

Newspaper Clips May 1, 2014

Hindustan Times ND 01/05/2014 P-11

IIT-G makes it to top 100 list of global dynamic universities

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has made it to the top 100 list of the world's dynamic 'young' universities, according to the Time Higher Education (THE) 100 under 50 ranking released on Wednesday.

This is for the first time that an Indian institute is in the table of Under 50 institute. IIT Guwahati, formed in 1994, has been ranked as 87 in the list.

"There has been a great deal of soul searching in India over the fact that none of its universities make the World University Rankings' top 200 – a serious concern given the country's great intellectual history and growing social and economic influence. But this new analysis, which examines the next generation of global university stars, should

UNDER 50 CLUB

- There are 29 regions in the list – with the addition of India.
- Youngest institution in the list is Austria's Medical University of Vienna, which was founded in 2004
- Russia and mainland China don't have a single university on the list

be encouraging," Phil Baty, rankings editor of THE said.

"For an institution founded only in 1994 to win a place in the 100 Under 50 is an achievement in real terms. IIT Guwahati has performed particularly well in the indicator for citation impact, meaning that the academic papers it is producing are being

used frequently by the global academic community," said Baty.

IIT Guwahati director Gautam Biswas said: "This is a very good message for the academic community."

East Asian institutions continue to lead the 100 Under 50, with universities from South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore claiming top-five positions

For the third year in a row, the ranking is headed by South Korea's Pohang University of Science and Technology (Postech), while its national rival, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), holds on to the third spot it gained last year.

"I have always been saying that if rankings are done with proper parameters then IITs will get a better rank," former IIT Guwahati director Gautam Barua told HT.

Young varsities: IIT Guwahati makes it to top 100

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

IIT Guwahati has been listed among the top 100 young universities in the world by London-based Times Higher Education Magazine.

Listing the world's top 100 universities under 50 years old, the magazine mentions IIT Guwahati at 87th place, marking India's debut on the rankings. It is placed alongside the New University of Lisbon and the University of Western Sydney. IIT Guwahati campus came up in 1994.

JNU, however, missed the bus by a small margin, with IIT Guwahati beating it on the

strength of its citation record.

For the third year in a row, the ranking is headed by South Korea's Pohang University of Science and Technology (Postech), while its national rival, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), holds on to the third spot. The second place stays with Switzerland's École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

The ranking puts together a new set of global universities that have managed to join the world elite in a matter of decades rather than centuries, and those with the potential to become the next generation's Harvard or Oxford, says

GLOBAL RANKING

- 1 Pohang University of Science and Technology (Republic of Korea)
- 2 École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 3 Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Republic of Korea)
- 4 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong)
- 5 Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- 87 IIT Guwahati (India)

Times Higher Education.

"The list shows us which nations could challenge the US and the UK as future higher education powerhouses", says a statement by Times Higher Education ranking.

As many as 29 countries are represented in the ranking with eight of them — South Korea, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Netherlands, the US, France and the UK — in the top 10.

Of the BRIC nations, only India and Brazil have a university each. The youngest institution in the list is Austria's Medical University of Vienna, which was founded in 2004.

"There has been a great

deal of soul searching in India over the fact that none of its universities make the World University Rankings' top 200 — a serious concern given the country's great intellectual history and growing social and economic influence. But this new analysis, which examines the next generation of global university stars, should be encouraging. Of the 'BRICS' nations, Russia, mainland China and South Africa do not make the grade, so it is cause for optimism that the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati breaks into the top 100," Phil Baty, rankings editor, Times Higher Education, said.

It is learnt that Jawahar-

lal Nehru University outperformed IIT Guwahati in the heavily-weighted Teaching indicators category. However, IIT Guwahati outperformed on the equally weighted Research indicator group, and far outperformed JNU in the Citation Impact indicator, which is related to research performance and means that many academics from all over the world are quoting the research being produced by the tech institute.

The difference between the two in overall score was small, but as it is crowded at the lower end of the tables, a small difference can manifest itself in a big way.

Navbharat Times ND 01/05/2014

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ऑस्ट्रेलियाई विवि का दो IIT से समझौता

■ भाषा, मेलबर्न : भारत के साथ रिसर्च और टीचिंग में साझेदारी विकसित करने के लिए एक ऑस्ट्रेलिया की वॉलिंग्टन यूनिवर्सिटी (यूओडब्ल्यू) ने दो आईआईटी के साथ समझौता किया है। इन समझौतों में इलेक्ट्रिकल पावर सिस्टम और गैर परंपरागत ऊर्जा के संसाधनों में मौजूदा सहयोग को बढ़ाया जाएगा।

Aus varsity inks pacts with two IITs

MELBOURNE, PTI: Seeking to develop strategic alliance with India in the area of research and teaching, an Australian university has inked agreements with two of the oldest IITs.

New South Wales-based University of Wollongong (UOW) has signed the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur (IIT-Kharagpur) and Indian Institute of Technology -Bombay (IIT-Bombay).

According to a statement by the university, a senior delegation from UOW including the Vice-Chancellor Paul Wellings was in India to develop these strategic alliances. Wellings

and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Joe Chicharo formally established a framework for future research and teaching collaboration in complementary disciplines that include mining and related engineering areas while in Kharagpur.

A second MoU was signed at IIT Bombay recently to enhance its existing collaboration in electrical power systems to other allied areas including the integration of renewable energy resources. The two initiatives would further build upon the existing collaborations that UOW has recently developed with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in New Delhi and the Govern-

ment of Gujarat in the development of an International Centre of Excellence in Mining.

The delegation also met Gujarat officials to further advance the five-year action plan for UOW's involvement as the international knowledge partner with the new International Centre of Excellence in Mining (iCEM) in the state.

Gujarat government through its Mineral Development Corporation is establishing the centre with a focus on mining automation and safety. UOW will participate with national institutional partners Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University and IIT Kharagpur in the development of the centre.

Pioneer ND 01/05/2014 P-2

CBSE under fire for forcing JEE examinees to pay for its fault

IKNOOR KAUR ■ NEW DELHI

Several students, who had appeared for the offline Joint Entrance Examination (JEE Main), were stumped as three questions in the Physics and Math sections allegedly had no correct answer options. However, the matter came into light only when the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) released the answer key to the papers and allowed students to challenge the answers by paying ₹1,000 per question. The board is now under fire for not rectifying the mistakes in the answer key and in turn taking money from students for the rectification of the same.

According to parents of a student who appeared for the exam, there were blatant mistakes made in the answers options and the answer key released by the board supported the mistake. "There was one question where the correct answer was supposed to be a

negative value, but all the options given had positive values and there was no 'none of the above' option as well. Another question had even messed up the units of measurements, thus confusing children even more. The answer key has shown the incorrect answer as correct," he said.

Nearly 14 lakh people took the JEE (Main) this year of which around three lakh students appeared for it online. Recently, one Physics question was dropped from the online exam on the basis of being incorrect. However, the same has not been done for the offline exam. In the answer key released on Monday (April 28) for 24 hours, the answers displayed for the respective questions were incorrect. Thus, almost 1,100 students challenged these questioned on Tuesday.

Parents have also alleged that the CBSE is not interested in rectifying the mistake. One parent whose child studies in East Delhi said, "When we

approached the board they said that students should be able to understand the mistake that has been made and go on and solve the problem the best way they can. Now when a student is already tensed about the exam, he or she will not sit and see that the answer options are only incorrect."

However, the board said that the matter is being examined and soon a decision will be taken positively. "No decision has been taken so far. We are still in the process of confirming if the three questions pointed out by the parents and students are actually incorrect or not. However, if they are, there will definitely be something done about it and the changes will be applied to all the students irrespective of if they challenged the question or not," Vineet Joshi told *The Pioneer*.

Meanwhile the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has sent a notice to CBSE for taking action against this discrepancy.

HT.Com ND 01.05.2014 P-1

Student pays 80k for JEE challenge

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: Even as more than 13 lakh students waited anxiously, the Central Board of Secondary Education said that a verification of the answers of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE Mains) that have been challenged by the students could not be completed on Wednesday.

Among the more than 280 challenges received regarding discrepancies in the OMR sheet, one student had challenged 80 questions and had paid ₹80,000 while another

had challenged 59 questions and paid ₹59,000.

“The experts are looking into all the mails that have been received besides the challenges made by the individual students. The final decision would be known on Thursday,” CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi told HT.

The board had uploaded the answers on April 28, of all the questions that were asked in the offline and online exams held earlier this month.

One Physics question of the online exam on April 19 had been dropped as all the answers were incorrect.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: May 1, 2014; Section: International; Page: 17;

Experts crack Ramanujan's algebra riddle

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: Mathematicians have found a framework for the celebrated Rogers-Ramanujan identities and their arithmetic properties, solving another long-standing mystery stemming from the work of Indian math genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. The solution was found by mathematicians at Emory University and the University of Queensland.

"Algebraic numbers are among the first numbers you encounter in mathematics and yet it's difficult to find functions that return them as values in a uniform and systematic way," said Ken Ono, a number theorist at Emory. "A fundamental problem in mathematics is to find functions whose values are always algebraic numbers," he said. Ramanujan could produce such numbers, and he made it look easy. The Rogers-Ramanujan identities are considered among his greatest legacies. The identities were originally discovered by L.J. Rogers in 1894.

In 1913, Ramanujan sent a letter to British mathematician G.H. Hardy that included the two identities that Rogers discovered and a third formula that showed these identities are essentially modular functions and their quotient has the special property that its singular values are algebraic integral units. That result came to be known as the Rogers-Ramanujan continued fraction. Ramanujan died in 1920 before he could explain how he conjured up the formulas. For nearly a century, experts have tried to solve the mystery.

Times of India ND 01/05/2014 P-3

Jamia, IP universities get new vice-chancellors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two science professors—one serving at DU and the other no longer with the institution—have been appointed vice-chancellors of Jamia Millia Islamia and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, respectively.

While sitting VC of Kashmir University and earth scientist who served at the department of geology in DU Talat Ahmad has been appointed by the President of India as VC of Jamia, Anil Tyagi, a professor of biochemistry with DU's South Campus, has been appointed by the lieutenant governor of Delhi as VC of GGSIPU.

Ahmad, a noted scientist, has the distinction of being a fellow of all science academies of the country. Born in Giridih, Jharkhand, Ahmad did MSc in geology from Aligarh Muslim University and went on to complete

his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1985. He has also been a post-doctoral fellow with three foreign universities—University of Leicester UK, under a Government of India Fellowship, University of Cambridge under Natural Environment Research Council Fellowship and Nagoya University, Japan.

Tyagi, meanwhile, is a leading scientist in biotechnology with specialization in biochemistry, biotechnology, molecular biology and tuberculosis research. For over 15 years, the group of researchers led by Tyagi has focused on areas such as development of new vaccines against tuberculosis and drug discovery programme for new potential drugs against tuberculosis. He has been awarded Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for his scientific contribution. He holds an MSc degree in biochemistry and a PhD degree in medical biochemistry.



M.M. ANSARI

A higher confusion

SC reversal of 2013 AICTE order compounds policy uncertainty

THE Supreme Court verdicts on the regulation of technical and management institutions, from last month and a year ago, are riddled with inconsistencies. They have created unnecessary confusion about the mandates of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to regulate colleges affiliated to state universities. These regulatory bodies are, therefore, on the warpath to take control of approval and affiliation of private colleges, which are mushrooming around the country.

In its April 25, 2013, order, the SC ruled that the AICTE could not regulate engineering colleges affiliated to a university, since it was only an "advisory body" as per the AICTE Act. The UGC was accordingly directed to take control of the regulation of technical institutes.

In compliance with the order, the UGC acted fast to evolve mechanisms to perform regulatory functions. In a departure from earlier practice, UGC guidelines for the regulation of technical institutions required the process of affiliation and approval to be merged. They vested these functions with state universities. This was considered critical for ensuring institutional autonomy and accountability. Besides, it would minimise allegations of corruption in granting approvals. Moreover, the UGC guidelines rationalised the infrastructure requirements for different academic

programmes. This was done after painstaking consultation and obtaining feedback from stakeholders.

However, because the UGC accorded regulatory powers to state universities, a few private colleges have been apprehensive about their future. Some don't want to accept the UGC as a regulator, mainly because they want to safeguard their vested interests. Such motives led some private colleges to seek a review of the SC's 2013 decision.

On April 17, the SC delivered a judgment which reversed the 2013 order in favour of the petitioning private colleges and the AICTE.

In pursuance of the 2013 order, the MHRD asked the UGC to take over the regulatory functions of affiliated technical colleges. But management institutes were left out.

This latest order restores the AICTE to its pre-2013 regulatory position. The AICTE has been allowed to act according to the Approval Process Handbook, as it did earlier, and ignore the new UGC guidelines.

On a number of occasions, the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) and the courts have given inconsistent decisions, which have hampered the effective functioning of institutions. First, in pursuance of the 2013 order, the MHRD asked the UGC to take over the regulatory functions of affiliated technical colleges. But management institutes were left out of the purview of the UGC without clear instructions to the

AICTE to continue to regulate them. The 2013 order was also silent on this issue. At a subsequent stage, however, this was clarified and the AICTE was asked to regulate them until further direction. With confused policies, the functioning of institutions has largely been directionless.

Second, private colleges with access to the MHRD influence the government to take action that creates contradictions in policy design. There are private bodies that seek permission to establish new colleges and/or increase the intake for approved pro-

taken over regulatory functions since it had banned capacity expansion. Against this, the AICTE has liberally allowed the unbridled growth of institutions.

Obviously, the SC and the MHRD have given a patient hearing to both groups. At different points in time, they have tried to endorse the views of each group, which is the main reason for the contradictory policies.

Third, there are umpteen instances of the MHRD encroaching on the autonomy of the UGC. And, the courts have also been unable to take cognisance of these violations. For instance, the regulation of open and distance learning programmes is vested with the Distance Education Council under the Indira Gandhi National Open University, as per law. This power has been snatched through an MHRD administrative order and transferred to the UGC, which is illegal. Clearly, Central authorities are oblivious to these inconsistent and contradictory policy directions.

When regulatory bodies lack accountability due to government interference, the SC's directions are of paramount significance and are the only hope for rectifying a dysfunctional higher education system. Unfortunately, the SC has betrayed expectations.

grammes. They are unhappy with the UGC's recent decision to impose a moratorium on creating new colleges and increasing intake. The UGC has also directed them to undergo dual accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (for their programmes) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. This category of colleges is opposed to the 2013 order.

There is another category of private institutions which suffers, as 20 to 30 per cent of the seats in both engineering and management courses are perpetually vacant because there are no takers. The promoters of such institutions were happy that the UGC had

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Times of India ND 01/05/2014 P-15

Spanish island 1st to run on water & wind power only

Valverde (Spain): The smallest and least known of Spain's Canary Islands, El Hierro, is making a splash by becoming the first island in the world fully energy self-sufficient through combined water and wind power.

A wind farm opening at the end of June will turn into electricity the gusts that rake the steep cliffs and green mountains of the volcanic island off the Atlantic coast of Africa. Its five turbines installed at the northeastern tip of El Hierro near the capital Valverde will have a total output of 11.5 megawatts — more than enough power to meet the demand of the island's roughly 10,000 residents.

Although other islands around the world are powered by solar or wind energy, experts say El Hierro is the first to secure a constant supply of electricity by combining wind and water power and with no connection to any outside electricity network. Surplus power from the wind turbines will be used to pump fresh water



A wind farm opening at the end of June in Spanish Canary island of El Hierro will make it fully energy self-sufficient

from a reservoir near the harbour to a larger one at volcanic crater located about 700 metres above sea level.

When there is little or no wind, the water will be channelled down to the lower reservoir through turbines to generate electricity in turn. "This system guarantees us a supply of electricity," said the director of the Gorona del Viento wind power plant, Juan Manuel Quintero who is supervising final tests before the plant starts functioning in a few weeks. The plant will account for 50% of the island's electricity demand when it is officially inaugurated at the end of June. AFP

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: May 1, 2014; Section: International; Page: 17

A test to tell if you're at risk of early death

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: Scientists have found that the ability or inability to stand up on one leg can indicate which 53-year-olds are at risk of premature death.

Fifty-three-year-old men who could balance on one leg for more than 10 seconds and stand up and sit down in a chair more than 37 times in a minute were found to be least likely to die early. Women in the same age group who could stand up and sit down more than 35 times in a minute and stand on one leg for more than 10 seconds were also in the low-risk category.

The researchers led by Rachel Cooper at the Medical Research Council Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing at University College London

examined the associations of grip strength, chair rise speed and standing balance time at age 53 with death rates from all-causes over the following 13 years. The survey has been tracking the health of over 5,000 people since their births in 1946.

Low levels of physical capability—in particular weak grip strength, slow chair rise speed and poor standing balance performance have been found to accurately indicate poorer chances of survival over the next 13 years while greater time spent in light intensity physical activity each day is linked to a reduced risk of developing disability in adults. Those with poor grip strength, chair rise speed and standing balance time at the age of 53 had over 12 times higher death rates.