

Newspaper Clips

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No Indian university on Times' top 100 list

VINAY UMARJI
 Ahmedabad, 3 May

Like previous years, India has failed to mark its presence in the 100 most reputable universities in the world list for 2016, too.

This year's Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Rankings saw Harvard University take the top spot for the sixth consecutive year. The other top four positions were taken up by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of Cambridge and University of Oxford.

Launched in 2011, THE World Reputation Rankings offer a definitive list of the world's most prestigious universities

This year also based on Harvard University topped the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings based on their global reputation. India continues to be one of the few nations not to have featured even once in the list.

Among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations, only South Africa and India failed to mark their presence in the 2016 list.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) had set up a committee to look into improvement of their global reputation. However, according to the director of one of the older IITs, who did not wish to be quoted, there hasn't been much headway.

"We have been working on improving research and international linkages to enhance our global reputation as a brand. However, this will take some time and cannot be achieved overnight," the director said.

Indian Express
ND 04/05/2016 P-10

Security upgrade: IIT to give tech help to police

SREENIVAS JANYALA
 HYDERABAD, MAY 3

IN A first-of-its-kind agreement, between police and IIT, the Hyderabad City Police and IIT-Hyderabad on Tuesday entered into an agreement for collaboration in areas of advanced technology for enhancing safety and security of the city's residents.

The MoU was signed on the IIT's campus in Kandi, Medak district, by institute director U B Desai and Hyderabad Police Commissioner M Mahendar Reddy. The MoU is initially meant for three years and extendable later — on mutually agreed terms.

The association will go a long way in improving the standards of police service delivery to residents with the use of technologies supported by research, innovation and technical expertise of IIT, Police Commissioner Reddy said. The IIT, in turn, would be able to use the facilities, infrastructure and data/information available with the city police in furthering its goals of research, development, innovation and excellence in areas of technology related to public safety.

The police and IIT-Hyderabad have agreed to collaborate in areas such as technology intervention deliverables based on video and data streams from various sources across locations for the police; seamless integration and interoperability of deliverables with other technology solution stacks; and development of extended solution over the existing third-party solution stack with added requirements.

They would also work on the ability to maintain and migrate to newer third party solution versions; comprehensive search engine to provide exact and possible results from single or multiple video streams; ability to knit results from multiple sources of search in the order of its predefined attributes such as date/time stamp, multiple routes, and etc.

Amar Ujala ND 04/05/2016 P-07

पंजीकरण की अंतिम तिथि आज

नोएडा (ब्यूरो)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) में दाखिले के लिए आयोजित जेईई (एडवांस) के पंजीकरण की अंतिम तिथि बुधवार है। अभ्यर्थी जेईई (एडवांस) की वेबसाइट पर आज शाम पांच बजे तक पंजीकरण कर सकेंगे। इस बार जेईई (एडवांस) के लिए पंजीकरण करने का मौका जेईई (मेन) के टॉप दो लाख अभ्यर्थियों को मिलेगा। प्रवेश परीक्षा 22 मई को होगी। पहला पेपर सुबह 9 से 12 बजे तक होगा। वहीं, दूसरा पेपर 2 से 5 बजे तक होगा। इस बार महिला अभ्यर्थियों के लिए पंजीकरण शुल्क 1000 रुपये रखा गया है। वहीं, सामान्य व अन्य अभ्यर्थियों को 2000 रुपये देना होगा। जबकि एससी, एसटी और पीडब्ल्यूडी वर्ग के अभ्यर्थियों को 1000 रुपये शुल्क देना होगा।

संस्थान चुनने के बाद फेरबदल मान्य नहीं

नई दिल्ली, 3 मई (ब्यूरो): आईआईटी संस्थान में दाखिला लेने वाले छात्रों को एक बार अपनी प्राथमिकता बताने के बाद उसके बदलाव का प्रावधान अब नहीं मिल सकेगा। आईआईटी में एडवांस की परीक्षा के बाद काउंसलिंग में बड़ा बदलाव किया गया है। छात्र काउंसलिंग के दौरान तय किए गए एनआईटी और आईआईटी में फेर बदल नहीं करा सकेंगे।

आईआईटी और एनआईटी तय करना होगा एक बार

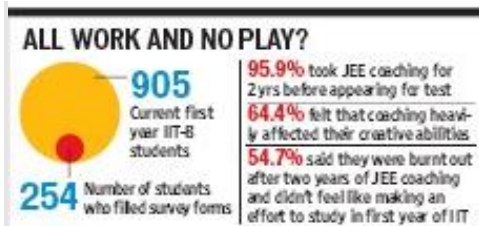
आईआईटी और एनआईटी में छात्रों द्वारा किए जाने वाले बार-बार फेर बदल को देखते हुए प्रशासन ने यह फैसला लिया है। अब एक बार प्राथमिकता बताने के बाद दोबारा उसमें बदलाव संभव नहीं होगा यानी छात्रों को आवेदन करते वक्त सोच समझकर बताना होगा कि वे एनआईटी और आईआईटी संस्थानों में से किसमें दाखिला चाहते हैं पिछले साल तक बदलाव करने का मौका मिलता था। एडवांस कमेटी के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि यदि कोई प्राथमिकता नहीं बताता है तो आखिरी चुने गए संस्थान को छात्र की प्राथमिकता माना जाएगा।

Confession of IIT freshers: Entrance takes mental toll

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

MUMBAI: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are tough places to get into. So tough in fact, that it can take a toll on students' mental health and also affect their social skills and creativity. The 'Freshman Survey' of first-year IITBombay students, released by the institute's student community, said more than half the freshers — 64.4% — thought that two years of Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) coaching to get admissions to the coveted institutes affected their creative abilities; 55.3% felt it also affected their social skills. A fifth — 20.9% — admitted they took a break from academics to get through an IIT of their choice. One in four students — 26.1% — had to seek the help of counsellors while preparing for the entrance exams to tackle breakdowns and remain motivated.

The survey asked students about their expectations as well like their background before entering an IIT, their political and religious beliefs and their plans after graduation. Inspired by Harvard Crimson's Freshmen Survey, 254 of the freshers participated in the survey and their responses show the amount of money and work that goes into finally getting through the premiere institute.



“The underlying motivation behind this survey was to gauge how much ‘change’ a freshman undergoes before leaving the institute with a truckload of knowledge, memories and ambitions,” states the survey. Around 95.9% students stated they took JEE coaching for two years before appearing for the entrance examinations and more than half of them highlighted how the same period pushed them away from a “normal social” life

HRD ministry asked to push distance learning bill

Jeevan Prakash Sharma

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The promotion of a Punjab government employee has been held up by his department because his graduation degree, through open and distance learning (ODL) mode, is invalid. The programme he had taken up had not been authorised by the University Grants Commission (UGC). There is now virtually no scope of growth in his career.

Alarmed by the increasing number of colleges and universities offering unauthorised courses, jeopardising the careers of lakhs of students studying through ODL mode, a parliamentary standing committee on human resource development (HRD) has asked the HRD ministry to implement the Distance Education Council of India (DECI) Bill which advocates jail terms for authorities in such institutes.

Every year approximately 35 lakh to 40 lakh students take up ODL degree and post degree courses in India. Many educational institutions are bypassing rules framed by the UGC, the present regulator of such programmes. "Instead of taking action against the institutes, UGC is not validating degrees of students from the universities," says the Punjab government staffer. "UGC too has refused to honour my degree. In Punjab, hundreds of institutes have affiliations from universities of other states and all of them are openly offering degrees."

DRAFT BILL: SALIENT POINTS

- Lay down norms, guidelines and standards for offering various programmes of higher education through distance education system
- Grant recognition to programmes of higher education offered through distance education system
- Lay down norms, guidelines and standards for regulating and monitoring online programmes
- Regulate the collaboration between foreign education providers and Indian higher education institutions and take steps to prevent commercialisation of distance education
- Develop guidelines for fees to be charged by higher education institutions imparting distance education to ensure that the fees is not exorbitant and recovers programme development costs
- Take all necessary steps to prevent commercialisation of open and distance education

In April 2016, the parliamentary standing committee had asked MHRD to speed up the enactment of the DECI Bill. After almost a year, on March 16, in a report presented to the Rajya Sabha, the committee said the ODL education system, catering to a large section of the country, needed a regulatory body to oversee ODL programmes. It asked for the DECI Bill to be brought before Parliament without losing further time.

The committee, chaired by Satyanarayan Jatiya, a senior leader from the ruling Bhartiya

Janta Party, also reiterated its earlier recommendation to give the Distance Education Council (DEC) a statutory status to regulate distance learning. The present arrangement, replacing DEC with UGC was neither practicable nor legally tenable, it said.

The HRD ministry had abolished DEC, the regulator of open and distance learning under the

HRD ministry asked to push distance learning bill

Indira Gandhi National Open University, Act 1985, through an administrative order on December 29, 2012 and its mandate was given to UGC. This ad hoc arrangement, experts say, is not legally viable because an administrative order can't undo anything created by a law passed by Parliament.

Amidst the debate, the two issues which are hampering ODL students' careers are – territorial jurisdiction and illegal and unspecified degrees. UGC issued a circular in June 2013 to restrict a state/private university from offering courses beyond its state boundaries. Private universities, however, continue to bend the rules. Most of them offer courses not approved by DEC. "Many universities have been given subject-wise approval but they claim to have the approvals for all courses. Students pursuing invalid degrees suffer setbacks when these are not honoured by UGC," says senior UGC official.

Unspecified degrees are those courses whose nomenclatures are not approved by the UGC.

In Capital Delhi, too, hundreds of institutes affiliated to state/private universities of other states, are offering degree courses which are illegal, as defined by UGC's circular. Since the UGC is a mute spectator in this case, lakhs of students will miss out on good career opportunities, the UGC official adds. Experts say that the DECI Bill, which is under consideration of the HRD ministry for the past three years should address these issues and be enacted as soon as possible. "The UGC, as a regulator, has been oblivious to the lack of quality and efficiency in functioning of ODL institutions. I think the government should expedite enactment of draft DECI bill to protect the interests of the students," says MM Ansari, former member, UGC.

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VIRTUAL LABS PROJECT

Global Institute made nodal centre by IIT Delhi

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/global-institute-made-nodal-centre-by-iit-delhi/231787.html>

Global Institute, Amritsar (GIA), has been awarded with the status of a nodal centre for the 'Virtual Labs Project' by IIT Delhi.

This is the third nodal centre in Punjab that has been instituted by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. The two other nodal centres are CT Group of Institutes, Jalandhar, and Deskhmukh University, Mandi Gobindgarh. The country has about 40 nodal centres awarded through the MHRD.

IIT Delhi had conducted a workshop on 'Virtual Labs Project', an initiative of the MHRD, for the students of BTech on the GIA premises.