

## Newspaper Clips May 17, 2014

# India will find its rightful global ranking of higher education institutions: Mukherjee

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New Delhi, May 13 (ANI): President [Pranab Mukherjee](#) has expressed confidence that India will sooner than later find its rightful place in the global ranking of higher education institutions.

He said [Indian educational institutions](#) dominated the world for a period of around 1800 years from the 6th century B.C. to the 13th century A.D. and were a magnet for scholars from all over the world. India must regain the lost glory of the past and once again become a centre for cross fertilization of ideas from across the world.

The president made the above remarks while addressing a delegation from QS, ICAA, British Council, FICCI and KPMG who presented the first copy of "QS University Rankings: Asia 2014" to him yesterday at [Rashtrapati Bhavan](#) .

Pointing out that he has been emphasizing the need for Indian education institutions to give importance to enhancing their global rankings, Mukherjee expressed happiness that these efforts are bearing fruit with the number of Indian institutions in the new Asian Universities Ranking published by QS increasing to 17 as compared to 11 last year.

He told the delegation that Indian authorities will extend all possible cooperation to them in obtaining necessary information in the appropriate format from Indian higher education institutions.

He said higher educational institutions should be transparent and all relevant information should be published in their websites. ([ANI](#))

## Did the dons from Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard let Rahul Baba down?

Pine Mirro, By Lakshmi Iyer | May 17, 2014, 02.30 AM IST



Tasting the worst ever defeat in Congress history since post-Independence, angry Congressmen are not directly attacking Rahul Gandhi. Instead, they have decided to target his advisers for the decimation.

Party leaders are convinced that it is the bunch of foreign educated dons manning Rahul's team with their esoteric concepts, ranging from candidate selection to campaign techniques, that has landed the Congress in the present crisis.

Sources point out that Rahul is so obsessed with those with foreign degrees, that he insists on filling his inner circle with men with foreign degrees — be it a Kanishk Singh, a Kaushal Vidyarthee or a Sachin Rao.

Nothing wrong with their degrees, except that they have brought concepts that are not relevant to the party. Party leaders feel it is high time Rahul got rid of his non-performing advisers — be it the IIT-educated Jairam Ramesh or the Harvard-educated Prof Mohan Gopal — scholars who never contest elections, and instead chose men from the rank and file.

"Rahul may derive his intellectual stimulus in the company of intellectuals. But the point is we have to get street

response for our politics. That did not happen in the last 10 years that he led the Congress," pointed out a Delhi Congress leader.

He said IIT-trained Jairam brought a lot rhetoric that's all. "Jairam was coordinator for 2014 elections and has now led the party to doom. Harvard educated Prof. Gopal is good with micro-level analysis but he does not know how to connect with electoral politics.

The result is Rahul is at sea when comes to dealing with real politik." "Jairam was coordinator for 2014 elections and has led the party to doom. He is blaming everyone but himself.

Mohan Gopal is good with micro-level analysis but he does not know how to connect it with electoral politics," said a CWC member. "These two people have been misleading him with their ideas."

Jairam is particularly held responsible for egging Rahul to pursue hit and run politics in Niyamgiri, agitate against Posco plant in Orissa and not offer any alternative to local people.

"What did we gain from such politics. Rahul offered no alternative development model to the local people. He backed some thing and ran off," pointed out a Congress leader.

While Jairam has blamed the Congress collapse to a communication failure by "sherpas", Prof Mohan Gopal took a philosophical view of the rout. He told Mirror "Whatever the electoral outcome, social realities are not going be changed with one election.

What Congress stands for is going to matter. When the BJP had two seats, they had the same Hindu agenda as they do now with a majority." Party leaders are confident that just as Digvijaya Singh got turfed out of Uttar Pradesh after the drubbing in UP assembly polls, Rahul would similarly show the door to his advisers.

"Rahul's grasp of India is far superior to that of Modi. Our only problem was political packaging — while ours was a disaster, the BJP did a fine job with Modi.

This election anyway was not his. Next election will be a Gandhi election," said a confident Rahul aide. Will Rahul go for a major overhaul of the organisation, will he pick up a new team soon? Not every one is confident that Rahul would immediately go in for reassessment. "After all, the next elections will take place after five years.

Why should we rush?", asked a senior AICC functionary. CWC member Anil Shastri however was cautions against expecting "big churning". "Such churning is not Congress style.

Old guards in the party will not let Rahul have his way," he said. Just days before the results, Shastri had tweeted about how Rahul should have become the PM sometime in 2012 to arrest the downslide in the party.

Prof Sudha Pai of JNU also feels he would have been able to provide that kind of effective leadership to the Congress had he joined the Government.

But some warn that no one should take Rahul for granted. Some time back he had warned that he would abide by the wise words of the seniors only till 2014. "Now that the polls are over, he will completely unleash his plans," she said.