

Newspaper Clips

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Research helps IISc break into top 30 in Asia

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

India becomes the leading South Asian country with as many as 16 Indian institutes featuring in Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2016, a sharp rise from just three institutes that appeared in the top 100 in 2013. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore ranked 27th in this year's rankings has made it to top 30 for the first time. "IISc performs above the average for Indian institute in all five pillars – teaching, research, international outlook, citations and industry income – but it stands out most in research. This strong performance is drawn from research income, research reputation and published research," says Phil Baty, editor, Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Bombay (43), Kharagpur (51), Delhi (60), Madras (62), Roorkee (65) and Guwahati (80) and Jadavpur University (84) feature among top 100 in the rankings led by National University of Singapore, Singapore, in the first position. As rankings are increasingly seen to be playing an important role in helping universities measure their progress against others elsewhere in Asia and around the world, it has painted a better picture of the sector in India. "We are delighted that more Indian universities have become engaged with rankings over the past few years. The process of working with organisations like the Times Higher Education provides useful indicators that can be used by students, academics, governments and others, so the increased engagement is broadly good news. As a corollary, the increased engagement in the rankings has made the rankings themselves better – as more Indian universities participate, we have been able to expand the range of universities included in our rankings, which is similarly good news," says Baty. The performance indicators used to rank the institutes include: teaching (the learning environment), research (volume, income and reputation), citations (research influence), international outlook (staff, students and research) and industry income (knowledge transfer). So, how are Indian institutes performing? As Baty says, "While they struggle to compete with the of East and South East Asia, Indian institutions have their own strengths and perform strongly on the teaching indicators."

IIT-Kharagpur develops electronic tracking system for school kids

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/IIT-Kharagpur-develops-radio-frequency-tracker-for-safety-of-school-kids/articleshow/52847731.cms>

KOLKATA: In a bid to make children's commute to and from schools safe, a team at IIT-Kharagpur has designed an electronic tracking system through radio frequency identification (RFID) tags which would soon be flagged off at a school here.

The low-cost technology will help address concerns of parents and arrest the proclivity towards private vehicles as a transport option for school goers, the experts say.

RFID is the use of radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object. It consists of a tag or label and a reader.

"The student ID cards would be tagged with RFID. On the bus there would be a RFID reader and when the card is 'read', the student is identified in the database. The buses would be enabled with GPS devices which is an inexpensive addition. Once the child boards a bus and the system detects him or her, a text message is sent to the parents registered in the database," Bhargab Maitra, a professor at IIT-Kgp's civil engineering department, told IANS.

Similarly, a message would alert the parents when and where the child deboards. The RFID system will begin on a pilot basis at the South Point School in a couple of weeks, Maitra said.

The tracker is also linked to an app which would let parents track the movement of their child on a real-time basis "without sacrificing on security and safety".

Maitra worked in collaboration with SK Ghosh, of the institute's computer science and engineering department, institute's students and the Kolkata Traffic Police following a survey to understand the concerns of parents, under the 'Improvement of School Safety' project as part of the larger 'Future of Cities' initiative supported by the central government.

"If the bus halts at a place for some time, or there is an anomaly, then the police is also alerted so that action can be taken immediately," he said.

"We have collected data from more than 7,000 parents, primarily from South Point School and St. Xavier's and we identified where interventions are required. Safety and security came across as two key points," Maitra added.

IITK team working on automatic patient cleaning machine

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

KANPUR: Here's some good news for hapless patients admitted in hospitals with no attendants. They would not have to depend on nursing staff. The IITK scientists have decided to take up a research project for developing an 'Automatic Patient Cleaning Machine' (APCM) which would act as a mechanical attendant and help in keeping the patients clean. The project was advised by GSVM Medical College doctors. The doctors said that often it has been seen that neither the family members bothered to look after the patient nor did the hospital staff took proper care.

Start-up centre established at IIT Bhubaneswar

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/startup-centre-established-at-iit-bhubaneswar/article8757576.ece>

A start-up centre has been established at IIT Bhubaneswar with a sanction of Rs. 1.50 crore by the Department of Science & Technology and the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The centre, which was inaugurated by R. V. Raja Kumar, IIT Bhubaneswar Director, on Monday, plans to have enrolment of 10 start-ups in the first year.

The centre will provide working space and a seed grant to the tune of Rs. 2.5 lakh for the enrolled start-ups.

It will shortly invite applications from budding entrepreneurs and competent fresh graduates from the region to avail the facility.

The institute is also planning to establish a Research and Entrepreneurship Park with a financial outlay of Rs. 75 crore.

The proposed park would come up at the permanent campus of the institute to facilitate incubation of technologies and promote start-ups particularly those which need help and mentoring from it.