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IIT-Bombay best technical institute in India, Delhi University top university

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIT-Bombay-best-technical-institute-in-India-Delhi-University-top-university/articleshow/47113054.cms>

NEW DELHI: IIT Bombay has emerged as the best technical institute in India and one among the top 100 worldwide according to subject-wise ranking by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a leading world university ranking agency.

Delhi University topped the 20 leading Indian universities which featured in the ranking list, bagging the 17th position in the world for its performance in development studies, as per QS University World Rankings by subject released on Thursday.

Nine Indian institutions are listed in the top 100 within nine disciplines, a statement issued by the agency said.

"Indian universities display increased international competitiveness in the top 100 with a stronger presence across the subjects," it said.

According to the ranking list, IIT Bombay is the most prevalent Indian institute, appearing in the top 100 for eight subjects - statistics and operational research; material science; mechanical, aeronautical & manufacturing engineering; electrical and electronic engineering; civil and structural engineering; chemical engineering; computer science and information system; art and design.

"IIT Delhi appears in the top 100 for civil and structural engineering, electrical & electronic engineering, mechanical aeronautical and manufacturing engineering and computer science and information system," the statement said.

In art and design, Shanmugha Arts Science Technology and Research Academy in Thanjavur has been ranked among the top 100, while Indian Institute of Science is in the top 100 for Material Science and Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

Also in the top 100 is the IIT Kharagpur within material science, civil and structural engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, and mechanical engineering.

The IIT Madras ranks in the top 100 within the disciplines of mechanical, engineering, electrical and electronic engineering and civil and structural engineering.

QS World University Rankings are annual university rankings published by British Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). This is the fifth QS World University Rankings by Subject.

"India secures 107 places across the 36 subject tables, including the six new disciplines for 2015 - architecture, arts and design, business studies, dentistry, development studies and veterinary science," the statement said.

"Of those places, 37 have moved downwards compared to 2014, 44 have maintained the same position, seven have gone up and 19 are new entries," it added.

On DU's ranking, the university's spokesperson Malay Neerav said, "This is a reflection of the progress made by DU in last four years where it has been continuously ranked number one among Indian universities and our rankings have improved in several disciplines. We are committed to securing a better ranking in future".

Delhi court to hear complaint against Smriti Irani on May 14

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/delhi-court-to-hear-complaint-against-smriti-irani-on-may-14/articleshow/47110956.cms>

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court today said it would hear on May 14 a complaint filed against Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani for allegedly giving "false" information about her educational qualification in her affidavits filed with the Election Commission of India.

Metropolitan Magistrate Akash Jain, who was scheduled to consider the plea today, deferred it for May 14 as the main counsel was not present in the matter due to the ongoing lawyers strike.

District courts lawyers in Delhi are observing strike till May 2 against the delay in tabling in Parliament an amended bill regarding enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction of trial courts.

"Put up again for consideration on May 14," the court said.

The complaint alleged that in an April, 2004 affidavit filed by Irani for the Lok Sabha elections, it was stated that she has completed her BA in 1996 from Delhi University (school of correspondence).

It claimed that in another affidavit of July 11, 2011 by Irani for election on Rajya Sabha seat from Gujarat, it was stated that her highest educational qualification was B.Com part I from the School of Correspondence, DU.

The complainant alleged that in another affidavit of April 16, 2014 filed by her for the Lok Sabha polls, it was said that she was a Bachelor of Commerce Part-I from the School of Open Learning, DU.

"It is evident from the contents of the affidavits filed by Smriti Z Irani that at best, only one of the depositions by her on oath in respect of her educational qualifications is correct," the plea claimed.

It alleged that she had given "false information" about her educational qualifications in the affidavits.

It further said "the aforesaid affidavits of Smriti Z Irani, apart from the ostensibly false and discrepant statements in respect of her educational qualifications, also appear to contain false/discrepant statements in respect of immovable properties owned by her and other details set out by her."

"The aforesaid facts and circumstances reveal commission of offences by the accused under section 125A of the Representation of People Act, 1951, besides any other offences that may attract other penal provisions as an outcome of an additional investigation," the plea said.

IIT, IIM, National Law School get Ford Foundation funds

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/iit-iim-national-law-school-get-ford-foundation-funds/>

The Gujarat government says US-based non-profit Ford Foundation in India is involved in "covert activities" that violate its "stated goals of promoting communal harmony, democratic principles and social justice." The Centre has put it on its watchlist and restricted movement of its funds without prior approval in "national interest and security".

But at least seven premium Central institutions run research and scholarship programmes that drew over \$2.5 million from the foundation between 2008 and 2013.

These are: IIT Bombay, IIM Ahmedabad, National Law School of India University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, GB Pant Social Science Institute and National Academy of Legal Studies and Research.

Describing the government's decision as "unfortunate", R Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, NLSIU, said the institute does not need the government's permission to accept funds for projects.

"We are a statutory body and our finances are subject to audit. From the founding days of this institute, Ford Foundation has funded us and remained part of the academic culture. At present, very eminent scholars, including our founding director N R Madhava Menon, are handling the Ford Foundation projects and have done great work thanks to the benevolence of the foundation," said Rao.

The Bangalore-based NLSIU currently has two Ford Foundation-funded projects and a Ford Foundation Chair on Public Interest Litigation. A \$300,000 Ford Foundation project on capacity building and technical assistance was due to conclude in May 2014 but has been extended till December 2015.

The other project, a three-year legal training programme worth \$600,000, will conclude this July. "The Ford Foundation was generous to sanction \$600,000 but we could utilise only \$400,000," said Professor V S Gigimon, assistant programme coordinator.

In IIT-Bombay, the Ford Foundation-funded project on affordable broadband will continue till May 2016. The three-year project was launched with a grant of \$530,000 in 2013.

According to the institute's research and development office, another three-year Ford Foundation funded project — on the feasibility of using white spaces for wireless broadband services for the rural poor — was scheduled to run till July 2015 but was concluded before time.

"We (IITs) don't need government's permission (for accepting funds). Regarding the recent development, we have not received any instruction from the government on funds from the Ford Foundation," Dr Devang Khakhar, Director, IIT Bombay, told The Indian Express.

IIM-Ahmedabad received \$164,840 and \$150,000 in 2008 and 2012 from the foundation for "impact assessment of pilot projects using wireless technology to provide Internet access to underserved rural communities in central India and to disseminate the findings".

Details of these projects were not readily available as Rekha Jain, who led the policy advocacy studies, was travelling abroad, an IIM-A spokesperson said. Ashish Nanda, Director, IIM-A, was also travelling and could not be contacted immediately, his office said.

JNU concluded two Ford Foundation Grant programmes in 2005 and 2011. In 2010, the JNU Vice Chancellor's speech mentioned a range of MoUs with sponsoring foundations and research institutes including Ford Foundation.

According to the university's finance office, there are two "perennial endowments" from the foundation to fund a visiting professorial fellowship in the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance (CSLG), and scholarships in the Department of International Studies.

"I remember attending a Ford Foundation programme some time back. As such, we don't need the government's clearance unless foreign accounting is involved and we haven't got any specific instruction on Ford Foundation funds," said S K Sopory, Vice Chancellor, JNU.

Jamia Millia Islamia, which has a Ford Foundation endowed chair, also received \$200,000 in 2013 for research on “how the transition to digital television broadcasting affects access, openness, affordability and diversity of content and to disseminate the findings at conferences, in print and online”.

“Jamia receives funds from a number of sources and Ford Foundation has been funding research activities in India for a very long time. I don’t think we need government’s permission for accepting funds for research etc,” said Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia.

Allahabad-based GB Pant Social Science Institute got \$200,000 in 2009 to research and document “links between heterodox religious sects and democratic empowerment of Dalit communities” in Uttar Pradesh.

Hyderabad-based NALSAR got \$330,000 in 2013 for a human rights project to build knowledge of legal remedies for enforcement of economic and social rights in India.

In an email reply to queries, the Ford Foundation said: “As a charitable foundation, everything we do is transparent and readily available on our website. As the current inquiry progresses we will continue to respond fully to official queries directed to us. At present we have not yet heard directly from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Our aim is to work closely with government partners to clarify any area of question or concern. If the government suggests methods by which we can strengthen and improve our grant-making processes, we will take swift and appropriate steps to incorporate them. We are confident in our work and compliance with law and look forward to a constructive outcome.”

First batch of IIT Goa classes likely from July

PANJIM: Subject to central approval, the Goa government is set to begin classes from July 2015 for the first batch of IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Goa from a temporary campus at Goa College of Engineering, Farmagudi.

<http://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/First-batch-of-IIT-Goa-classes-likely-from-July/87950.html>

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The government is keeping its fingers crossed on the approval of the identified land for setting up a permanent IIT campus in the State with Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar saying the land is awaiting a green signal from the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD).

The government has identified a site at Dhargal and another at Betki-Khandola that is 14 lakh sq mtrs and belongs to the comunidade. “We hope to get a nod on the land for setting up a permanent IIT campus, which will pave the way to start classes on the temporary campus. We have identified land at Dhargal and Betki-Khandola, and sent a proposal to Union HRD ministry,” Parsekar told Herald. Parsekar, who also holds the Education portfolio, said the faculties at the IIT will be finalized after a response from the central ministry. “We are prepared to start the classes on a temporary campus anytime, but this is subject to the decision on the land for a permanent structure,” he reiterated.

Once approved, the government is confident of completing the construction of the IIT within two years. For now, to start the classes at Farmagudi, around 100 students will be enrolled for the first year degree course.

Dear Narendra Modi, please bring the entire education system under one competent minister

<http://scroll.in/article/724248/dear-narendra-modi-please-bring-the-entire-education-system-under-one-competent-minister>

'When army, airforce and navy can report to one defence ministry, I fail to understand why multiple ministries are controlling education.'

Dear Shri Narendra Modi,

For a country of 1.3 billion people, the biggest resource is human resource. You have yourself acknowledged our human resource potential in Japan. However, successive governments have lacked the will, intent and vision as regards to the most important ministry that can decide the future of India – the human resource development ministry. Barring empty slogans, there is zero initiative on how we can make India's youth more productive. We are looking at our demographic dividend turning into a demographic nightmare if we don't change our attitude towards the HRD ministry and education.

The tragedy lies in how everything to do with education has been split and each ministry has taken a piece for itself to control, govern, eat, fleece and reap. The objective has never been to contribute and add value to the country. Multiple ministries have created their own territories and turfs from where they govern to destroy the objective and purpose of education. Here are a few examples just to illustrate a few of the many anomalies.

Multiple regulators

Education is controlled by the HRD ministry, but

- * Medical education is regulated by Medical Council of India (health ministry).
- * Pharmacy education (similar to medical education) is regulated by Pharmacy Council of India (health ministry).
- * Legal education is regulated by Bar Council of India (law ministry).
- * The various ITIs are under the ministry of labour and employment.
- * National Skill Development Council is under the newly formed skill development ministry.
- * Various states have also enacted acts giving birth to many state universities and state private universities. Just between Karnataka and Rajasthan, 46 universities were approved in the last 10 years.
- * Many ministries (science & technology, food processing etc) have floated their own universities and control them.

And then you have the HRD ministry, which has multiple regulators, fighting a bitter turf war for control but never taking responsibility to act with alacrity when students suffer.

Corruption and red tape

As you know, universities are established under an act of Parliament, state or provincial legislatures and, according to The University Grants Commission Act, 1956, all the institutions are allowed to offer a degree only when approved by the UGC. But a university even if approved by UGC cannot offer a professional course unless approved by one of the regulators above (technical education is exempt from such approval due a court judgment).

These innumerable regulators and multiplicity of control have created corruption and red tape of alarming proportions. Entrepreneurs are held to ransom at every stage. Many approvals are granted for just a year to ensure control (and collection). It is ridiculous because a student joins a college for three to four years while the approvals are for each year. All this while our curriculum and pedagogy has remained where it was for many decades. Our education is neither modern nor is it receptive to the current day needs. For example, the Bar Council of India last revised its curriculum many years back, despite change in modern day needs of litigants and our Justice system is the biggest casualty. So is healthcare and many other domains that suffer because we produce untrained students, whose ethics are put to test while they were students as many of them have to rely on recommendations, donations and loans. The scenario is similar in most other professional councils.

Great expectations

Sir, I write this letter with a lot of hope. You have the mandate, influence, power and the will to change all this

and leave a lasting imprint on education and to ensure that the youth of this country are not left at the mercy of multiple regulators. Sir, when army, airforce and navy can report to one defence ministry, I fail to understand why multiple ministries are controlling education. It has now become a territorial war and conflict for turf. And education is one of the most litigated domains in the country. To give you an example, the Deemed University case has been going in the Supreme Court for the last eight years with little to show for the effort. This is also leading to the best-intentioned entrepreneurs selling out and those who can "manage" this conflict to enter education. The cost of education is increasing dramatically because of corruption and red tape.

Sir, please bring the entire education system under the umbrella of one ministry. Appoint a person who understands the complications and complexities of our education system to head the ministry. Unfortunately, the current incumbent is least qualified, though well-intentioned. Let health, law, technical education, agriculture and vocational education etc. be departments within the HRD ministry. Let professional councils set the standards and test the students at the graduating stage, the way it is done globally.

Sir, it is an opportunity to radically transform education and impact youth. It is an opportunity to impact our future. It is time we show the right direction to our youth, the future of this country. Let us make good citizens through this 'Make in India' opportunity. It is there for the asking. Either you seize it or fail us. The choice is yours.

Warm regards
Maheshwer Peri

Maheshwer Peri is the publisher of the education magazine [Careers 360](#)

Indian universities open doors to foreign dreams

Students benefit as domestic varsities tie up with foreign counterparts, industry

MAYANK MISHRA
New Delhi, 30 April

Come June and a group of more than 20 students pursuing MBA programme at Hero Group's BML Munjal University will get a chance to study at London's Imperial College Business School. The two-week stay at the premier business school will be a culmination of a seven-week course with lessons in, among others, design thinking and entrepreneurship for the students of fledgling Gurgaon-based university that began operations in 2014.

Around the same time, 18 students enrolled for undergraduate programmes at Sonapat-based Ashoka University will go for six-week courses at University of California at Berkeley, King's College, London, and Yale University, among others.

These are only two of the many examples of how Indian universities' collaboration with their foreign counterparts is shaping up. While some promise exposure to foreign universities at very little extra cost, some others offer students the option of being taught by well-known academicians from top-notch institutions right here.

"For a two-week course at the Imperial College Business School, students will have to

pay for their travel and stay. That is all. We have taken care of everything else. Imagine the kind of benefits these students will derive by interacting with the best in the business," says Akshay Munjal, president of BML Munjal University.

Other than student exchange programmes, there is a steady flow of faculty from abroad taking up short-term assignment at new private universities. "Every year, we invite 10-15 faculty members of repute from top class foreign universities to teach our students. Some come for just a few weeks and some come here to take classes for the entire semester," says Vineet Gupta, one of the founders and pro-vice chancellor of Ashoka University.

One of the visiting faculty members at Ashoka is Neil Lutsky, professor of psychology at Carleton College, a partner institutions. The reason he comes here to teach, he says, is the quality of students. "Ashoka is attracting academically talented, creative and ambitious, community minded and enthusiastic and caring individuals," the professor justifies in an emailed response.

While he is impressed with the quality of students, the professor has a suggestion for Indian universities. "From what I've heard, I think Indian universities need to do a better



job engaging the intellectual passions of undergraduates, in particular, to create educational communities where students value what they are learning, share their excitement while developing expertise with each other and do not approach their studies primarily as hurdles to be mastered for the sake of future employment," he says.

According to reliable estimates, nearly 30,000 Indian students go abroad every year to pursue undergraduate

courses. The US continues to be a preferred option, followed by the UK, Australia and Canada. And, many more Indian students go abroad to pursue specialised courses and higher studies. The newly-launched private universities promoted by successful entrepreneurs like Ashoka, BML Munjal, Shiv Nadar (all located around Delhi) and Bengaluru-based Azim Premji

want to tap into this market. They are relying on collaboration with foreign universities

MENTORING VIA OVERSEAS TIE-UPS

- Ashoka University boasts of tie-ups with the University of California at Berkeley, Carleton College, University of Michigan and King's College, London
- BML Munjal University's business programmes are being mentored by the Imperial College
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its, course development and joint workshops.

Other than promoting students exchange programmes for short-duration courses and inviting faculty members to deliver few lectures, these universities are giving students an "easy access" to pursue higher studies in partner institutions. "25 of our students pursuing B.Tech courses here will have an opportunity after completion of their course to enrol themselves for one-year master programme in management at the Imperial College if they fulfil certain conditions," points out Akshay Munjal.

However, G Anand Anandalingam, the dean of Imperial College Business School, clarifies that while students from BML Munjal University will not get any relaxation in admission process they are likely to get some relaxation on tuition fees for which details are being worked out.

Incidentally, as the mentor institution, the Imperial College Business School has helped BML Munjal in recruitment of faculty members and selection of students for its business programmes. And the London-based business school has played a role in curriculum design as well. "You can say that we have influenced the process of curriculum development," observes Anandalingam. The Imperial College will hold research workshop in September this to train faculty

members of the BML Munjal University.

Other than collaboration with foreign universities, now private universities are forging partnership with companies for specific courses. BML Munjal University, for instance, has tied-up with IBM, Siemens and KPMG for specific courses. While IBM has set up a business analytics lab, Siemens has set up a workshop named centre for excellence. The consultancy firm KPMG has been roped in to offer a BBA course.

"Through these associations we intend to bring industry closer to academia. IBM is a leader in business analytics. If our students learn business analytics from IBM, you can imagine their level of proficiency. Similarly, if BBA students are being taught by experts from KPMG, they are bound to get a lot of benefit out of such experience. Our engineering students will get exposed to latest technologies at Siemens' centre for excellence," Munjal told this reporter, while having lunch at his staff canteen. Incidentally, two canteens at the campus are being managed by Sodexo, which has on its menu dishes from states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Munjal adds that many more such associations with leading companies are set to be announced soon.

IIT, IIM, National Law School get Ford Foundation funds

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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IIT-Gn designs new barricades for cops

<http://www.ahmedabadmirror.com/ahmedabad/others/IIT-Gn-designs-new-barricades-for-cops/articleshow/47114212.cms>

The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar has designed a barricade for the police that is 'physically strong, visually intimidating and functionally simple'. The barricades that can be used during protests to control mobs and bring discipline to traffic on the road has been designed as part of a project for Raksha Shakti University. Created by Dean Amit Prashant and faculty members Gaurav Srivastav and Bhaskar Bhatt, the trendy-looking barricades can be easily stored and transported. The product includes two easily deployable, stackable units with the capacity to sustain being pushed or pulled by 12 persons. It does not require manual support to stabilize it against adverse force.

It is resistant to sliding and overturning as it has a platform facing the crowd. Deputy Director General (RSU) Vikas Sahay said, "We have conducted this research with IIT-Gn so that we can use barricades meant for crowd control. Currently, the police department uses ones designed to handle traffic on road. This prompted us to use technology and come up with a new design that specifically targets crowd control." The new design makes it impossible for crowd to cross line or lift the barricades, he said. Prof Prashant said that the biggest advantage of the new design is reduction in weight. "Current barricades weigh more than 250 kg.

By using steel net, we brought down the weight of new barricades to 57 kg per piece. This includes 22 kg of base frame, 24 kg of front frame and 10 kg of metal net. This will make it easier for policemen to carry. Also, the reduced weight will bring down production cost by 50 per cent," he said, adding, "The design is 5-foot tall and allows using force, if required to control mob."

The product was developed after a series of consultation with officials at RSU. "IIT-Gn and RSU discussed additional features desired by police officials like structural strength and stability so that it is not necessary for a police official to manually support the barricade against an aggressive crowd. They sought less maintenance demand- both in terms of money and manpower, durability, quick and easy deployment, and moderate resistance to fire," Prof Prashant revealed. Sahay said, "The new design has a net to allow cops to talk to and calm down an angry crowd.

It also interlocks to enable it to be lined up against a mob." To give students exposure, the institute initially ran a contest for B.Tech students and sought their suggestions. Based on the suggestions, the three faculty members modified the design to come up with the final product. IIT-Gn has completed the project and submitted the design. RSU officials plan to implement the new design after seeking nod of higher-ups in the state government. The proposal will be submitted to the Director General of Police for approval of mass-production.