Newspaper Clips May 14, 2014

IITs defer joint counselling

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140514/isp/nation/story 18340064.isp#.U3OnilGSw5M

New Delhi, May 13: The Indian Institutes of Technology have again deferred joint counselling sessions with NITs, saying the software required to introduce the new system for admission to BTech courses was not "ready" yet.

The government had suggested that the tech schools hold common counselling, a system aimed at eliminating the possibility of students blocking seats in multiple institutions, but the IITs said the software needed to be tested.

"Any new system must be thoroughly tested before being introduced. The software for joint counselling is not ready. How can it be done this year?" said an IIT professor associated with the development.

Last year, too, the HRD ministry had asked the 16 IITs to hold joint counselling sessions with the 30 National Institutes Technology. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) had prepared the software but the IITs backed out at the last moment, saying there had been no trial run.

The idea behind joint counselling was to ensure that seats didn't remain vacant. Because of separate counselling, a candidate can get offers of admission from an IIT as well as an NIT. He blocks both seats and vacates one at the last moment, giving that institute hardly any chance to fill up that seat. Some 600 seats in NITs and 300 in IITs remained vacant last year.

If there is joint counselling, a student will get an offer of admission from one institute — either an IIT or an NIT — and cannot block seats in both.

An HRD ministry official said the IITs had set up an "expert committee" to look into the technical issues involved. "The IITs and the NITs use different software for counselling. On the basis of its (the committee's) recommendations, the new software would be developed and tested," the official said, adding that joint counselling might be introduced from 2015.

NIT Goa director G.R.C. Reddy wondered if the IITs were at all interested in joint counselling. "I think their brand image would take a beating if... top rank holders prefer NITs to pursue their branch of choice."

Former NIT Delhi director Sandeep Sancheti said it shouldn't take more than a month to "develop and validate" the software. "I think the problem is the mindset of IIT administrators."

But former IIT-JEE Advanced chairman H.C. Gupta said the software developed by the CDAC last year had not been tested. "We couldn't have taken the risk. If anything went wrong, we would have taken all the blame."

IIT Delhi in top 50 of QS Asian rankings

HT Education Correspondent

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IIT Delhi is the highest ranking Indian institution in the recently launched QS Quacquarelli Symonds University Rankings: Asia 2014. Ranked at number 38, IIT Delhi is ahead of IIT Bombay (41), IIT Kanpur (52) and IIT Madras (53), among others. The list includes 17 Indian universities (as compared to 11 last year), with 10 of them featuring in the top 150. The Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation (ICAA) and QS Quacquarelli Symonds organised the unveiling of the 'QS University Rankings: Asia 2014' at an event supported by British Council, KPMG, FICCI, ThoughtWorks and Cambridge English.

As far as India goes, the latest table showing a marginal decline in the positions occupied by most of the country's leading institutions. But an increase of more than 50 % in India's overall representation offers hopeful signs for the future.

Among traditional universities, University of Delhi takes

the lead at 81, having slipped one place since last year. Banaras Hindu University, Panjab, Manipal and Amity universities, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, and the Indian Institute of Information Technology appear in the rankings for the first time. Experts believe that even as private institutions in India were more approachable with information, there was a lack of transparency with respect to public institutions in the country.

National University of Singapore (NUS) is ranked number one in the QS Asia rankings list, followed by Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) at second place and University of Hong Kong at number three. "These rankings confirm the emergence of Singapore and Korea as the region's new major players," says Ben Sowter, QS head of research, "NUS and KAIST have benefitted from major government investment in research, and operating in English has helped them attain new levels of global engagement."

QS UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: ASIA 2014

2014 RANK	2013 RANK	Institution Name
38	38	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
41	39	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY
52	51	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR
53	49	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS
60	58	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR
70	66	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE
81=	80	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
95	89	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
131=	143	UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA
131=	140	UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

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टॉप 300 यूनिवसिटी की लिस्ट में 17 भारत से



रैंकिंग एजेंसी क्यूएस लिस्ट में 38 वें पायदान पर IIT-दिल्ली, 81वें पर है दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय



इटी ब्यूरो | नई दिल्ली]

बेहतरीन एशियाई विश्वविद्यालयों की सूची में इस साल 17 भारतीय यूनिवर्सिटी ने अपनी जगह बनाई है। रैंकिंग एजेंसी क्वैंकक्वैरेली साइमंड्स (क्यूएस) ने यह लिस्ट जारी की है। पिछले साल 11 भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय इस लिस्ट में अपनी जगह बनाने में कामयाब रहे थे। क्यूएस की लिस्ट में एशिया की टॉप 300 यूनिवर्सिटी को शामिल किया गया है। रैंकिंग एजेंसी क्यूएस ने नॉन-प्रॉफिट ऑर्गनाइजेशन द इंडियन सेंटर फॉर एसेसमेंट एंड एक्रेडिटैशन के साथ मिलकर यह लिस्ट जारी की है। इस बार छह भारतीय युनिवर्सिटीज ने पहली बार इस लिस्ट में जगह बनाई है। इनमें बनारस हिंदू यूनिवर्सिटी, पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी, मणिपाल यूनिवर्सिटी, एमिटी यूनिवर्सिटी, बिड्ला इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी एंड साइंस और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी शामिल हैं।

क्यूएस वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग्स में एग्जिक्यूटिव बोर्ड के मेंबर जॉन ओ लीयरी ने बताया, 'इस बार लिस्ट में भारतीय यूनिवर्सिटी की रैंकिंग में जबरदस्त सुधार हुआ है। यह भारतीय संस्थानों के रैंकिंग एजेंसियों से बढ़ते जुड़ाव की तरफ इशारा करता है। टॉप रैंकिंग वाले संस्थानों में आईआईटी शामिल हैं। इस लिस्ट में शामिल संस्थानों की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी एक बेहतर संकेत है और यह ट्रेंड आगे भी जारी रहने की उम्मीद है।'

पिछली बार की तरफ इस बार भी इस रैंकिंग में भारतीय संस्थानों में आईआईटी दिल्ली सबसे आगे है। इस संस्थान ने पिछले साल की तरह इस बार भी 38वीं रैंकिंग हासिल की है, जबिक आईआईटी बॉम्बे 41वें पायदान पर है। पांच अन्य आईआईटी को भी टॉप 100 संस्थानों में शामिल किया गया है। इनमें आईआईटी कानपुर और आईआईटी मद्रास भी शामिल हैं।

क्यूएस में रिसर्च हेड बेन सोटर ने बताया, 'एंप्लॉयर्स के बीच आईआईटी की जबरदस्त साख है और यहां रिसर्च का काम भी अच्छा हो रहा है। बेशक इस मामले मामले में हाई रैंकिंग हासिल हुई है।

इस बार लिस्ट में भारतीय युनिवर्सिटी की रैंकिंग में जबरदस्त सुधार हुआ है। यह भारतीय संस्थानों के रैंकिंग एजेंसियों से बढ़ते जुडाव की तरफ इशारा करता है

जीन ओ लीयरी, क्यूएस वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग्स में एग्जिक्युटिव बोर्ड के मेंबर

में भारत की मजबूत होती हैसियत बेहतर संकेत है, लेकिन एशिया के बेस्ट संस्थानों के साथ मुकाबले के लिए आईआईटी संस्थानों को अभी और मेहनत करनी

क्यूएस की सालाना रैंकिंग इस एजेंसी की ग्लोबल वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग का रीजनल एडिशन है, जिसे 2004 से लगातार सालाना पेश किया जा रहा है। एशियाई रैंकिंग 43,000 एशियाई और इंटरेनशनल अकैडेमिक्स, 8,000 एशियाई और इंटरनेशनल एंप्लॉयर्स और 491 संस्थानों के रिस्पॉन्स पर आधारित है। संस्थानों की रैंकिंग में अकैडमिक साख को 30 फीसदी और स्टूडेंट/फैकल्टी रेशियो को 20 फीसदी वेटेज दिया जाता है। इसके अलावा, एंप्लॉयर्स की साख और इंटरनेशनल लेवल पर मान्यता को भी वेटेज दिया गया है। अगर पारंपरिक विश्वविद्यालयों की बात करें, तो दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी सबसे आगे 81वें पोजीशन पर है। हालांकि, इसकी रैंकिंग में पिछले साल के मुकाबले एक पायदान की गिरावट हुई है। एंप्लॉयर्स के लिहाज से यह एशिया की टॉप 25 यूनिवर्सिटी में शामिल है, जबिक अकादमिक जगत के लोगोंके लिहाज से इसे टॉप 40 में शामिल किया गया है। दूसरी तरफ, कलकत्ता यूनिवर्सिटी को स्टूडेंट एक्सचेंज के

Business Line, ND 14/05/2014 P-19

IIT Delhi, Mumbai among top 50 Asian institutes: QS

NUS Singapore tops list among 250 ranked universities

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 12

National University of Singapore tops the chart among 250 universities ranked by QS Asia Pacific University Rankings in 2014, followed by Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and University of Hong Kong.

From India, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and Mumbai were the only two institutions that made it among the top 50 in the Asia-Pacific region, at rank 38 and 41, respectively. Five other IITs feature in the top100, with Delhi University placed at the 81st position.

Debutants

Incidentally, Banaras Hindu University, Panjab, Manipal and Amity universities, Birla Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Information technology

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and Mumbai were the only two Indian institutions that made it among the top 50 in the Asia-Pacific region.

appear for the first time in the rankings by QS, a global rating agency for higher education institutions.

"Sadly, Indian universities do not seem to consider international rankings important and many do not even attempt to consolidate and share in public domain the full and up-to-date information about their performance," said Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation.

ICAA with QS Quacquarelli Symonds organised the QS rankings. The first copy of the rankings was presented to President, Pranab Mukherjee by members of QS, ICAA, FICCI, British Council and KPMG.

INDIAN UNIS AMONG ASIA'S BEST

TOPPERS Record number of Indian universities in new Asian rankings

Vanita Srivastava & HT Correspondents

There has been a sharp increase in the number of Indian institutions in the Asian Universities Ranking 2014 recently published by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds).

The list released on Monday features 17 Indian universities, a phenomenal increase from 11 last year.

With seven IITs among the leading eight institutions, the top levels of Indian higher education remain much stronger in science and technology than in the arts and social sciences. This is good news for India. as another global ranking had recently included IIT Guwahati in the top 100 of the 'young' global institutes.

IIT Delhi holds on to 38th place, pulling clear of IIT Bombay in 41st. Five other IITs feature in the top 100, led by Kanpur and Madras just outside the top 50.

"The IITs have a great reputation among graduate employers, and now produce a relatively high volume of research, but it is not yet having a significant impact in terms of citations," says QS head of research Ben Sowter.

Amongst traditional universities, University of Delhi takes the lead at 81, having slipped one place since last year. In the latest Asian ranking, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Panjab, Manipal



IIT Delhi is the highest ranking Indian institution in the QS rankings for Asia 2014

and Amity universities, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, and the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) all appear for the first time.

The rankings reflects a swing in the balance of power in the continent as a whole, as Singapore and Korea overtake the traditionally dominant Japan and Hong Kong. National University of Singapore (NUS) tops the rankings for the first time,

while Korea's KAIST rises from sixth to second place.

The Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation (ICAA) and QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) organised the unveiling of the 'QS University Rankings: Asia 2014' at an event supported by British Council, KPMG, FICCI, ThoughtWorks and Cambridge English.

As far as India goes, the latest table show

OS UNIVERSITY RANKINGS FOR ASIA 2014

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ing a marginal decline in the positions occupied by most of the country's leading institutions. But an increase of more than 50 % in India's overall representation offers hopeful signs for the future.

Experts believe that even as private institutions in India were more approachable with information, there was a lack of transparency with respect to public institutions

QS Asia ranking: India tally up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

AS MANY as 17 Indian institutes have made it to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia rankings 2014, up from 11 institutes the previous year.

As many as seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are among the top 100 institutes in the latest rankings released this week, with IIT Delhi (No. 28) and IIT Bombay (No. 41) managing a place in the top 50.

National University of Singapore tops the rankings,

followed by Korean Institute of Advanced Science & Technology and the University of Hong Kong. The University of Delhi is the only Indian varsity to make it to the top 100. The varsities of Calcutta and Mumbai share the 131st spot, while Banaras Hindu University stands at No. 142.

Panjab University, which made a stunning debut on the Times Higher Education Ranking last year, is in the 171-180 ranking range this time. The highest ranked private institute is the Manipal Academy of Higher Education in the 181-190 segment, while the Birla Institute of Technology & Science is in the 201-250 range, sharing the space with IIIT Alla-

habad and University of Pune.
President Pranab

Mukherjee, who released the rankings, expressed confidence that India will soon find its rightful place in the global rankings of higher education institutions.

The President told a delegation from QS, ICAA, British Council, FICCI and KPMG at Rashtrapati Bhavan that Indian authorities will extend all possible cooperation to them in obtaining necessary information in the appropriate format from Indian higher education institutions. He added that higher educational institutions should be transparent and all relevant information should be published on their websites.

face oface **BEN SOWTER**

singapore, Korea new education powerhouses'

Ayesha Banerjee

Asia has a few key education powerhouses that India should learn its lessons from as more and more Asian students seek to identify countries in the region as education destinations. Ben Sowter, head of research at Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) talks about the 2014 'QS Asia Pacific University Rankings,' unveiled recently

How do these rankings compare with the global rankings and what are the most important findings of the survey this

The QS University Rankings: Asia was the first regional league produced by QS, back in 2009, in response to a demand from the region itself. We first designed the World University Rankings in 2003 and published them in 2004 because we realised that there was a growing community of international students who wanted to understand which universities were truly world-class. Institutions were also keen to understand how they compared with their peers in a

Over the past decade, the students' mobility within the Asian region has increased exponentially year on year. A two-third of the internation al students are Asian and of them a significant proportion is now choosing to study outside their home country but to remain in Asia rather than go West. Such a trend prompted us to engage with academics in Asia to define the criteria for a ranking dedicated to highlight excellence in the region.

The methodology is still based on the four pillars

that underpin our World University Rankings: teaching commitment, research impact, employability of graduates and international outlook.

The weightings have been adjusted to better reflect and capture the priorities of universities in the Asian context and their reality.

For instance, in the Asian rankings, we have included 'Papers per Faculty' as one of the research indicators as measuring the research productivity in a region where there are many young universities is relevant - as is measuring the student exchanges. The comparison is in the boxes below.

Which country would you say is 'emerging' in terms of education excellence?

These rankings have highlighted the emergence of Singapore and Korea as the new education powerhouses, that are challenging more established countries such as Japan and territories like Hong Kong. If we consider the overall population and the economic size of certain countries, it is apparent that South Korea, with 46 universities ranked. is doing extremely well - as is Taiwan

Singapore's leading university, NUS - tops the table, while the other top local institution, NTU, ranks 7. China has 73 institutions ranked and Japan 68. Impressive numbers, but it is obvious that their dominance is challenged by other very competitive players.

The table above shows how many universities each country has in the ranges

Which countries are included in

TOP UNIVERSITIES IN ASIAN COUNTRIES

	_	_			
Country/Territory	Top 50	Top 51-100	Top 101-200	Top 201-300	Top universtities by country
Bangladesh		300	1		1
Brunei		100-	1	12000	1
China - Mainland	9	13	25	26	73
Hong Kong	6		1		7
India	2	6	5	4	17
Indonesia		1	3	5	9
Japan	13	8	30	17	68
Korea (South)	9	10	12	15	46
Macau	112	-		1	1
Malaysia	1	4	2	11	18
Pakistan		-	5	5	10
Philippines		1	3	1	5
Singapore	2				5 2
Sri Lanka	4			1	1
Taiwan	6	6	5	11	28
Thailand	2	1	5	2	10
Vietnam	-		2	1	3
	7/10/19/19			7135 67	200

the rankings and why?

For the sixth edition of the QS University Rankings: Asia, 491 institutions have been evaluated 474 ranked and 300 published. We have included all the countries in Asia (excluding Central Asia and Asia Minor)

What are the challenges that Asian universities face in comparison to the top-ranked global institutions? There are no quick fixes

to rise to the top. Systematic and sustained performance improvement requires institutional autonomy, consistent institutional leadership without political intervention, a permanent culture of laying structural and financial foundations for future growth and a singleminded focus on identifying and nurturing the most carefully selected international partnerships. Fierce branding guidelines wouldn't hurt

As English-speaking and major international transit hubs, Singapore and Hong Kong enjoy some natural competitive advantages and have long dominated the



COMPARISON OF STUDENT EXCHANGES

QS University Rankings: ASIA

Criteria	Weight
Academic reputation	30%
Employer reputation	10%
Student/faculty Ratio	20%
Papers per faculty	15%
Citations per paper	15%
Internationalisation	5%
Student exchange inbound	2.50%
Student exchange outbour	nd 2.50%
	100%

QS World University Rankings Academic reputation 40% Employer reputation 10% Student/faculty Ratio Papers per faculty Citations per paper Internationalisation 10% Student exchange inbound n/a Student exchange outbound n/a

17 Indian univs make it to Asia's top 300

Kounteya Sinha TNN

London: A record number of Indian universities, 17, feature in this year's Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings for Asia in the top 300. IIT Delhi is placed highest on number 38, followed by IIT Bombay in the 41st position. Five other IITs feature in the top 100, which is led by Kanpur and Madras just outside top 50.

India is still waiting for a breakthrough at the top of the rankings with the latest table showing a marginal decline in the positions. But the rankings have seen an increase of more than 50% in India's overall representation in the list.

Among traditional universities, University of Delhi takes the lead at 81 having slipped one place since last year. It is ranked in the top 25 in Asia by employers and the top 40 by academics but is handicapped in some other indicators by its large size and low levels of international faculty and student exchange which brings down its overall ranking.

Only the University of Calcutta ranks high on students' exchanges coming second in Asia for outbound exchanges and 52nd for inbound. "The IITs have a great reputation among graduate employers, and now produce a relatively high volume of research, but it is not yet having a significant impact in terms of citations," QS head of research Ben Sowter said.

"India's improved strength is a sign of progress but there is a long way to go before the IITs can compete with the very best institutions in Asia. India's tally of 2 institutions in the top 50 places is behind Japan (13). China (9), South Korea (9), Hong Kong (6) and Taiwan (6) while being level with Singapore and Thailand," he added. Banaras Hindu University, Punjab University, Manipal, Amity University, Birla Institute of Technology and Science and the Indian Institute of Information Technology all appear for the first time.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

HT.COM MD, 14.05.2014, P-6

University rankings, policy changes are crucial: experts

Harini Sriram

here has been a lot of debate on the importance of university rankings; while some question the methodologies used to rank institutions, others believe that India has to effectively address the reasons why its universities are struggling to make the cut.

At a recent panel discussion titled 'Do we need rankings?' held in the Capital, prominent speakers raised important points on the challenges and limitations that are specific to Indian universities.

The discussion was held by the Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation (ICAA) and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) as part of the unveiling of the QS University Rankings: Asia 2014.

Mohandas Pai, chairman, ICAA, set the tone for the discussion by emphasising that Indians live in a globalised world and cannot afford to ignore rankings anymore. "Indian universities cannot exist in a cocoon and work in isolation. We have a rich intellectual culture and we need to engage with the rulesetters, participate in this battle of ideas and benchmark our own progress," he said.

Making a strong case for rankings, Dr R Natarajan, former director; IIT-Madras and former chairman, AICTE said, "Why do we participate in the Olympics or any other event? It's because we want to showcase what we have. Similarly, we cannot ignore university rankings and their effect."

While there was a consensus on the relevance and importance of university rankings, most speakers stressed on the need for policy changes from government-instituted bodies. Professor Sudha Pai of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) said that although universities (like JNU) are producing quality students, they are grappling with issues such as lack of good infrastructure and funds.

"We need greater economy as bodies such



at a recent panel discussion held in the Capital, prominent speakers raised important points on the challenges and limitations that are specific to Indian universities нт рното

as University Grants Commission (UGC) are stifling our progress. We have some of the best faculty and a strong research-driven academic structure; yet, our hands are tied, as we are not authorised to make our own decisions on a number of key aspects," she said. She added that though the university is not against rankings, these practical mundane issues make it difficult for the university to participate in global rankings.

Professor HA Ranganath, director, NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) said that structural changes and innovation in policy-making is crucial.

PU India's best, but doesn't figure in Asia's top 100

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Panjab University, Chandigarh, named India's topmost institute in the World's Top 400 list released by Times Higher Education last October, lost its pride of place to other domestic varsities in the Britain-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings released today.

The QS Asia's Top 300 Rankings include 17 institutions of higher learning from India but the biggest take away from the list is that PU Chandigarh is ranked in the group 171-180 far behind several other varsities and institutes. In October rankings released by Times Higher Education, PU was India's highest ranked institute in the group category 226 to 250 whereas IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur were behind PU at 351 to 400.

But in the 2014 QS rankings, which share the reputation of Times Higher Education World 400 rankings, Panjab University has come down several notches with IIT Delhi emerging India's top at rank 38 fol-

Do not know what parameters used: PU

Panjab University's Director Public Relations Vineet Punia said it was yet not known what parameters were taken into account while ranking institutions in the QS list. "Different agencies use different parameters and attach varied weightage to different parameters. QS asked us for number of international students and fee in US dollar, etc. among other data. We will have to wait for a detailed analysis of institutions to know the reasons behind rankings. This is the first time we participated in QS."

lowed by IIT Mumbai at rank 41. IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay are the only Indian institutes in the top 50 among QS' Asia's Top 300 institutions.

The top five Asian varsities are The National University of Singapore, The Korea Advanced Institute for Science and Technology, University of Hong Kong, Seoul National University and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. China's Peking University is also among top 10 in the list.

The Indian institutes in the top 100 include IIT Kanpur (52), IIT Madras (53), IIT Kharagpur (60), IIT Roorkee (70). The University of Delhi is the highest ranked non-IIT institution from India at 81 while IIT Guwahati is ranked at 95.

Most of the top ranks are shared by higher educational institutions from China. Japan, South Korea. Thailand and Malaysia, a sign that Indian varsities need to pull up their socks though there has been improvement from the last year when only 11 Indian institutions made to the QS list as against 17 in 2014.

Interestingly, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences at 106 is ahead of several top Indian universities, including Panjab University, Chandigarh, which was ranked highly by the Thomson Reuters Times Ranking on account of its industry collaboration, foreign student strength and academic excellence.

INDIATODAY.IN NEW DELHI, MAY 12, 2014 | UPDATED 17:56 IST

IIT Bombay to start open online courses from July

http://indiatoday.in/education/story/iit-bombay-to-start-open-online-courses-from-july/1/360341.html

IIT Bombay (IIT-B) recently launched its first three massive open online course (MOOCs), Introduction to Computer Programming (part one), Thermodynamics and Introduction to Computer Programming (part two). While the first two courses will commence this July, the third course - Introduction to Computer Programming (part two) will begin in September, a daily said.

The online courses will enable students enrolling to learn anytime, from anywhere and at a convenient speed. Deepak Phatak, professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay infirmed that the content offered will be same but students can repeat study material or skip familiar topics as per convenience.

The courses can be pursued by anyone and will be delivered through sessions grouped into several themes or topics. Each session will be made up of two to four 15-20 minute 'episodes.' Each episode will consist of a video recorded lecture of about 8-10 minutes, followed by some practice problems /quizzes.

The content of the online course contains additional reading material/references, which the participants can use for greater clarity, if required. Regular interactive sessions through discussion forums, video conferencing and other such technologies are also included in the course content.

Students can avail a verified certificate of achievement at the end of the course, on payment of Rs 1500. Students can also register for an honours code certificate or for audit free of cost for the initial offerings.

1000's declared ineligible for IIT-JEE due to JK BOSE winter session

http://www.kashmir-today.net/1000s-declared-ineligible-for-iit-jee-due-to-jk-bose-winter-session/

Srinagar: Coaching Centres Association (CCA) of Kashmir has condemned the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for shattering the dreams of thousands of hardworking Kashmiri students by declaring them ineligible for prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) due to state board's winter session.

The association demanded that the state government immediately take up the issue with central government to save the career of these students. "Kashmir follows the winter session as against the summer session adopted by schools in other parts of India," said G N Var chairman CCA. "Every student can appear in JEE twice immediately after their 10+2 exams. But when Kashmiris apply for their second attempt, MHRD declares them ineligible by recognizing it as their third attempt."

The association said that MHRD needs to know that Kashmir's November 2013 session is equal to New Delhi's May 2014 session. "This faulty rejection is shattering the dreams of tens of thousands of students as it has become a routine every year," said Var. "Infact this is one of the reasons that Kashmiri students are unable to crack JEE."

The association termed it as a dangerous trend as Kashmir is being devoid of high caliber professional engineers. "Our students have done wonders in IAS, but here they are being discriminated due to a technical glitch," said Var. "They are unable to crack into the top IIT's and even if qualify JEE they end up in some small time colleges due to low rank and they can't appear again to improve their ranks."

The association asked the state government to look into the matter as soon as possible. "Look at our NIT Hazratbal, where Kashmiri students are now a minority as they are unable to crack JEE," said Var. "The state government should take up the matter with MHRD

for inclusion of a clause wherein Kashmir's winter session is treated at par with Central board of School Education's summer session."

Tribune, ND 14/05/2014 P-1

Hawker to hacker-cracker, Haryana boy's tech dreams soar high

Microsoft offers Virender Raika, son of a labourer, ₹4.85-crore annual package for his extraordinary anti-hacking skills

HINA ROHTAKI

PANCHKULA, MAY 13

He is a golden boy who never had a silver spoon in his mouth. He had dreams, but no wings. Yet he flies high. Twenty-one-year-old Viren-der Raika, who worked as a hawker to fund his studies, has developed an extraordinary anti-hacking software which has landed him a plum job at Microsoft.

The whopping Rs 4.85 crore innual package offered by the software giant comes as an add-on for a lad who could-n't go to the IIT — despite as he had no money

Born in Pehowa village in Kurukshetra, Virender says the going was always tough for him. "After my father who works as a labourer fell sick, I had to take up the job of a hawker. I soon realised that the money won't suffice. So, I started giving Physics tuitions," says the boy who was in Panchkula to interact with students.

A class X topper, Virender did part-time jobs to fund his Class 12 education. He quali-fied a scholarship entrance to study further and even got



through the IIT, but couldn't pursue it due to lack of funds. Quiz him on his anti-hack ing project and his eyes light

up. "The idea to develop an movie. I saw a girl hacking

Most-wanted' by Delhi cops

The Delhi police depend on in almost every cyber crime case. Candle-light study

In a one-room house, devoid of basic amenities and practically no power, Virender used to study in candlelight.

A jubilant Varinder Raika with his parents in Sector 20, Panchkula, on Tuesday, A TRIBLINE PHOTO

into a system and then I thought why not develop a system that has a foolproof security. There are ways to hack into a system but no permanent way to secure it. So by working on various cyber theories, I made an anti-hacking system," says the tech-wizard.

Virender gave a demo of his project through video-confer-encing to a group of expert hackers at Microsoft's office in Hyderabad. The Chief Financial officer of the Microsoft, Peter Klein, who was keenly observing the demo online, was so impressed by Virender's skills that he offered him a job straightaway. The job straightaway. The Haryana boy, who is pursing

been told to join in November On his future plans, Viren-On his future plans, Viren-der says he wants to open his own company in India. "I want to do something for my country. We are so depend-ent on the US for technology. I want to turn the tide," he says. Virender's father Gyan Chand and mother Shinder still don't know what exact-ly their son has developed. "We both are illiterate. We just know that Virender has got a job and companies from China and Japan are pursuing him," says Gyan Chand.

Hindustan Times, ND 14/05/2014

hteducation p-5

18 Indian students in global science contest

HT Education Correspondent

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Eighteen bright minds with their unique inventions are set to prove their potential at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), a global science competition for students from grades 8-12. The young innovators, referred to as Team India, are representing the country at the fair and competing against 1,600 finalists from over 70 countries in Los Angeles. The fair will be held till May 16, 2014.

This year, the highest numbers of entries are being sent from India in the history of the competition; with 12 projects competing at the event as compared to six projects shortlisted last year. This was made possible courtesy a partnership with the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. an autonomous organisation jointly established and funded by the Indian and US Government. Under this collaboration, Team India will continue on a science learning tour where they will visit the Maker Faire in the Bay area, various research laboratories, meet with key scientists and explore various science museums in the US. These students are from cities, including Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore. The competition provides an annual forum to pre-college students across the world to display their independent research.

Get set for JEE (Advanced)

HT Education Correspondent

hteducation@hindustantimes.com

The JEE (Advanced) is the next step to securing admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). This year's exam will be held on May 25 for admission to the 16 IITs and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. These Institutes offer courses leading to a bachelor's degree in a number of engineering, technological and science disciplines.

The JEE (Advanced) 2014 will be conducted by seven zonal IITs (under the directives of the Joint Admission Board) for admission to the undergraduate programmes in all IITs and ISM Dhanbad.

A candidate can attempt JEE (Advanced) a maximum of two times and that too, in consecutive years. Only the top 1.5 lakh candidates (including all categories) based on their scores in Paper 1 of JEE (Main) 2014 will be eligible to appear in JEE (Advanced). The JEE (Main) 2014 was conducted by the CBSE on behalf of the JEE Apex Board

CUT-OFF DETAILS OF LAST YEAR

GENERAL CATEGORY

Minimum: 35% in aggregate i.e. 126 marks

10% in each subject i.e. 12 (each subject)

OBC (NON-CREAMY LAYER)

Minimum: 31.5% in aggregate

i.e. 113.4 marks

9% in each subject i.e. 10.8

SC/ST

Minimum: 17.5% in aggregate i.e. 63 marks

5% in each subject i.e. 6 marks

last month.

This year's JEE (Advanced) will be jointly conducted by IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati. IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee. These institutes are referred to as the zonal IITs. In JEE (Advanced) 2014, there will be two papers, each of three hours duration. The question papers will be printed separately in English and Hindi. Candidates have to specify their choice of question paper language at the time of online registration for JEE (Advanced) 2014. Each of the question papers will consist of three separate parts in physics,

chemistry and mathematics. The questions will be of objective (multiple choice) type, designed to test comprehension, reasoning and analytical ability of candidates. In some sections, incorrect answers may be awarded with negative marks.

PREPARATION TIPS

"The JEE (Main) preparation can be helpful to prepare for the JEE (Advanced). Candidates must remember that the class 12 boards, the JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced) are three different examinations with different ranking systems and rules. Board exams are about learning



The JEE (Advanced) needs skills of comprehension and reasoning

of concepts and formulas in school. A student who has been regular and serious in school studies, by deep in the concepts and regular practice, can do well in the JEE (Main). However, the JEE (Advanced), needs skills of comprehension, reasoning and analytical ability to solve problems. The JEE (Main) is a single paper of three hours with multiple-choice questions with single correct answers. There is negative marking for every wrong answer. The JEE (Advanced), on the other hand, has a bouquet of various types of problems and there are two papers of three hours each. Each

paper (physics, chemistry and maths) comprises some multiple choice questions with single correct answer questions; some multiple choice questions (MCQs) have multiple correct answers; some passage-based questions and each passage consists of two to three MCQs, some numericalbased questions with single digit integer (from 0 to 9) as answer and matrix match type questions. Matrix match type questions may be in one of the papers. Rest of the types listed above may be in both the papers. Some of the questions don't carry negative marks for wrong answers, RL Trikha, director, FIITJEE.

Army starts screening IIT aspirants

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 13

The Army has started screening students from the Valley for the second edition of Super-30, a project aimed at coaching IIT aspirants.

A defence spokesman in Srinagar said the Kashmir Super-30 project was launched across the Valley in March 2013 by the Army in collaboration with the Centre for Social Responsibility and Leadership.

Low-skilled IT jobs 'grounded' as firms look for 'cloud' professionals

Global cloud services market is likely to reach \$127 billion by 2017

TE RAJA SIMHAN

Chennai, May 13

Software vendors will hire fewer low-skilled employees in offshore and near shore locations as increased deployment of cloud-based services by clients is driving demand for cloud computing skills.

Employee growth continues to decelerate among large software vendors as cloud adoption moves beyond the proof-of-concept phase. Vendors are leveraging Intellectual Property and automation to accelerate delivery of cloud infrastructure to clients, according to Bozhidar Hristov, lead analyst with the US-based Technology Business Research.

Managing offshore work

Cloud-as-a-service stretches from managing hardware infrastructure to providing software by vendors on a subscription basis. Depending on the service, the cost saving could range from 20 to 40 per cent. This means, professionals with cloud-related skills will manage offshore clients' requirements and replace lower skilled employees onsite, said an industry source.

As companies shift hiring to attract and retain higher-value employees, they are reshuffling existing internal resources to

A A A

Headcount growth for IT service vendors



Source: TBR Estimates

support market niches such as analytics and mobility, Hristov said. The shift was noticeable at companies such as HP, Dell, IBM GS, CSC and T-Systems that shed headcount to align resources more closely to market demands, he added.

The global cloud computing services market is likely to reach \$127 billion by 2017, according to Global Industry Analysts.

The accelerated adoption of cloud will force Indian software vendors to transform business delivery models and they are, and will be recruiting local laterals (in various geographies) with vertical specific expertise and skills in application modernisation. This, paired with the expanded onshore consulting footprint, will allow them to climb up the value chain and shift their brand from

low-cost outsourcers to business solutions vendors, Hristov told Business Line.

Cloud professionals

Moorthy K Uppaluri, CEO, Randstad India, an HR firm, said one in four new IT jobs will be related to cloud computing and its allied services and products in the next couple of years. As adoption of cloud computing increases in India, especially with the small and medium enterprises segment, the market size for cloud computing professionals will increase substantially.

Cloud computing will impact delivery of IT services in the future. But this trend is still at a nascent stage and facing concerns around security, data control and access-related issues. Most companies are taking a cautious approach in cloud adoption, mainly for business critical applications. It is expected to evolve over the next decade with gradual adoption before cloud computing becomes mainstream and disrupts the overall IT ecosystem, he said.

According to Mohit Gupta, Director and Co-founder, TeamLease Services, a recruitment firm, investing in cloud computing skills and knowledge seems to be a good bet today, and a wise career move. Many IT administrators will seek cloud skills and knowledge through training and certification programs, he said.

There is an explosion in both the use of cloud computing and the demand for people to assist in the mass migration to cloud.

IIMs tweak norms to promote diversity

Focus on increasing intake of international students, women, non-engineers

DEEDA NAID

Mumbai May 13

Traditionally blamed for their lack of diversity, India's premier business schools, the Indian Institutes of Management are making conscious strides to improve representation of non-engineers and women in their new batches for their flagship management programmes this year.

Interestingly, in its admission process this year.

Interestingly, in its admission process this year, the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) has included the diversity factor with a weight of 5 given to diversity in discipline and gender, out of the overall weightage of 50.

(IIM-L) has included the diversity factor with a weight of 5 given to diversity in discipline and gender, out of the overall weightage of 50. "Diversity of perspectives contribute greatly to the discussion-based learning that we employ at IIM-A. Having a broader mix of participants without compromising on quality will enrich the academic experience of the students even further," observed. Prof. Ashish Nanda, Director of the institute. The institute has made some

changes in the recruitment and admissions process too, for the 2014-16 batch this year. The changes in admission process were brought in both the stages of applying—CommonAdmission Test (CAT) scores as well as performance in the Written Analysis and Personal Interview stages.

Historically, a weighted average

Historically, a weighted average of CAT scores and prior academic performance was used to generate a merit list of candidates invited for Written Analysis and Personal Interview at IIM-A. This year, the institute has included CAT toppers (top 50 or 1 per cent of candidates from the academic stream, whichever was lower) from five broad academic classifications to arrive at the set of candidates invited for Written Analysis and Personal Interview.

"Partly as a result of these changes, and partly with greater recruiting effort by IIMA in non-traditional areas, non-engineers constitute II per cent of the stu-



Inclusive growth The IIMs have included diversity as an admission criteria.

dents to whom offers have been made this year, compared to 5 per cent or less of the entering classes being non-engineers in each of the past three years," said the institute. Also, 28 per cent of the offers, a record high, have been made to women applicants, compared to women constituting 11

per cent to 22 per cent of the entering classes in the past three years.

Going global

IIM-Bangalore (IIM-B) is focusing on increasing its international students and faculty. The institute gets 100 international students, of different academic background and gender on campus every year. The international students team up with the IIM-B students for projects. "IIM-B students will participate

"IIM-B students will participate in Global Networks - where students from different schools and different countries come together and have classes together," said Devanath Tirupati, Director incharge & Dean (Academic), IIM-B. IIM-Kozhikode too is planning to improve the overall diversity in its page 2014-2016 batch leader

IIM-Kozhikode too is planning to improve the overall diversity in its new 2014-2016 batch. Incidentally, in last year's batch, IIM-K inducted 50 per cent more women (196) in its total batch size of 361 students and 33 per cent more non-engineers (56).

Classes from June-end

The institutes are expecting final acceptances from students until May 16 and the classes for the new batch are expected to start from June end.

IIM-Calcutta too has made changes in its admission procedure to promote diversity in the new batch. The institute allocates 3 points for female candidates to ensure gender diversity before the personal interview stage and 2 points are allocated for non-engineering bachelors degree. After the personal interview stage, one point is awarded to candidates whose post-graduation (Masters) degree is in a non-engineering field.

17 Implan

Why B school grads are heading to start-ups

Fun@work, autonomy keep young employees motivated

Saturdays can bring mixed emotions. Those who spend them working end up grumpy while those who manage to keep them-selves out of the office remain chirpy mostly. It is one of those Saturdays at Shopclues, an ecommerce company, and a team of seven engineers is about to lock itself in the office, on a weekend, for 48 hours.

And, believe it or not, they are not just chirpy, they are positive-ly excited. They have managed to push out fancy office furniture from the conference room and stuff it with portable mattresses Coke, pizzas and their favourite foods. The conference room is now a boot camp for software geeks — someone is a pro in html, another knows php and Ja-va and someone else is an expert in search engine optimisation. Objective: To come up with a mobility proof of concept for their company's portal.

More of a college dorm than an office, the conference room at Shopclues becomes a cauldron of innovation and peer learning, where people come together to make and discover new things.

"The attrition at Shopclues is zero at the middle and senior level and it is because of the conviction everyone shares for his or her work," says Radhika Ghai Ag-garwal, Chief Marketing Officer and founder of ShopClues.com. She is certain they (employees) will not shift easily if an opportu-nity comes to them. "People believe in what they are doing here,

there is so much room to grow and learn," she adds. The rapidly growing start-up seems to be getting it right when it comes to managing employ-ees. As part of the organisational building strategy, the company has introduced an employee en-gagement module called 4Ts - in nique, time and task. Employees are free to choose their projects and even teams

"Post 2008 many companies have started taking employee engagement seriously, some offer workshops and trainings, and some have even redesigned employee compensation, and floated eSops," says Jyorden T Misra, founder member and Managing Spearhead Inter-Search, an HR consulting firm. Around that time compensation was most important but over time a deeper component has come into play which makes young employees think about what will make me stick to a company for a while.'

Start-ups, are leveraging the sit-uation and changing the rules of the game when it comes to employee management.

They are making sure the best talent sticks with them and don't turn to MNCs in lure of com-pensation and facilities. These newly-born companies are able to retain talent by offering sojob seekers' key pain points --lack of audelegaof work. fixed and stringent working hours,

Tanya Seth, who has an MBA from a top business school, opt-ed to work for a start-up in place of an MNC. "I have always looked for a great role and believe that learning has to be prioritised over money, especially at an early stage of the career," says Seth, who has been working with Fro-

little room for knowledge and skill enhancement and

company's 'lack of involve-ment with employees at a per-

gldeas for a few months now. "It's been a huge learning curve since day one, we get to create and exe-cute solutions for clients across industries. There's never a dearth of ideas here." According to Jatin Modi, CEO and Co-Founder of Frogideas, a digital strategy and marketing company, the firm encourages employees to take ownership, which means the company has to simply get out of the way of smart people and allow them to flourish. "There are no cabins or cubicles in the office, teams sit on long tables, which reduce boundaries and enable a flat structure when it comes to

making,

ace More

of a college dorm than an office, the

conference room

becomes a cauldron of innovation.

the team complete autonomy to pick and execute projects and tasks in a manner as they (team members) see fit. "This is regardless of experience and is depend ent on passion, willingness and ability to execute only," says Modi. "Regular training through in-dustry experts, flexible work hours, complete autonomy, delegated decision-making, the opportunity to work on projects of choice, an informal work culture, and chance to create globally visible campaigns regardless of experience - all this creates a culture of excellence," he adds. Frogldeas has 21 full-

he says. The founders have given

time employees on the board cur-

rently and

in the coming year. The start-up has expanded op-erations in three cities and two countries within one year of operations and is clocking revenue of \$1 million. Its clients range from e-commerce, IT, banking, consumer durables, telecom, and real estate to hospitality. Frogldeas describes the internet as a marsh and the company helps its clients to overtake their com petitors through innovative digital strategy.

Ambition at play Another breed of employ-ees is taking shape at fast-growing, highly technology-driven startups by fresh graduates who opted out of placements to pursue their own business These techpreneurs are cultivating a force of employees who are competitive, and

the number is likely to reach 65

motivated to tivated to prove their mettle to the industry. The exposure one gets in such startnot be

> matched by large, established shed compa-nies. For Instance, Housing-.com, India's first map-

based home search portal start-ed by 12 IITians, has grown multi-fold within two years of starting-up. The organisation has been on a hiring spree since its first round of funding worth worth \$2.5 mn by Nexus Venture Partners.

The company essentially picks up young individuals who are extremely ambitious and competitive.

"The constant urge to perform

an atmosphere of healthy com-petition that challenges each employee on a daily basis," says Advitiya Sharma, Co-Founder & Marketing Head of Housing-

"This culture helps maintain the level of motivation we would like to have around the office."

Housing.com's workplace is designed to exude a sense of excitement that makes it a vibrant and energetic space to work in.
"Surprise office parties when

the lights and Wifi go off, and the office turns into a nightclub, are pretty efficient at keeping our employees motivated," he adds.

company has embraced the culture where each individual creates a significant impact to the business. "Each individual would get a lot of responsibility and this, we have learned, brings in the thirst for excellence," Sharma says.

Housing.com currently has

about 1,200 employees on-board which includes around 200 professionals from IITs, IIMs, ISB and other top colleges in India. Young and fast-growing firms

in technology, internet, ecom-merce, and digital marketing space are doubling in size and manpower every year.
In the second phase of growth,

however, when the employee strength exceeds multifold. these firms may face a situation where the initial set of people are highly engaged, whereas the newer set of people are not engaged at all, according to Madhur Ramani, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of a business HR firm, Consulting.

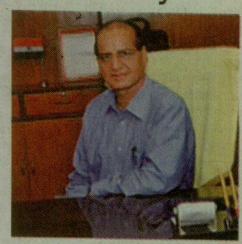
"This is where a well thought out engagement strategy will be-come very critical in these com-panies," says Ramani.

"Weekly initiatives like Goo-gle's TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) initiative - where the company's top management engages with all employees on a weekly basis and answers their queries - go a long way in keeping the newer set of employees engaged."

The Pioneer ND 14/05/2014 P-13

New V-C for IP University

Prof Anil K Tyagi, a leading scientist in Biotechnology and recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, has joined as the new vicechancellor of IP University for a full five-year term. Prior to this assignment, Prof Tyagi was chairman, Advisory Committee of WUS Health Centre, University of Delhi, South Campus. His area of specialisation is Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Tuberculosis Research with special emphasis on vaccine development and drug dis-



covery. He was HoD of Biotechnology from 1990 to 2011. He is recipient of several national and international awards and member of numerous national and international scientific bodies. Prof Tyagi holds an MSc degree in Biochemistry from the University of Allahabad and a PhD degree in Medical Biochemistry from the University of Delhi.

After the retirement of previous vice-chancellor Prof Bandyopadhyay, on December 11, 2013, the senior most dean of the University Prof Anup Singh Beniwal had been appointed as interim V-C to run the university administration

in the interim period.

Antarctic ice melt unstoppable, sea level to rise by 1m



A Nasa picture shows the Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctic, whose huge ice sheet has started a slow collapse in an unstoppable way

Oslo: Vast glaciers in West Antarctica seem to be locked in an irreversible thaw linked to global warming that may push up sea levels for centuries, scientists said on Monday. Six glaciers, eaten away from below by a warming of sea waters around the frozen continent, were flowing fast into the Amundsen Sea, according to the report which was based partly on satellite radar measurements from 1992 to 2011.

Evidence shows "a large sector of the West Antarctic ice sheet has gone into a state of irreversible retreat", said lead author Eric Rignot of the University of California, Irvine, and Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. The coastal ends of the glaciers rest on bedrock below sea level, holding back a vast weight of ice and making them vulnerable to melt, he said. He likened the process to uncorking a full bottle of wine while it was lying on its side.

This part of Antarctica would be a major contributor to sea level rise in coming decades and centuries since the glaciers hold enough ice to raise sea levels by 1.2m. "It's passed the point of no return," he told a telephone news conference.

Ice-penetrating radars showed no mountain ranges entombed under the ice, for instance, that could halt the flow. The fastest retreat was 34-37km over the period in

'Grave water crisis looms ahead'

By the end of this century, billions are likely to be gripped by water crisis. So say hydrologists who forecast that on present trends, freshwater faces a double crunch -from a population explosion, which will drive up demand for food and energy, and the impact of climate change. Already today, around 768 million people do not have access to a safe, reliable source of water and 2.5 billion do not have decent sanitation. Jump forward in your imagination to midcentury, when the world's population of about 7.2 billion is expected to swell to around 9.6 billion. By then, global demand for water is likely to increase by a 55%, according to the UN World Water Development Report. AFP

the Smith/Kohler glacier.

Even so, cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, part of efforts to rein in global warming, could at least slow the slide of the Pine Island, Thwaites, Haynes, Pope, Smith and Kohler glaciers.

"We think this is related to climate warming," Rignot said. The scientists believed that a build-up of man-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere was affecting wind patterns around Antarctica, driving warmer waters towards the continent. REUTERS