

Newspaper Clips

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P-5

IIT Guwahati among world's 100 top varsities

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, MAY 1

The prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, has taken India into the world's top 100 university rankings for the first time with an entry at No. 87.

IIT Guwahati is the only Indian educational institute in the 2014 league table of "100 Under 50" institutions released by the *Times Higher Education* (THE) magazine here on

Wednesday.

The Indian Institute of Technology shares the 87th rank on the list with Portugal's New University of Lisbon and Australia's University of Western Sydney.

The annual evaluation of the world's top 100 universities under 50 years of age had a distinct Eastern stance with South Korea's Pohang University of Science and Technology topping the list for the third consecutive year. — PIT



■ IIT Guwahati(above) that was formed in 1994 has been ranked 87th in the top 100 list of the world's dynamic young universities according to the Times Higher Education. FILE

IIT Guwahati makes it to '100 under 50' group

Vanita Srivastava

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 that was 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 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 IIT, Guwahati breaks into the top 100." Phil Baty, rankings editor THE said

The data also prove that nations can in a matter of years, with the right support and vision, create world-class universities to compete with traditional institutions, Baty said.

The 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. Switzerland's École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne retains second position.

THE DYNAMIC INSTITUTES

TOP 5 & THEIR FOUNDING YEARS

YEAR	INSTITUTES
1986	Pohang University of Science and Technology, South Korea
1968	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
1971	Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, S Korea
1991	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong
1991	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

KEY FACTS

- There are **29 countries/regions** in the list one more than last year, with the addition of India
- **Eight countries** are represented in the top 10: South Korea, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Netherlands, the US, France and the UK
- The **youngest** institution in the list is **Austria's Medical University of Vienna**, which was founded in its current form in 2004
- Of the large developing "BRICS" economies, **Russia and mainland China do not have a single university in the 100 Under 50**, while India and Brazil have one each
- The **US has only eight representatives** in the table, compared with 46 in the World Reputation Ranking.

आईआईटी गुवाहाटी ने रचा इतिहास, दुनिया की सौ टॉप यूनिवर्सिटी में शामिल

टाइम्स हायर एजुकेशन की '100 अंडर 50' लिस्ट में जगह बनाकर यह उपलब्धि हासिल करने वाला पहला भारतीय संस्थान बना

लंदन। दुनिया के 100 शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों की सूची में शामिल होकर आईआईटी-गुवाहाटी ने इतिहास रच दिया है। इसके साथ ही वह उपलब्धि हासिल करने वाला पहला भारतीय संस्थान बन गया है। टाइम्स हायर एजुकेशन पत्रिका ने यहां बुधवार को '100 अंडर 50' संस्थानों की 2014 लीग टेबल जारी की। सूची में आईआईटी-गुवाहाटी को 87वें स्थान पर जगह मिली है। पुर्तगाल की न्यू यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ लिस्बन और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ वेस्टर्न सिडनी को भी यही रैंक हासिल हुई है। 50 साल तक पुराने 100 विश्वविद्यालयों की सालाना सूची में दक्षिण कोरिया की पोहांग यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी की लगातार तीसरे साल शीर्ष स्थान पर कब्जा जमाने में कामयाबी मिली है। स्विट्जरलैंड के इकोल पॉलीटेक्निक फेडरल डे लाउसाने ने अपना दूसरा स्थान बरकरार रखा है। जबकि दक्षिण कोरिया के एक और संस्थान कोरिया एडवांस्ड इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी को तीसरे स्थान पर जगह मिली है। एजेसी



भारत के कारण बढ़ा प्रभाव
पत्रिका ने एक बयान में कहा कि एशिया ने एक बार फिर सूची में अपना प्रभाव दिखाया है। इसमें भारत के शामिल होने से बल मिला है। एशिया से सबसे ज्यादा ताईवान के चार संस्थानों को सूची में जगह मिली है। यहां के नेशनल सन यैट-सेन यूनिवर्सिटी ने 40वें स्थान पर कब्जा जमाया है। ब्रिक्स देशों में रूस, चीन और दक्षिण अफ्रीका सूची में जगह बनाने में असफल रहे।

देश में मिला था 10वां स्थान
आईआईटी गुवाहाटी को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर 2011 में क्यूएस वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग में 551-600 वां स्थान मिला था। जबकि 2012 में क्यूएस एशियन यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग में 89वां स्थान मिला था। भारत में 2012 में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों ने इसे इंडिया टुडे की ओर से 10वां स्थान दिया गया था। इसी साल आउटलुक इंडिया ने आठवां स्थान दिया था। आईआईटी गुवाहाटी में छह शोध केंद्र काम कर रहे हैं।



आईआईटी गुवाहाटी
1994 में स्थापना
करीब 2000 पोस्टग्रेजुएट छात्र
करीब 2500 अंडरग्रेजुएट छात्र
देश में स्थापित होने वाला छठा आईआईटी

Hindustan Times ND 02/05/2014 P-13

Verification of JEE answers to be completed tomorrow

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has said that the verification of the answers of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE mains) that have been challenged by the students could not be completed on Thursday.

More than 1,100 students have challenged the answers that the CBSE had uploaded on the website. "Besides the online challenges, the experts are looking into all the mails that have been received by the individual students. The experts will give their decision on Friday and we will declare the results on Saturday," CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi told HT.

ANSWERS CHALLENGED BY MORE THAN 1,100 STUDENTS COULDN'T BE VERIFIED ON THURSDAY. RESULTS WILL NOW BE DECLARED ON SATURDAY

CBSE conducts the JEE (mains) for admission to the NITs, IITs and other centrally-funded institutes. 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.

The students were allowed to challenge the answers on payment of ₹1,000 for each question, with refund guaranteed for a correct challenge.

A Physics question of the online exam on April 19 had been dropped after experts found that none of the options in the answers were correct.

Meanwhile, some parents met the chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Childs Rights asking him to look into the matter.

"I have sent a letter to CBSE chairman saying this is a serious matter and should be looked into," Arun Mathur, chairperson of DCPCR said.

Earlier, the board had uploaded the OMR sheets and the computerised responses of the students so that they could challenge the board if any discrepancy was found. More than 280 challenges have been filed.

INCLUDE N-E HISTORY: UGC

NEW DELHI: Acting on the recommendations of a task force, the UGC has requested the higher institutes to include history and heritage of the Northeast in the curriculum of courses. The task force suggested that the English novels/short stories from NE translated from different languages and the history of the region (pre-colonial upto independence) should be included in the curriculums. **HTC**

Amar Ujala ND 02/05/2014

P-7

जेईई-मेन: ऑनलाइन मिलेगा स्कोर कार्ड

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। आईआईटी ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जाम (जेईई-एडवांस) और एनआईटी समेत इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में दाखिले के लिए होने वाले जेईई-मेन का रिजल्ट कल शनिवार को जारी करने की तैयारी है। देश भर के 13 लाख से ज्यादा छात्रों का रिजल्ट तैयार करने की प्रक्रिया अंतिम दौर में है। रिजल्ट के साथ ही जेईई-एडवांस की कटऑफ जारी कर दी जाएगी। जेईई मेन के स्कोर कार्ड और रैंक कार्ड इस बार सिर्फ ऑनलाइन मिलेंगे। छात्रों को व्यक्तिगत रूप से इन्हें उपलब्ध नहीं कराया जाएगा।

दरअसल, जेईई-मेन 6 अप्रैल को ऑफलाइन मोड में 150 शहरों के 2173 केंद्रों पर और 9, 11, 12 व 19 अप्रैल को ऑनलाइन मोड में 281 शहरों के 534 केंद्रों पर आयोजित की गई। इसमें कुल 13 लाख 56 हजार 805 अभ्यर्थी रजिस्टर्ड थे, जिसमें 9,94,308 छात्र और 3,62,497 छात्राएं हैं।

छात्रों को अलग से नहीं भेजा जाएगा कार्ड

13 लाख से ज्यादा छात्रों के भविष्य का फैसला कल

रिजल्ट जेईई-मेन के स्कोर का 60 फीसदी वेटेज और 12वीं के अंकों के 40 फीसदी वेजेट के आधार पर फाइनल रिजल्ट तैयार किया जाएगा। इसमें छात्रों द्वारा प्राप्त किए गए अंक और जेईई-एडवांस की कटऑफ अलग-अलग जारी होगी। जेईई-मेन के रिजल्ट के रिजल्ट के आधार पर टॉप-1.50 लाख छात्र आईआईटी की जेईई-एडवांस परीक्षा देंगे।

दूसरी ओर, जेईई-मेन की आंसर-की को चैलेंज करने की प्रक्रिया में हजारों छात्रों ने अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज कराई है। इनके निबटारे के लिए विषय विशेषज्ञों की राय लेकर आंसर-की अपडेट की जा रही हैं। शनिवार तक स्कोर तैयार कर रिजल्ट जारी करने की तैयारी है। 4 मई से जेईई एडवांस के आवेदन शुरू हो जाएंगे।

Hindustan Aeronautics sets up faculty chair at IIT Kharagpur

OUR BUREAU

Bangalore, May 1

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has entered into collaboration with IIT Kharagpur to set up a Faculty Chair to give thrust on R&D and academic work in new and emerging technologies in the aerospace industry,

This initiative is to conduct applied research and tackle multidisciplinary problems in the field of aerospace technology and its applications.

The Chair will be set up at the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

R&D promotion

"Our intention is to promote R&D and academic work in new and emerging technologies in aerospace industry focusing in the field of radar, electronic warfare, avionics and aerospace systems. A strong research base already exists at IIT, Kharagpur, in the areas of direct relevance to the future programmes of HAL and this tie-up will be mutually beneficial," said Dr RK Tyagi, Chairman, HAL.

The MoU was signed by Dr Pratha Pratim Chakrabarti, Direc-

tor, IIT Kharagpur, and S Thenmozhi, General Manager, HAL. The HAL Chair will be responsible for carrying out research in various areas related to aerospace technologies, facilitating technical consultancy, training programmes and addressing other mutually agreed activities relevant to the HAL.

IIT-KGP will appoint a distinguished academician from the relevant branch of engineering as the Chair Professor for a period of three years.

Training programmes

The HAL Chair will also initiate new academic/ training programmes, identify and initiate specific research and development at IIT-KGP in the specific technical areas, provide technical consultancy to HAL, facilitate development of training programmes and training modules including mentoring/ coaching of HAL personnel for knowledge updating and capacity building.

The chair will conceptualise and facilitate annual conference of defence-related industries to provide platform to air new ideas, innovations, technologies, etc.

FRONTIER MAIL SAMAR HALARNKAR

REALLY USEFUL ORIGAMI

From all accounts, Manu Prakash loves to stomp on his most notable invention. In every story I have read or video I have seen about the Stanford University assistant professor, he is trying to crush underfoot a revolutionary, ultra-cheap paper microscope, when he is not trying to drown it or drop it from the third floor.

You get the point: Prakash, 34, who took his B.Tech from IIT Kanpur and PhD from MIT, has made a tough microscope, named the Foldscope (www.foldscope.com), literally out of folded paper, glue and tape. Flat instead of upstanding—as we picture microscopes to be—the Foldscope is as good as many research microscopes, but it costs no more than ₹35, or about 50 cents. It weighs less than 9g, including its LED light source and battery, and takes less than 10 minutes to assemble from a sheet of pre-printed paper. It can detect deadly diseases, and it can spark fresh excitement in science at school and home. Nobel laureates have shown up at Prakash's talks, during which the lanky bio-engineer, with his mop of curly hair, wry smile and scraggly beard, rarely fails to create a frisson of excitement.

There is something elemental about stripping science to its essentials, to reinvigorate the idea of small ideas and grand challenges. This has particular relevance to the emerging world,

An IIT Kanpur alumnus is energizing the world of invention with a ₹35 paper microscope

which struggles with not just ideas but implementation.

Would it be accurate, I ask Prakash, to say he wants science to be of mass benefit and generate excitement; more public statement than quiet, incremental advance? "That's absolutely true," says Prakash. "Science should not be driven by whether I am or not a scientist."

This is why philanthropists and venture capitalists are attracted to frugal invention, building things that hold the promise of tackling big problems through simple ideas. Thus in March, the Moore Foundation, established by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, awarded Prakash's laboratory ₹4.6 crore (\$757,000) to build up to 50,000 Foldscoopes for anyone interested in science. Thousands of applications have flooded in, from Manitoba to Mongolia.

Prakash's method of what he calls use-and-throw-microscopy was developed after a \$100,000 (₹600,000) grant

in 2012 from the Grand Challenges Explorations run by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Foldscope is inspired by Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. You can slip it into a pocket, and its cheap lens can magnify things up to 2,000 times, enough to manifest bacteria and parasites that cause a variety of diseases, including malaria and leishmaniasis. Every disease requires a different model of the Foldscope, of which there are more than 10.

Prakash's ideas focus on scale. For instance, he believes that to tackle malaria effectively, it is vital to test every person the disease afflicts, which is about a billion people, every year. "So, that's about a billion tests every year, and any platform you can imagine needs to scale to those numbers to make an impact," Prakash explains in a Stanford video. That means a test that is almost for free, and that, he says, was the starting point for him and his co-inventor, George Korir, a graduate student at his lab.

Korir and Prakash share common aims: to create things useful to a large mass of people and spark excitement in science. In April, they also won the first prize of \$50,000 from the Moore Foundation to reimagine the basic school chemistry set for the 21st century, to create a lifelong engagement with science, as it did for Moore himself.

Prakash and Korir's winning entry smartly uses old and new technology, microfluidics—the science of replacing room-size experiments with beakers on a chip with droplets of chemicals, called laboratory on a chip—and computer punch cards from the 1960s. The new-age chemistry kit is hand-

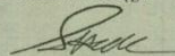
cranked, releasing through the holes in the punch cards 15 chemicals that a teacher or parent can fill on chips with an eye-dropper.

Invention appears to be in Prakash's blood. When he was a nine-year-old schoolboy in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh ("You know, home of the Rampuri knife"), he tried to replicate in miniature an oil-tanker explosion at a school science fair. Prakash and the judges escaped injury.

This week, *The New York Times* reported how many years after the exploding oil tanker, when Prakash was studying engineering at IIT Kanpur, he cornered Neil Gershenfeld, an MIT physicist and inundated him with ideas. "There were all these serious students, and then there was Manu," Gershenfeld told the *Times*. "He had 10 different projects and 10 different ideas, and none of them made sense, and all were interesting."

The Prakash Lab (<http://www.stanford.edu/~manup/home.html>) at Stanford is best known for the Foldscope, but it has other, unpublicized interests, such as probing living matter in a petri dish to discern how shape and form is computed—anything, as Prakash puts it, that "does not fit our current framework of thinking".

Samar Halarnkar is a Bangalore-based journalist. This is a fortnightly column that explores the cutting edge of science and technology.



Comments are welcome at frontiermail@livemint.com. To read Samar Halarnkar's previous columns, go to www.livemint.com/frontiermail



IIM-A alumni to catalyse CSR centre

Initiative to help raise corporate giving

VINAY KAMATH

Chennai, May 1

The country's top B-school, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A), along with its alumni, intends creating a think-tank and a centre that will address corporate social responsibility in a holistic manner.

This centre, when it takes off, will look at synthesising the various CSR initiatives by individuals, many of them alumni of IIM-A, undertake research, train managers for the NGO sector and play a role in accrediting organisations in the CSR sphere.

'Conscious capitalism'

Says IIM-A Director Ashish Nanda, "We believe responsible citizens in business want to practice conscious capitalism. A number of our alumni are already actively involved in the social sector. And with the new company law provisions, organisations are required to undertake CSR

activities. We would like to help them perform these activities in an effective manner."

S Rajagopal, president of the Chennai chapter of the IIM-A alumni, says the local association has been planning to involve itself more in CSR activities and IIM-A's commitment adds heft to the effort. "We plan to build a CSR centre at IIM-A, it will need financial commitment, and the Chennai chapter has said it will help raise funds to set up the centre," adds Nanda, speaking to *Business Line* after a meeting with the alumni in the city.

B Santhanam, Managing Director of glass maker Saint-Gobain, and a 1980 alumnus, says the genesis of the idea came about as quite a few are already involved in CSR and are running successful NGOs. Many from the batches of the '70s and '80s are in CEO and CXO positions now and have the ability to make a differ-

ence, considering that almost ₹25,000 crore of corporate money is expected to be spent on CSR activities as mandated by the new law. IIM-A, which is 50 years old, has around 12,000 alumni.

Poor reach

As companies are jumping onto the CSR bandwagon, "despite their best efforts, we see many sub-scale activities that while meeting the CSR criteria do not bring about the large-scale outcome that the country needs, especially in key sectors such as education, skills, health, women and child welfare," says Santhanam.

The big issues that are confronting CSR efforts today are scalability, replicability, accreditation, measurable outcomes and last but not the least matchmaking. There are companies and individuals who want to contribute and areas that need funding. "Then there are issues of NGO management; like a company, an NGO also needs vision,

strategy, leadership and HR management. Most importantly, IIMA can play a catalytic role in CSR by structuring the agenda, helping companies incorporate it as part of their strategy, creating standards and systems that ensure measurable outcomes and all with a view to achieve scale and speed at a national level.," explains Santhanam.

Director Nanda explains that the centre, when established, can focus on four core issues: accreditation and matchmaking based on NGOs' capabilities. Second, it will conduct research and case studies to highlight effective and ineffective practices. Third would be education of NGOs and students in the CSR sector. Lastly, the centre will look to have an impact on policy and practice. "What this meeting with the Chennai alumni clarified for me was that we should consider the centre as an open platform where practitioners can work together with the faculty," he adds.

Recruiters Think Fresh to Welcome New Graduates

RICHA BHATTACHARYYA & ANUMEHA CHATURVEDI
MUMBAI | NEW DELHI

The war for talent at campuses is prompting top companies to foster deeper engagement with students through new and innovative induction and on-boarding programmes for new hires. As top recruiters, including Citi-bank, PWC, KPMG, Vodafone, Airtel, Marico and others, gear up to welcome the new hires on board soon, the focus is on engaging people through social media even before they come on board, newer training initiatives, driving innovative spirit and giving them more clarity on growth opportunities. This is in addition to the regular engagement with top leadership and business heads to understand organisational culture and technical aspects of the business.

Citi India this year will introduce a 'corporate banking simulation workshop' as part of its 14-day induction programme. The workshop will present them with real-life scenarios and business case studies faced by a corporate banker. "These simulated exercises will help associates understand the business and a client's requirements, as per Citi guidelines, in assessing risk and initiating approvals and finally revert with an actual proposal to the client as per client brief," says Sarab Preet Singh, head of recruitment, learning and development at Citi India.

Some of the other initiatives the bank is planning for the 2014 induction include a one-day workshop driving innovation, during which the associates will be part of real-life innovation projects. The bank is planning a 'give-back' programme for associates, which will give them some paid time off on weekdays to engage with the underprivileged through NGOs for 3-4 months, post the induction programme. It will also introduce day-long visits to branches and trading floors, among other operations.

From this year, many of the recruiters like KPMG, Vodafone, Airtel, PWC and Marico are launching pre-boarding initiatives to start the engagement before the new hires join. "We are going to change the order of our sessions and begin to connect with them prior to joining more closely," says Mark Driscoll, human capital leader, PwC India. "In the coming cycle, we plan to change our arrival process and wel-

2014 Induction - Getting New Hires On Board

• Citi India

Corporate banking simulation; visits to branches; paid time off through NGOs

• Airtel

Working on "gamification" of pre-boarding experience to make the online modules a lot more fun-filled; activity-based training sessions

• PWC

Introducing a new branded bag or arrival case for trainees

• KPMG

Designed a set of communication between the offer and coming on board, during which the HR team stays connected

• Vodafone

Specialised technical on-boarding for technology graduates which involves a 15-day telecom technology induction

• Marico

'A Slice of Marico' in which new hires get Marico products hamper



come case (a new branded bag which makes sure they feel as part of the firm) to create excitement on their first day at work," he adds.

KPMG has designed a set of communication initiatives between the offer on campus and coming on board of the new hires, during which the HR team stays connected with them. "These are snippets that are being sent out to the new recruits before they come on board to tell them what KPMG is about, our values, purpose, challenges, what clients think about us and CSR initiatives," says Shalini Pillay, head - people performance and culture, human resources at KPMG. The company is also working on a policy for MBA learning programme for graduates who come in from undergraduate colleges and are looking at the kind of sponsorship arrangement they could get into with the business schools.

Vodafone India is starting a new initiative, 'All Aboard', an interactive media platform which will allow trainees to engage with the company and familiarise themselves with the different facets of the business and leadership before their first day. Airtel, on its part, will share online induction modules on the company's history, business divisions, structure, work culture, policies and procedures. "We are working on "gamification" of the entire pre-boarding experience to make the online modules a lot more fun-filled. We will also encourage the young leaders to get to know

each other by introducing them on social media platforms and designing games and competitions around it," says an Airtel spokesperson. As part of the induction programme, it is planning activity-based training sessions, including simulation games, outbound activities to groom the trainees on core organisation competencies and values. Also, the company will allow the trainees to get some international exposure.

Vodafone has designed a specialised technical on-boarding for technology graduates which involves a 15-day telecom technology induction, says Ashok Ramchandran, director - HR. The programme is a detailed technical training in network and IT basics provided to them before they move to the circles. At circles, the trainees will experience a circle-specific induction for a week that will cover interaction with the circle leadership team, business and circle strategy orientation and functional deep dive.

FMCG company Marico has started an initiative called 'A Slice of Marico' for on-boarding. "As part of this initiative, we send them a Marico products hamper coupled with inspiring posters which signify the spirit of Marico," says Ashutosh Telang, executive vice-president and global head human resources at Marico. Also, the company has started engagement with new hires through Marico Campus Connections Facebook page.

New tech can trace back DNA 1,000 yrs

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

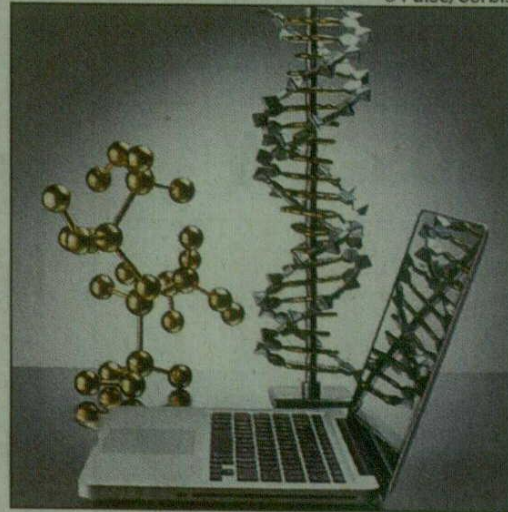
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London: A new ground breaking technique has been developed which can locate the village your ancestors lived 1,000 years ago and hence trace back DNA formation. Previously, scientists had been able to link DNA formation to within a 700 km area which in a continent like Europe is very unreliable.

The Geographic Population Structure (GPS) tool created by Eran Elhaik from the University of Sheffield and Tatiana Tatarinova from the University of Southern California works similarly to a satellite navigation system. The new technique has been 98% successful in locating worldwide populations to their right geographic regions down to their village and/or island of origin.

The breakthrough has massive implications for life-saving personalized medicine, advancing forensic science and for the study of populations whose ancestral origins are under debate such as African Americans, Roma gypsies and European Jews. Genetic admixture occurs when individuals from two or more previously separated populations interbreed. This results in the creation of a new gene pool representing a mixture of the founder gene pools.

Elhaik said, "What we have discovered here is a way to find not where you were born but where your DNA was formed up to 1,000 years



RETRACING ANCESTORS

ago by modelling these admixture processes. What is remarkable is that we can do this so accurately that we can locate the village where your ancestors lived hundreds and hundreds of years ago — until now this has never been possible."

Such processes were extremely common in history during migrations and invasions.

Discovery of a certain genotype might indicate the potential for a genetic disease and suggest that diagnostic testing be done. Also as scientists learn more about personalized medicine there is evidence that specific genotypes respond differently to medications — making this information potentially useful when selecting the most effective therapy and appropriate dosage.

AICTE may overrule UGC ban on approving new technical institutes

Friday, 2 May 2014 - 6:05am IST | Place: Mumbai | Agency: DNA

Cracking the whip on the growing number of engineering, management and other technical institutions across the country, the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently imposed a moratorium on opening new technical institutions in 2014-15.

Issuing a circular two weeks back, the UGC, the apex higher education body that controls over 500 varsities in India, also banned approving new courses and even increasing the number of seats in the coming academic year in view of many seats going vacant for the past few years.

But in an interim order on April 17, the Supreme Court gave the All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE) approval powers once again for 2014-15.

The AICTE, which has been in charge of the approval process of technical institutions for decades, would continue the policy of liberal allocation of new colleges. An AICTE official said: "We will not keep any restrictions regarding the starting of technical institutions."

Aspirant colleges are enthused over the SC order. "We are looking at the AICTE website every hour now," said an official from a Thane college that applied for an increase in intake. College managements laud the AICTE efforts to ensure quality education and also term its online approval process "transparent" and "easy".

Experts said the April 17 judgment contradicted the Supreme Court's April 25, 2013 order annulling the AICTE powers to issue permission to MBA colleges as well as technical institutions.

The lack of clarity (first the UGC ban and then the SC interim order) could delay the admission process in professional institutions across the country, which usually starts by June. The Directorate of Technical Education of Maharashtra (DTE), which spearheads the centralised admission process for all professional courses across the state, is clueless about the number of colleges and seats available for this year.

SK Mahajan, the head of the DTE, said: "Till last year, 20-25 new colleges in Maharashtra used to get government approval annually. This year's status is unclear due to the fresh UGC circular and SC order."

If things are not sorted out at the earliest, the admission process for this year would be delayed, an official said.

In October 2013, most varsities started the approval process. The University of Mumbai finalised the proposal of fresh technical institutions on April 28. "We have finalised the proposals after several level of scrutiny and are currently in the process of sending the list to the state government for the final nod. We don't know what to do now," Naresh Chandra, pro vice-chancellor of the University of Mumbai, said. The list includes two new engineering colleges and a couple of management colleges besides approving new courses.

A top official blamed the policy paralysis at the Centre. "The MHRD is almost headless for several months now (Pallam Raju and Telangana). Besides, power tussle between the UGC and the AICTE is affecting lakhs of students... we are helpless."

UGC asks universities to include NE history

[Vanita Srivastava](#), Hindustan Times New Delhi, May 01, 2014

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has requested higher education institutes to include history and the cultural heritage of northeast in their courses.

“A delegation of northeastern students recently submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister with regard to problems being faced by the students of the northeastern region who are studying in various institutions of the country. One of the demands covered in the memorandum is the inclusion of history and unique cultural heritage of northeast India in the national curriculum,” a notice on the UGC website said.

The HRD ministry had earlier constituted a task force to promote educational opportunities and welfare of students from the northeastern region. The team in its report suggested the curriculum be modified to include in English literature stories from the northeast translated from different languages. It also recommended that the history of northeast (pre-colonial, up to independence) should be taught at school, graduate and post graduate level.

The task force also recommended regular cultural exchanges between institutions in the northeast and other areas. “The university is requested to take steps, as it may deem appropriate to implement the above recommendations,” the UGC notice said.