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IISC, IIT-B rated among top 200 universities in the world

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT This time too no Indian varsity figures in Times' top 100 list

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LONDON: No Indian university figures in the top 100 reputation rankings but the Indian Institute of Science (IISC) in Bengaluru and IIT-Bombay are in the top 200, compilers of the Times Higher Education (THE) list said on Thursday.

The compilers told Hindustan Times they publish only the world's top 100 list for reputation as the data becomes more congested lower down the rankings, and differentials narrow. But they said India has two institutions in the top 200 – IISC Bengaluru (which is around about the 150th position) and the IIT-Bombay.

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GOOD SHOW BUT MILES TO GO

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to make the top 100 list.

The rankings are dominated by the US, but Asia has increased its share of institutions among the world's most prestigious universities. It had 18 institutions in the rankings, up from 10 last year. On India, Phil Baty, editor of THE rankings, said: "The recent announcement of a new policy to provide special support for ten public and ten private universi-

ties, in order to help them rise up the global rankings, is very welcome news indeed.

"However, the devil will be in the detail and we await more information on the plan with great interest and anticipation. Providing sufficient financial support will be crucial, but so will providing a better and more streamlined regulatory framework to ensure Indian universi-

ties can be more open to global opportunities, and more able to draw in international talent."

The 2016 rankings was topped by Harvard, followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Cambridge and Oxford in the top five places. Asia's top performer – Japan's University of Tokyo – held on to 12th place, while China's Tsinghua University and Peking University leaped eight and 11 places to reach the 18th and 21st place.

Paul Blackmore, professor of higher education at King's College London's Policy Institute, said Asia's stronger performance is the result of "undoubted growth in university systems" and "of more being known (about them) among those giving a view". "We've had a highly Anglo-Saxon view of higher education for many years, and that can't be sustained for much longer," he said.

Amar Ujala ND 06/05/2016 P-10

42 हजार अभ्यर्थियों ने छोड़ी आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा

कानपुर (ब्यूरो)। ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जाम (जेईई) मेन-2016 में सफल होने वाले 42 हजार छात्र-छात्राओं ने आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई एडवांस) के ऑनलाइन आवेदन फार्म नहीं भरे हैं। आईआईटी प्रशासन का कहना है कि प्रवेश परीक्षा छोड़ने की वजह समझ से बाहर है। इसके कारणों का पता लगाया जाएगा। पिछले साल जेईई मेन में एक लाख पचास हजार अभ्यर्थी सफल हुए थे, लेकिन सिर्फ चार हजार ने ही एडवांस का फार्म नहीं भरा था। वहीं इस बार एक लाख 98 हजार छात्र मेन में सफल हुए हैं। जेईई एडवांस की ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया बीते बुधवार (4 मई) को समाप्त हो गई। आईआईटी को जो रिकॉर्ड मिले हैं, उसके हिसाब से एक लाख 56 हजार अभ्यर्थियों ने आवेदन फार्म भरे हैं। यह संख्या काफी कम है। जेईई चेयरमैन प्रो. कृष्णकांत ने बताया कि जिन विद्यार्थियों ने फार्म भरे हैं, उनकी प्रवेश परीक्षा निर्धारित समय से कराई जाएगी। सीबीएसई ने जेईई मेन का जो रिजल्ट 27 मई को घोषित किया था, उसमें दो लाख अभ्यर्थियों को सफल होना था। जब रिजल्ट आया तो दो हजार स्टूडेंट जरूरी मानक पर खरे नहीं उतर सके। इस कारण 1 लाख 98 हजार अभ्यर्थियों को फॉर्म भरने का मौका दिया गया लेकिन सभी ने फॉर्म नहीं भरे।

Fixing academic shortage is not too difficult

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

We often relate the deplorable state of education in universities and colleges with faculty shortage, more so competent faculty. It is estimated that more than 35% faculty positions in our higher education system are lying vacant. Consequently with a 1:23 teacher student ratio, we are half way to the ratio of 1:12 recommended by the UGC . In terms of student faculty ratio, it is the IIMs that are doing best with one faculty member for every 6 students. In the case of IITs, it is one to 16 students. The IITs top the list with 39% vacancies and central universities follow with 38% vacancies. One would assume that since a large number of new institutions were set up in the last few years, their faculty would add to the numbers. But this assumption is wrong. Even in the central universities, it is the old universities that are worst hit. Delhi University has a shortage of more than 50% closely followed by the University of Allahabad. The situation, though somewhat alarming, is certainly not unmanageable. Regular fulltime faculty positions in the US are even worse than ours, if we go by the numbers. Some of US public universities have only one third regular faculty. Harvard University has less than 54% full time regular faculty on its rolls while in Yale there is less than 49% regular faculty. The question is how do they account for the faculty crunch and where have we failed. The US higher education system employs about 50% non-regular faculty such as the adjunct professors, part time professors and visiting professors. The national average of adjunct professors on the rolls of US universities is about 48%. Apart from this, graduate assistants are utilised to help senior faculty in teaching. Why could we not adopt such a system of utilising the services of retired faculty as adjunct professors or that of students pursuing higher studies in our universities? This is a question that vice-chancellors of public universities need to examine. Private education providers have been under criticism for various reasons. Public universities in the country, however, need to learn from them as regards the judicious utilisation of expertise in education. Private universities are employing, to a considerable extent, faculty retired from the public universities to teach their students whereas public universities themselves have failed to utilise their potential and experience in education. We could opt for uniformity in the retirement age; while it is 65 years in 44 central universities, it is 60 or 62 years in other nearly 700 universities. This is one part of the solution, there are many others which the vice-chancellors and education experts need to discuss within a fixed timeline.

NIT Warangal to focus on research reputation

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/nit-warangal-to-focus-on-research-reputation/article8563456.ece>

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) here stands top among the institutions that utilized the Central Government sponsored `Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN).

The Central Government launched the GIAN in 2014 to improve the quality of higher education in the country and to secure global rating for Indian institutions. It also aims at helping students and faculty get global exposure and showcase the talent of Indian students to the world.

The programme envisages inviting foreign professors, scientists and industrialists to Indian institutions for lectures on campuses. The Ministry of HRD approves the programmes. The IIT, Madras got 76 and IIT Kharagpur got 44 programmes approved while the NIT Warangal got 20 programmes approved out of the total 478 programmes sanctioned by the Central Government in 31 institutions in the country.

Speaking to The Hindu, NIT Director T. Srinivasa Rao said the Indian institutions were not figuring in international rankings of educational institutions. This GIAN was aimed at addressing that issue as well. "We have very experienced faculty. We are the best in teaching and now we are trying to focus on earning reputation in research as well slowly," the Director added.

According to him, as part of GIAN series, the NIT Warangal was organizing a two-week on campus programme called 'Designing and Developing Flipped Classroom, eLearning instruction for engineering and science education'. Barry Sponder, a professor from Centre Connecticut State University, USA would deliver a series of lectures during his stay on campus here from May 9 to 18.

"This is the fourth programme under GIAN being held by NIT Warangal. The series will continue as we got approval for 16 others already," Prof. Srinivasa Rao explained. The Ministry of HRD would upload all the lectures of GIAN scheme online for the benefit of students and faculty across the country.

Government earmarks Rs 500 crore for tech facilities in premier institutes

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/government-earmarks-rs-500-crore-for-tech-facilities-in-premier-institutes/articleshow/52138066.cms>

NEW DELHI: The government will invest close to Rs 500 crore to set up research parks, technological business incubators and startup centres in premier educational institutes like the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and National Institute of Technology, according to a senior official.

These institutes had recently made proposals to the ministry of human resources development and the department of science and technology (DST) for such facilities.

The official cited earlier told ET that the HRD ministry has committed Rs 50-80 crore towards over Rs 100 crore needed for each research park while the department of science and technology is likely to invest close to Rs 100 crore for setting up of technology business incubators (TBIs) and startup centres.

The funds will be released when the institutes are ready, the official said. Six institutes are likely to get funds for research parks including the IIT campuses in Delhi, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar and Guwahati, and IISc Bangalore.

At present, only the IIT campuses in Chennai, Kharagpur and Mumbai have research parks. Recently, IIT Delhi announced the launch of a research park with an initial funding of Rs 40 crore which the institute arranged on its own.

The institute already has an incubation centre. The official said the move to fund such centres will help the institutes generate additional revenue with creation of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

An official at DST said the government has raised the budget for innovation and entrepreneurship to Rs 180 crore from Rs 40 crore last year. "The government is serious about creating more entrepreneurs and startups," the official said, requesting anonymity.

While 10 companies can be incubated in a TBI centre at any given point in time, a startup centre can handle only half this number. In comparison, a research park can host over 100 companies.

"Most institutes that made a proposal for setting up research parks, TBIs or startups are seriously being considered for funding by MHRD and DST," said another official in the HRD ministry.

Most of these proposals are being considered by both the government departments for funding. IIT Ropar had made a proposal for a research park, but is likely to get a TBI centre, the official said. However, the institute's director, SK Das, said, "We are internally ready for a research park and intend to push for this again."

IIT Guwahati is already roping in companies for its proposed research park. Its director, Gautam Biswas, said, "Research parks will help us generate revenues through the creation of IPR." IIT Guwahati is already in talks with a couple of MNCs in the space of healthcare and pharma.

Meanwhile, some of the other IIT campuses, like that in Chennai, which already have a research park, are looking at creating an endowment corpus of ₹500-1,000 crore by 2020 for research activities. These institutes may seek funds from the private sector.

"We are approaching alumni, corporates and foundations for raising the endowment. We are asking for centres/schools focused on specific domains, named chairs, and so on," said IIT Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

IISc tech offers non-farming options for crop-hit growers

[HTTP://WWW.BANGALOREMIRROR.COM/BANGALORE/OTHERS/IISC-TECH-OFFERS-NON-FARMING-OPTIONS-FOR-CROP-HIT-GROWERS/ARTICLESHOW/52115531.CMS](http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/iisc-tech-offers-non-farming-options-for-crop-hit-growers/articleshow/52115531.cms)



The initiative started in the 1990s involves vegetable drying operations, aided by SHG

A technology developed in Bengaluru in the early 1990s at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has finally borne fruit to provide farmers in drought-hit areas hope to boost their incomes despite the adversities.

In a laboratory-to-land success story that took well over two decades to achieve fruition, the fruit/vegetable drying technology developed by IISc's Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST) has helped a 12-woman-strong self-help group in Aralaguppe (in Tiptur taluk of Tumakuru district) to fill space on the shelves of Bengaluru's Metro Cash & Carry. They can now earn five times the original value of dried produce.

This has spurred efforts to take the technology to drought-hit areas where farming communities hit by crop failures can apply the technology, value-add and sell the produce at many times the original value.

A non-government organisation, Technology Informatics Design Endeavour (TIDE), working closely with CST, has proposed implementing technology-driven enterprises in Gadag which is reeling under drought conditions, and is looking for funding from the department of science & technology.

CST's chief technical officer HI Somashekar told Bangalore Mirror that the technology pertains to completely dehydrating vegetables, fruits, spices, fish and prawns while retaining their nutrition levels and flavour before packaging them.

Nutritional experiments proved that the dried form of the produce did retain the nutritional value as well as the flavour and could be preserved with a shelf-life ranging between six and nine months.

The drying process was carried out using biomass dryers that were specially designed for the purpose by a team of CST scientists led by now-octogenarian Prof A Lokrus. While the drying process was mastered way back in 1990, Somashekar said marketing the technology for the benefit of the rural masses proved a huge challenge. "We did not know how to market the technology without public support," he said.

The technology did prove to be a success in and around Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district - where the biomass dryers are being manufactured by an engineering firm Joshi & Co - and on the outskirts of Bengaluru, beyond Peenya where another engineering company, Zigma, is manufacturing the dryers. It was, however, largely neglected in the rest of the state.

The objective was to implement the technology in times of glut or drought when the farming communities could themselves use this technology to preserve their produce and sell them in powdered or value-added form.

In times of drought, the farmers can dry the produce and value add it five-fold by making ready-to-boil-and-eat preparations and sell them directly to large retail stores for higher earnings.

In both cases, the technology eliminated wastage of produce.



Women from the self-help group Manini are seen preparing vegetables for drying



SHG women using a dryer and (left) NABARD releasing Manini products

However, TIDE was finally able to take the technology forward. In collaboration with CST, it carried out a series of awareness programmes about the technology's benefits to farmers. And finally, in 2014, it was able to help establish a women's self-help group, Manini, in Aralaguppe.

TIDE executive director, K Sumathy, told Bangalore Mirror, "Our earliest success [2012] was in drying fish in Kerala where the women continue to profit from the enterprises set up with the help of TIDE there."

She said, at present, TIDE has helped Manini develop drying protocols for onions, tomatoes (both of which can grow in drought conditions), garlic, dried grated carrot, mint and chillies, which are sold in Metro Cash & Carry in Bengaluru. All the profits go to the self-help group. The efforts were supported by corporate social responsibility initiative of Manipal Foundation and Fanuc India.

22 fake universities in country, 9 from UP: Smriti Irani

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/22-fake-universities-in-country-9-from-up-smriti-irani/>

The fake universities, according to the HRD Minister Smriti Irani are in UP and Delhi, West Bengal and one each in Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Odisha

As many as 22 'fake' universities are functioning in the country, with a maximum of 9 in Uttar Pradesh and 5 in Delhi, government told the Rajya Sabha, adding states have been asked to initiate action against these.

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development Smriti Irani also said that the Ministry is in the process of writing to the Ministry of External Affairs to seek a list of all fake varsities and institutions abroad so that students do not get trapped and duped.

"As per information available with the UGC, there are 22 universities (in the country) which have been listed in the UGC list of fake universities and are functioning in contravention or violation of the UGC Act, 1956 in different parts of the country," Irani said.

Besides UP and Delhi, there are two in West Bengal and one each in Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Odisha, she said.

Replying to questions, she brushed aside charges that the Centre was washing its hands off in taking action against such varsities, saying the government had fulfilled its duties in informing the state governments for action against the concerned.

"Law and order is a state issue and only states can take action as per federal structure. No state government has so far said it is not taking action against such universities and have instead shown inclination of taking action," she said.

Irani said the regulator on its part has started a portal "KnowYourCollege" and a mobileApp providing details about universities and colleges so that gullible students are not duped such fake institutions. There is also an inbuilt mechanism for redressal in this portal.

She said if complaints come to the regulator, then the UGC also acts against such complaints.

"We are also making attempts to have direct interaction with students besides this 'KnowYourCollege' portal to help students identify fake universities," she said.

"It is an endeavour to persistently act on injustices meted out to our students through such fake institutions through protection given by the regulator," she said, asking members to share information on fake institutions with UGC.

Irani said there are universities abroad which try to mislead Indian students and "We are in the process of writing to MEA to ensure that all missions are appealed to give us a list of fake universities or institutions overseas so that we can appropriately inform our states to help students not get duped by such institutions."

To a question on foreign tie-ups and off-campus centres, she said, "Many universities have tried to set up off-campus centres which are unauthorised and UGC has taken cognisance of this fact and ordered shutdown of illegal off-campus centres."

With regard to fake universities tying up in order to Indianise education by trying up with a foreign partner, she said UGC gives an opportunity for a twinning programme only when there is an Indian partner that makes a disclosure to the regulator that such an arrangement can be facilitated.

In the written reply, Irani said varsities listed by UGC as 'Fake Universities' include **five in Delhi**. They are:

United Nations University,
Commercial University Ltd, Daryaganj,
Vocational University,
ADR-Centric Juridical University, ADR House, Rajendra Place, Indian Institute of Science and Engineering

In Uttar Pradesh, there are nine such varsities:

Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi (UP)
Jagatpuri, Delhi,
Mahila Gram Vidyapith (Prayag), Allahabad,
Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Prayag, Allahabad,
National University of Electro Complex Homoeopathy, Kanpur, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University, Achaltal,
Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Kosi Kalan, Mathura,
Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh,
Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Institutional area, Khoda, Makaanpur, Noida, Phase II
Gurukul Vishwavidyalaya, Vrindavan
Nababharat Shiksha Parishad, Annapoorna
Bhawan, Shaktinagar, Rourkela in Odisha is also among such
fake universities as listed by the Minister.

Among other such universities are

Maithili University/Vishwavidyalaya, Darbhanga, Bihar,
Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society, Gokak, Belgaum, Karnataka,
St John's University, Kishanattam, Kerala,
Raja Arabic University, Nagpur, Maharashtra,
DDB Sanskrit University, Putur, Trichi, Tamil Nadu
Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, Kolkata,
Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research, Diamond Harbour Road, Buildtech Inn, Thakurpukur, Kolkata.