Newspaper Clips
November 13, 2015

Deccan Herald ND 13/11/2015   P-6

IISc in top-100 world university ranking list

India makes its debut in this prestigious THE ranking

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Science Bangalore has become the country's first institution to enter the Times Higher Education's list of top 100 global engineering and technology schools, released on Wednesday.

With the top 10 positions in the list being held by American schools like Stanford, CalTech and MIT, IISc was ranked 99th in the list.

The ranking agency published the top 100 list after surveying 695 engineering and tech schools in the world, 19 of which were from India.

"This year's stand out success story has to be India, making its debut in this prestigious engineering and technology ranking, which represents the top few per cent of world universities for these subject disciplines," Times Higher Education (THE)World University Rankings editor Phil Baty said.

An international ranking agency headquartered in London, Times Higher Education has been publishing the top 100 list of engineering and technology institutions since 2010.

"The IISc, Bengaluru, has made it to the world's top 100 list for the first time since we've published this ranking," Baty added. President Pranab Mukherjee recently complimented both IISc and Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi for making it to the QS' top 200 world university ranking list in which IISc was ranked 147, and IIT-Delhi was positioned at 179.

"Whether you look at high tech sectors such as IT or aerospace engineering or more traditional fields such as steelmaking, India's engineering and technology prowess is highly visible the world over in the shape of companies based in India or run by people born in India, such as Google, Microsoft, Infosys and Wipro or Tata and Mittal," Baty said.

The domination of US institutions may look solid on top of the list, but the Times Higher Education list this year finds Asian institutions crawling up the list and making their presence.

While US institutions held 31 positions in the list , down from 34 last year, Asian institutions gained seven more positions from the 18 they held last year to 25 in 2015.

Asian schools were present in six of the top 30 spots with Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and India improving their representations and those like Singapore and Hong Kong maintaining theirs, the head of communications at Times Higher Education Peter Sigrist said. "Like our flagship World University Rankings, Times Higher Education ranking for engineering and technology subjects applies rigorous standards, using tough global benchmarks across all of a global research university's key missions – teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook," Baty said.

Although the table uses the same range of 13 performance indicators, they have been carefully recalibrated to fit the research culture in this subject, he added.

Business Standard ND 13/11/2015   P-20

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKING FOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES

IISc Bangalore marks India's debut in top 100

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 12 November

India has made its debut in the Top 100 universities ranking in engineering and technology, published by *The Times Higher Education*, a weekly magazine based in London.

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, was at the 99th spot. The Top 10 remains dominated by American institutions, with Stanford, CalTech and MIT the top three.

However, this is a year of Asian progress, with the US holding 31 positions, down from 34 last year, while Asia holds 25 positions in the Top 100, up from 18 last year. Asian universities have six positions in the Top 30 this year. Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and India all improved their representation (India had none till now), while Singapore and Hong Kong maintained theirs.

Phil Baty, editor, *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, said: "This year's standout success story has to be India, making its debut in this prestigious engineering and technology ranking, which represents the top few per cent of world universities for these subject disciplines."

Whether you look at high-tech sectors such as information technology or aerospace engineering or more traditional fields such as steelmaking, he said, India's engineering and technology prowess was highly visible the world over, in the shape of companies based in India or run by people born in India, such as Google and Microsoft, Infosys and Wipro or Tata and Mittal.

WORLD'S TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES FOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
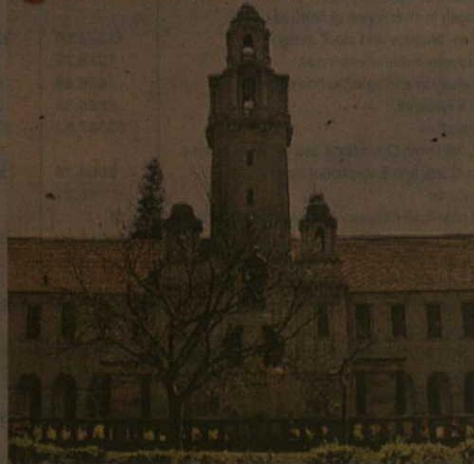
99 Indian Institute of Science India

1	Stanford University	USA
2	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	USA
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
4	University of Cambridge	UK
5	University of California, Berkeley	USA
6	University of Oxford	UK
7	Princeton University	USA
8	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	Switzerland
9	Imperial College London	UK
10	Carnegie Mellon University	USA

PHOTO: INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE WEBSITE

Indian Express ND 13/11/2015   P-8

42% in Kharagpur, Roorkee, 39% in Bombay, faculty short across IITs

MIHIKA BASU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 12

THE IITs are struggling to fill up faculty posts, with vacancies in 2014-15 ranging from 10 per cent in IIT-Jodhpur and IIT-BHU (Banaras Hindu University), replies to an RTI query by The Indian Express have revealed.

Among the older IITs, Bombay had a vacancy of 38.66 per cent, Kharagpur of 42.42 per cent, Roorkee of 41.88 per cent, Guwahati of 26.50 per cent and IIT-BHU of 53.39 per cent.

While some of the RTI replies said the vacancy is estimated from the 10:1 student:faculty ratio followed at IITs, one said there is no concept of sanctioned post of faculty mem-

bers and it is based on students' strength.

"Filling up vacant posts is a long process and cannot be done overnight," said a former IIT director. "None of the IITs wants to compromise with quality. Further, good people have options in international universities and industry. In certain disciplines, there are not enough qualified people from among whom we can hire."

Experts said the IITs have been taking various initiatives to attract outstanding candidates for faculty posts. Some of these measures include year-round open advertisements, young faculty awards and inviting alumni, scientists and faculty to reach out to potential candidates.

"Vacant faculty positions are true of institutions globally, and not just in India," said Dr Deepak B Phatak, professor at IIT-Bombay

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IIT-Bombay has 375 vacancies.

that has 595 faculty members against a sanctioned 970. "While we are reasonably placed, the newer IITs are facing challenges, which is a natural process for every new institution that is trying to build and establish itself. Also, the number of people interested in academics and those who are going for PhDs is on the rise. While we would like more faculty

THE SHORTFALL

IIT	VACANT POSTS	%
Jodhpur	51 of 90	57
BHU	268 of 502	53
Kharagpur	453 of 1,068	42
Roorkee	338 of 807	42
Bombay	375 of 970	39
Delhi	257 of 776	33
Guwahati	137 of 517	26
Patna	19 of 90	21
Hyderabad	37 of 185	20
Indore	13 of 90	14
Gandhinagar	11 of 108	10
Mandi	9 of 90	10

members as these are sanctioned posts, faculty selection and appointment is an extremely rigorous process and given IIT-Bombay's position, where top performers are trying to get in, the process does take some time."

"Each department at IIT-Bombay has a search committee and we recruit only those with a PhD, with three years of experience and those who have a perspective," said Dr Rangan Banerjee, another professor at IIT-Bombay. "So while the number of applications is large, many don't meet the minimum quality or lack in perspective or rigour. Also, not enough people opt for research. We are clear we won't lower our standards. A long-term solution is to have more PhD students."

Among the newer IITs too, the vacancies were huge. It was 56.67 per cent in IIT-Jodhpur, 21.11 per cent in Patna, 14.44 per cent in Indore, 20 per cent in Hyderabad, and 10.18 per cent in Gandhinagar.

"This year, IIT-Delhi and IISc-Bangalore made their debut in the Quacquarelli Symonds list of top 200 universities globally. However, IITs usually don't make the cut as they lose out majorly to the weightage given to parameters like international faculty, student-faculty ratio and international students," said a member of the IIT-Bombay faculty. "While we are doing reasonably well in research and development in terms of impact and citation factors, there is scope for improvement. From where you publish your research paper is also important and there are very few quality Indian journals."

Prof Gautam Barua, former IIT Guwahati director, said that at the PG level, even if an IIT tries to attract foreign students, it is difficult because the Indian government currently does not support scholarships for foreign students. "Further, it's again tough to get international faculty with our current pay-scales," Barua said.

Business Standard ND 13/11/2015   P-2

Despite Make in India, manufacturing sector feeble for IIT placements

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 12 November

The government has announced an annual corpus of ₹250 crore for 'Make in India' research work across all Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), but the success of the campaign has not translated into better placements by the core manufacturing sector.

From an increase in the number of invites to pushing for Day-1 slots during final placements, the IITs have been trying to tap the core manufacturing sector, buoyed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' campaign. Yet, the economic slowdown and weakened job scenario mean responses from core manufacturing firms have begun dwindling.

According to IITs, the ideal share of profiles emerging from the core manufacturing sector, which includes the likes of engineering, procurement and construction, infrastructure, automobiles, as well as research & development (R&D), tends to be 50-60 per cent, a trend seen last year, too.

This year, however, responses from companies from the sector that are being invited for final placements have not been so bullish.

CHALLENGING EXPECTATIONS

- Ideal share of core manufacturing sector among all profiles: 50-60%
- Anticipated share: 35-50%
- IITs ask students to choose better slots like Day 1 for core manufacturing firms
- Manufacturing firms find meeting students' expectations of compensation a challenge
- Students expect ₹12-18 lakh yearly; most of the firms look at offering ₹5-10 lakh

Based on the responses so far, IITs anticipate the share of profiles from the core manufacturing sector to be anywhere between 35 per cent and 50 per cent. However, in a bid to counter the trend and hoping to cash in on Make in India, IITs have been inviting more firms since last year.

"A trend we have noticed so far is that the core manufacturing sector is not so bullish about placements this year. Ideally, we would like the core sector profiles to be 50-60 per cent of the total profiles. Last year was particularly good with the core sector (including R&D and other technical roles) being around 60 per cent of the total profiles offered. This year, it is likely to be around 50 per cent," said V Babu, advisor (training & placement) and professor, department of mechanical engineering at IIT Madras.

On the other hand, IIT Kharagpur sources peg the share of profiles

from core manufacturing sector this year at 35-40 per cent, against 50 per cent last year.

Efforts to reach out to the manufacturing sector had begun last year when IITs, like the one in Mumbai, decided to offer Day-1 placement slots to manufacturing companies, alongside consulting and financial firms.

This year too, IITs in Chennai and Kharagpur confirmed similar efforts to ease placement process for the manufacturing sector will continue this year.

"We have encouraged many manufacturing companies to come and also asked students to give them favourable slots," said Babu.

However, apart from a weak job scenario, the other reason for a decline in core manufacturing profiles is uncompetitive compensation packages.

"Students at IITs usually expect competitive compensation (annual)

packages between ₹12 lakh and ₹18 lakh. However, most of the core manufacturing sector this year have shown an indication of packages in the range of ₹5-8 lakh or at the most ₹10 lakh. Unable to match student expectations, some of the firms have evinced interest in recruiting from other engineering colleges, including National Institutes of Technology," said an institute source at IIT Kharagpur.

So far, the institute has invited about 350 firms across sectors, with a large share from the core manufacturing sector. Of these, 200 firms have expressed willingness so far to participate in the final placements.

Meanwhile, among the top sectors during final placements this year, IITs anticipate data analytics and technology profiles from regular marquee firms like Google, Microsoft, Qualcomm, Samsung and Oracle, among others, to rule the roost.

Economic Times Hindi ND 13/11/2015   P-8

MBA नहीं, IIT ग्रेजुएट्स स्टार्ट-अप्स की पसंद

स्टार्ट-अप्स और बड़ी ई-कॉमर्स फर्में इस साल कॉरपोरेट, मैनेजेरिकल फंक्शंस में ज्यादा इंजीनियर नियुक्त करेंगी
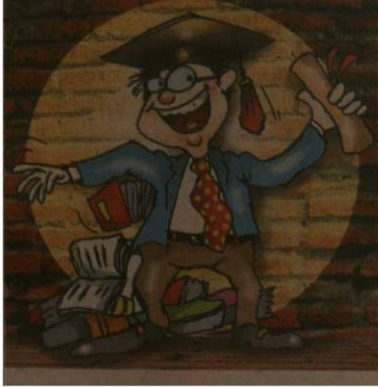
[शैवत्र भट्टाचार्य & अनुमेहा चतुर्वेदी] नई दिल्ली

एमबीए के मुकाबले आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट्स को नौकरी के ज्यादा मौके मिल रहे हैं। स्टार्ट-अप्स और बड़ी ई-कॉमर्स कंपनियां मसलन- फ्लिपकार्ट, ओला, ओयो रूम्स, जबॉन्ग, CarDekho.com, शॉपक्लूज और Bewakoof.com की योजना इस साल कॉरपोरेट और मैनेजेरिकल फंक्शंस में ज्यादा इंजीनियर नियुक्त करने की है। ये कंपनियां ऑपरेशंस, मार्केटिंग, बिजनेस फाइनेंस, प्रोक्योरमेंट आदि के लिए इंजीनियर्स की हायरिंग की तैयारी में हैं।

पारंपरिक तौर पर ऐसी भूमिका के लिए एमबीए ग्रेजुएट्स को पसंद किया जाता रहा है। अगर कंपनियां आईआईएम जैसे बिजनेस स्कूलों के ग्रेजुएट्स के बजाय इंजीनियर्स को हायर करती हैं तो हर साल प्रति कैंडिडेट पर 5 से 6 लाख रुपये तक बचा सकती हैं। इंजीनियर्स को डेटा की अच्छी समझ होती है। ये युवा होते हैं और बड़ी आसानी से स्टार्टअप कल्चर में ढल जाते हैं। हायरिंग मैनेजर्स के मुताबिक, बिजनेस स्कूल के ग्रेजुएट्स के मुकाबले आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट ज्यादा टेक सेवी होते हैं। इस साल ओला 125 आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट्स को हायर करेगी। पिछले साल इसने सिर्फ 20 इंजीनियर्स हायर किए थे।

यहां तक कि ओला जिन 200 इंजीनियर्स को हायर करने वाली है उनका काम नॉन-टेक्निकल है। टैक्सी एग्रीगेटर ओला कैब्स के डायरेक्टर और टैलेंट एक्विजिशन के हेड अमित माथुर ने कहा, 'आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट्स को आंकड़ों की काफी अच्छी समझ होती है। इसलिए हमें उन्हें नॉन-टेक रोल के लिए भी नियुक्त करना चाहते हैं।' ओला डेटा एनालिटिक्स, कॉरपोरेट फंक्शंस (मार्केटिंग और एचआर) के लिए भी आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट्स को ही चुनेगी। बिजनेस फाइनेंस और प्रोक्योरमेंट से जुड़े कामों के लिए भी ओला ने आईआईटी से ही हायरिंग करेगी। ठीक इसी तरह CarDekho.com अपने एनालिस्ट्स की संख्या बढ़ाकर दोगुनी करेगी। इस योजना के तहत कंपनी इस साल आईआईटी से 50-60 हायरिंग करेगी जबकि पिछले साल उसने सिर्फ 20-30 हायरिंग की थी। कारदेखो के प्रेसिडेंट उमंग कुमार ने कहा, "आईआईटी में कई ऐसे स्मार्ट स्टूडेंट्स हैं जो कोडिंग नहीं करना चाहते हैं और वे करियर में कुछ अलग ढूंढते हैं। कोडर्स के अलावा हम एनालिस्ट्स हायर कर रहे हैं।'

इन कंपनियों के हायरिंग मैनेजर्स ने कहा कि इसके साथ ही एमबीए के मुकाबले इंजीनियर्स ज्यादा फ्लेक्सिबल होते हैं। आईआईएम के ग्रेजुएट्स पूरी तरह से स्पष्ट और तय प्रोफाइल और करियर चाहते हैं। एक स्टार्टअप के लिहाज से यह हर बार मुमकिन नहीं है। युवा आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट्स एमबीए के मुकाबले ज्यादा रिस्क लेते हैं। हायरिंग मैनेजर्स ने कहा कि एमबीए रिस्क प्रोफाइल और

> **"** आईआईटी में कई ऐसे स्मार्ट स्टूडेंट्स हैं जो कोडिंग नहीं करना चाहते हैं और वे करियर में कुछ अलग ढूंढते हैं। कोडर्स के अलावा हम एनालिस्ट्स हायर कर रहे हैं
>
> **उमंग कुमार**, प्रेसिडेंट, कारदेखो

ट्रैवलिंग के लिहाज से आरामदायक जॉब चाहते हैं। जबॉन्ग के एचआर हेड आशु मल्होत्रा ने कहा, 'हमें इस साल ऑपरेशंस और मार्केटिंग जैसे नॉन-टेक्निकल कामों के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा इंजीनियर्स की जरूरत है।'

World University Rankings 2015-2016 by subject: engineering and technology

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/world-university-rankings-2015-2016-by-subject-engineering-and-technology-results-announced

Balance of power continues to shift towards Asia in disciplines

View the full list of the world's top 100 universities for engineering and technology

Asia has continued its progress in this year's *Times Higher Education* ranking for engineering and technology subjects as the dominance of the US and Europe wanes.

Asian institutions now make up more than a quarter of the list, claiming 26 spots among the world top 100, up from 19 last year. Overall, eight Asian countries feature in the table, including India, which makes its debut courtesy of the Indian Institute of Science, at 99th place.

All nations in the region have either held a steady performance or improved in terms of the number of universities featured since last year. China has doubled its representatives from three to six, while both Taiwan and South Korea have gained another, with two and five universities in the table, respectively.

The National University of Singapore is the highest-ranked Asian institution, at 13th place, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) is just three places behind, in 16th.

As one reason for its success, Tongxi Yu, the institution's acting dean of engineering, cited Hong Kong's switch in 2012 to four-year undergraduate degrees, which allowed for the creation of a curriculum that is "student-centric, broad-based, interdisciplinary and holistic in nature". He also referred to the university's establishment of a Center for Engineering Education Innovation, which "fosters innovative learning".

Although the US remains the rankings superpower, it has lost ground, dropping from 34 representatives last year to 31.

Four of the 11 European countries in the table – the UK, France, the Netherlands and Sweden – have also slipped. At the same time, Turkey and Finland – each of which featured a representative in last year's table, in 99th and 100th place, respectively – have fallen out of the table. Germany is the only European nation to have gained a representative in the list, boasting seven institutions in the table, up from six.

This shift in the balance of power towards Asia reflects the success of reforms that have been adopted across the region in the past two decades, said Alessia Lefébure, director of the Alliance programme (an academic joint venture between Columbia University, École Polytechnique, Sciences Po and Panthéon-Sorbonne University – Paris 1) and co-editor of the book *Asia: The Next Higher Education Superpower?* (recently published by the Institute of International Education and the American Institute for Foreign Study).

"The best performers are found in countries where motivated universities are nurtured by national and local governments that concentrate funding on the high potentials, push for innovation, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge from foreign partners," she said. "China has used this formula successfully since the late 1990s, but Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan have similar policies."

She added: "Today most Asian countries are funding the training of thousands of PhD [students], especially in sciences and engineering. This is going to have a strong impact on Asian industries and economies in the next 30 years."

The *THE* subject rankings use the same 13 performance indicators as the flagship World University Rankings but are recalibrated with different weightings to suit each field.

View the full methodology, along with the top 100 universities for engineering and technology

ellie.bothwell@tesglobal.com

World's top 10 universities for engineering and technology, 2015-2016

2015-16 rank	Institution	Country
1	Stanford University	United States
2	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	United States
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States
4	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
5	University of California, Berkeley	United States
6	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
7	Princeton University	United States
8	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	Switzerland
9	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
10	Carnegie Mellon University	United States

Design exhibition at IIT Ropar on Nov 17

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

RUPNAGAR: A design exhibition would be organised at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, on November 17. In this exhibition, students from mechanical, electrical, computer science and engineering stream would display the products developed by them. IIT director, Prof Sarit K Das has announced cash prizes to the students for their best products which would be assessed by external experts.

Design exhibition at IIT Ropar on Nov 17

Why Smriti Irani as HRD minister was a terrible choice

Should the research done by the HRD minister's advisors be taken into consideration, surely India would shoot into stratospheric heights.

http://www.dailyo.in/politics/smriti-irani-narendra-modi-hrd-ministry-higher-education-charles-darwin-iisc-iit-vedas/story/1/7341.html

From the mouth of some babes, pearls of wisdom and truth fall like gentle rain from heaven. From the mouth of others, idiocies pour in a torrent and are considered truth only because they occupy positions of power. We leave it to the reader to decide to which group our minister of human resource development Smriti Irani belongs. Keep in mind that she determines to a large extent the course of education, including higher education policies in India. Irani's comments on education at the conclusion of the National Seminar on the New Education Policy in Kolkata would be shocking if they were made by a mature and intelligent human being. But, as is said, from the mouth of the babes...

The minister claimed that in India "a large section of research work is done in vernacular languages, whereas global rankings only consider research in English." We are not quibbling when we say that research is never considered in global rankings but only publications, and prizes and awards in the sciences are. Of course, we can understand that the HRD minister does not know the difference. Why should she? There are enough dumb advisors to write the speeches she reads out. We are supposed to assume that this minister is able to judge the quality of research in languages she does not even know, whereas the "Republic of Letters" sadly languishes in ignorance. We are sure that there is research in Bhojpuri, which goes beyond research in superstring theory in physics; research in Braj which puts the Bourbaki programme in mathematics to shame; research in Konkani which transforms the paradigm of modern evolutionary biology; and research in Sanketi which provides an alternative to black hole physics.

Since the minister is able to appreciate the quality of research in all these domains, the puzzle before us is really excruciatingly painful. Why does she not fund a massive translation programme that will propel humankind from its current darkness towards the light shining in her eyes, instead of asking advertising agencies to write documents about the future of Indian higher education? We are sure we will hear scintillating answers to these questions in her next speech. In the meantime, however, there is one more puzzle that confronts us. There are more Gujarati-speaking people than Dutch-speaking people; there are more Hindi speakers than German, Dutch, and French speakers put together. Do you think the Europeans are not doing scientific research in their vernacular languages? Yet, they do not languish behind in the global rankings the way India does. This raises questions to ponder, as we wait for the words of wisdom from the mouth of the babes...

In the same talk, she admitted - ruefully, one would suppose - that there is a lack of awareness among Indian researchers about getting their research work published in international journals. This was supposed to explain the "achievement" of Indian universities and research institutions in global rankings. What breathtaking audacity! Scientific researchers doing fundamental work in nuclear physics in Tulu "lack awareness" of the top journals in this domain. There is a "lack of awareness" among Rajasthani mathematicians about the Fields medal and top journals in mathematics, even though they are re-designing and redrawing the structure and foundation of mathematics. There is a "lack of awareness" among the Assamese evolutionary biologists of perhaps even Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, because it has not yet been translated into Assamese. Indeed, such profundities, such earth-shattering insights - as they say, from the mouth of the babes...

Of course, the minister hastened to add that Indian higher education institutions not figuring high in the global rankings did not mean that the country was lagging behind in quality research. This is a profound philosophical point, as it draws a fundamental conceptual distinction between a country and her institutions. The country is being led by the HRD department so ably guided by Mrs Irani. Unfortunately, this high-quality achievement does not figure in the institutional rankings, even though, surely, the HRD ministry is also an institution. Should

the research done by her advisors and bureaucrats be taken into consideration, surely India would shoot into stratospheric heights in the global rankings. If only our higher education institutions were to follow the diktats of this department and its capable leaders, they would go to places where even angels fear to tread. From the mouth of the babes...

When you are sitting in Delhi, travelling in air-conditioned cars and business-class flights, we suppose you would not see the absence of research in Indian institutions of higher learning. One hears only the whisper of sycophants and the whining of third-rate technocrats who head such institutions. Anecdotal evidence about individuals leaving research centres to go abroad because of a lack of funds, is transformed into national policy. The pathetic belief of the HRD ministry is that an increase of funding to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will lead to a rise in the quality of research. When you have a third-rate Sanskrit pundit as your advisor on higher education policy, why would you need to study the sociology, history, philosophy and psychology of science to find out the problems involved in generating and encouraging scientific creativity? Your Sanskrit pundit will hunt out the relevant Vedic shlokas, whereas Europeans and Americans can do empirical research into science. Thus, you can initiate a glossy E UG Shala, whereas these dumb Europeans and Americans publish book series on the history, philosophy, sociology and psychology of science. Were we ordinary mortals to say this, one would be indignant with anger. But from the mouth of the babes...

Thus we could go on. The point remains that everyone from the Yashpal committee onwards has recognised the absence of research culture in Indian institutions of higher learning. Owing to the equally breathtaking realisations of Irani's illustrious predecessors like Kapil Sibal, the Indian education system will resemble that of Africa in the 1960s in ten years' time. Most institutions of learning have inducted professors on the basis of caste certificates, not on the basis of cutting-edge research in vernacular languages. Therefore, the only thing they can teach the present and the coming generations is that the Bible according to Ambedkar, which is not even the "World" according to Garp.

Unless of course such vernacular teachings of the Gospel are also to qualify as cutting-edge research, our students will not learn anything in this and the coming decades. The secondary education system today - especially the central exams - is sustained by retired private tutors aged between 60 and 70 years. Unfortunately, old age and death do not obey the laws discovered by our cutting-edge researchers in vernacular languages, which means most of these tutors will die in a decade from now. Who then is going to teach our secondary school students?

Our minister has a solution: she inducts the most incompetent educationalist we have ever met in our lives to be part of the CABE, just because he is her favourite. So we suppose such people will do all the teaching and tuition required to bring around our secondary school students to do cutting-edge research in even more obscure vernacular languages. But then we also suppose it does not matter, because as the minister said, these cutting-edge researchers do not need to know the top journals in their fields.

This is a sad commentary on the quality of the educational initiatives undertaken by Mrs Irani. Sadder is that when Modi mouths his "development" mantra, his own government is actually busy creating underdevelopment. Even sadder than this is to sell inanities as brilliant insights and initiatives. But this is not a problem, since Indians are used to tear-jerking movies anyway. They will just dry their tears about this incompetent ministry and move on. However, this time the brakes will be applied very rudely, because this state of affairs is generating a tragedy of gigantic proportions. What about the children and the youth of today? Who is going to teach them? The vernacular geniuses, we suppose. From the mouth of the babes...
SN Balagangadhara