23 IITs would be filled through online counselling which is expected to begin from June 24. The results of JEE Mains will be declared on June 23. The marks obtained by students in the board exam and JEE Mains would be the selection criterion for admission in the IITs. As the results of JEE Mains will be declared on June 23, the work of online choice of BTech course and the particular IIT will commence from June 24. The last date of giving online choice is June 28.

The students, who get their seats alloted in the first round, will have to deposit the admission fees between July 1 and July 5 .

A new CO {-2} sensor that can fit into a cellphone

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/a-new-co-2-sensor-that-can-fit-into-a-cellphone/article8753589.ece

Imagine this scenario: you pull out your smartphone and tell your colleague, "Hey, the CO{-2}levels are pretty high today," the way you would discuss the weather. This would be possible if a group of scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are successful in producing a low-cost sensor to detect carbon dioxide at levels as low as 400 ppm.

While conventional metal oxide semiconductor gas sensors can detect CO{-2}in the higher range (1,000 ppm), at lower levels optical sensors based on absorption spectroscopy were required, which were not suited for mass production due to their size. However, the sensor developed by Navakanta Bhat and his team uses metal oxides similar to semi-conductors, thus greatly reducing size and cost.

"Unlike conventional gas sensors (based on optical spectroscopy), which tend to be bulky and expensive, our CO{-2}sensor is based on metal-oxide semiconductor technology. Analogous to silicon semiconductor chips, which are amenable to miniaturisation, and hence extensively used in all electronics gadgets today, metal oxide semiconductor based gas sensors can also be miniaturised, thus resulting in low cost and high performance sensors," says Dr. Bhat.

These can be deployed at every traffic intersection in a city like Bengaluru. Their size allows for them to be integrated into cell phones. "It would be substantially cheaper than optical sensors for the same sensitivity," said Prof. Bhat, adding that if produced in a large quantity, each sensor could cost about Rs. 100. For now, they are still lab prototypes. The team is working on a proposal to present the prototype before the State government.

Amar Ujala ND 21.06.2016 P-16

सुब्रह्मण्यम समिति ने उच्च शिक्षा में दाखिलों के लिए पर्सेंटाइल व्यवस्था करने को कहा

12वीं कक्षा में बने ऑल बोर्ड पर्सेंटाइल

सीमा शर्मा

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के तहत सुब्रह्मण्यम समिति ने देशभर के विभिन्न स्कूल बोर्ड में 12वीं कक्षा के रिजल्ट में छात्रों को मिलने वाले अंकों को ऑल बोर्ड पर्सेंटाइल में जारी करने की सिफारिश की है। अपनी रिपोर्ट में समिति ने कहा है कि ऑल बोर्ड पर्सेंटाइल को लागू करने से होनहार छात्र अच्छे विश्वविद्यालयों-कॉलेजों में दाखिला पाने से नहीं चूकेंगे। इसके अलावा नौकरी में इस ऑल बोर्ड पर्सेंटाइल से सहायता मिलेगी।

समिति सदस्यों का कहना है कि फिलहाल, देशभर में विभिन्न स्कूल बोर्ड के नियम और शिक्षा व्यवस्था के चलते 12वीं कक्षा के रिजल्ट में छात्रों के अंकों में अंतर रहता है। कुछ स्कूल बोर्ड में अंक देने में नरमी और कुछ राज्यों में नकल के चलते कई छात्रों को 12वीं कक्षा में अच्छे अंक मिल जाते हैं। जबकि कई प्रदेश बोर्ड में सख्ती के चलते छात्रों को वैसे अंक नहीं मिल पाते हैं। ऐसे में अभी जिन विश्वविद्यालयों या शिक्षण संस्थानों में 12वीं की परीक्षा के आधार पर छात्रों का चयन होता है, वहां कई होनहार छात्र भी दाखिला पाने से रह जाते हैं। समिति ने इसी दिक्कत को दूर करने के लिए विभिन्न स्कूल बोर्ड के लिए ऑल बोर्ड पर्सेंटाइल जारी करने की सिफारिश की है। इसे सभी कोर्स व पाठ्यक्रम पर लागू करने के लिए

प्रार्थना सभा में अन्य संप्रदाय-धर्म के छात्रों को शामिल न करें

समिति ने कहा है कि देशभर में सभी संप्रदायों से जुड़े स्कूलों में हर धर्म के छात्र पढ़ते हैं। ऐसे स्कूलों में किसी भी प्रार्थना सभा से पहले अन्य संप्रदाय या धर्म से जुड़े छात्र को शामिल नहीं करना चाहिए और सरकारी स्कूल में धार्मिक गतिविधि नहीं होनी चाहिए। ऐसे स्कूलों में आयोजित होने वाली धार्मिक गतिविधियों में अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग के बच्चों को शामिल करने से पहले अभिभावकों की मंजूरी जरूरी है।

कहा है। दो साल पहले आईआईटी में दाखिले के लिए आयोजित प्रवेश परीक्षा जेईई एडवांस (साइंस के टॉप 20 पर्सेंटाइल वाले को प्रवेश परीक्षा में बैठने की अनुमति) के लिए पर्सेंटाइल प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई थी। हालांकि अन्य पाठ्यक्रम या कोर्स के लिए कोई नीति नहीं है।

बार-बार फेल तो पढ़ाई नहीं

समिति ने नो डिटेंशन पॉलिसी को पांचवीं कक्षा तक करने की सिफारिश की है। हालांकि आरटीई एक्ट के सेक्शन 30(1) में संशोधन के साथ। समिति ने रिपोर्ट में लिखा है कि नो डिटेंशन पॉलिसी से शिक्षा का स्तर गिरा है। इसलिए पांचवीं के बाद छठी से लेकर 12वीं तक परीक्षा होगी। यदि छात्र छठी से 12वीं कक्षा के बीच फेल होता है तो कमजोर विषय पर फोकस करके स्कूल छूटने के बाद पढ़ाई करवाएं। ऐसे बच्चों को चिन्हित करें और फिर स्कूल की छुट्टी या छुट्टियों में मुफ्त में तैयारी करवाएं, लेकिन बच्चा इसके बाद भी फेल होता है तो उसे उसी कक्षा में रोकें और फिर भी फेल होता है तो पाठ्यक्रम के तहत ज्ञान व समझ की परीक्षा लें। यदि फिर भी फेल होता है तो उसे पढ़ाई की बजाय वोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग में शिफ्ट करने का विकल्प दें।