# Newspaper Clips
## Oct.1, 2015

**Economic Times ND 01/10/2015**
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## IRANI-LED HRD MINISTRY FAVOURS MOVE

# JEE Advanced Mooted for IITs & NITs

IIT council to take up proposal of the NIT council's standing committee next wk

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**New Delhi:** The IIT council will take up next week a proposal of the NIT council's standing committee to admit students to both IITs and NITs through a single entrance examination — the JEE Advanced. The move is likely to trigger a controversy in the IIT system. The proposal will be taken up by the NIT council at its October 1 meeting first, following which it will be taken to the IIT council — the apex body chaired by the HRD minister that coordinates between all IITs — at its October 6 meeting.

**IITs have traditionally resisted any move to grant NITs parity**

It is learnt that the Smriti Irani-led HRD ministry favours the proposal for a single exam for IITs and NITs. IITs have traditionally resisted any move to grant NITs parity and the HRD ministry had to take considerable efforts to make IITs agree to joint counselling with NITs. "IITs and NITs draw from the same pool of students. IITs already draw the best of students through the JEE Advanced which has a reasonably high difficulty level. If the NITs — which are also excellent engineering institutes — are allowed to draw from that pool, the overall quality will improve. The aim is one exam, one ranking system and one counselling for both IITs and NITs. We hope that a final decision will be taken on this at the IIT council meeting," a member of the IIT council told **ET**.

## Irani Calls for Simplifying Sanskrit

**NEW DELHI:** HRD minister Smriti Irani made a strong pitch for promotion of Sanskrit and making it a language of the masses by simplifying it in schools and holding more research in the discipline. — PTI

While the JEE Advanced helps select about 10,000 students to enter the famed portals of India's 16 IITs, if the entrance exam is opened up to NITs, this number will go up to 34,000. The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) alone determines admissions to prestigious IITs. While it was the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) that earlier determined admissions to the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and all other engineering colleges, the format was changed when Kapil Sibal was HRD minister in UPA-II.

Economic Times ND 01/10/2015
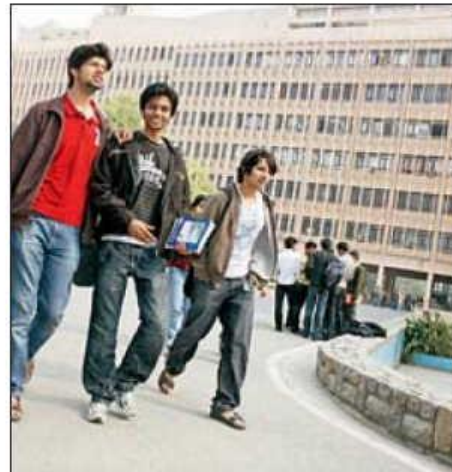
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## JOB TO BE DONE BY SELECTED SENIORS

# Tutors Planned to Help Weaker Students at IITs

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**New Delhi:** Just over two months after IIT Roorkee sparked a furore by expelling over 70 students for failing to meet academic standards, the Centre is putting together a novel 'tutor model' to handhold 'educationally weaker students' at the premier engineering colleges. The issue will be taken up with all IITs at the meeting of the IIT council on October 6.

The 'tutor model' will involve close handholding and mentoring of identified students through their seniors at the same institute. Each IIT will be asked to treat the issue on priority and identify 'educationally backward' students within one month of the academic session beginning. These students will then be tutored in identified areas by selected seniors at the same institute after regular class hours. One tutor will not address more than two such students.

"The idea is to identify the students who need additional assistance at the very start of the aca-

## IDENTIFY STUDENTS

Idea is to identify students who need assistance at the very start of session

demic session so that they do not lag behind peers. Once identified, the tutor model will work on a 1:2 format instead of the traditional 1:10 faculty-student ratio followed at IITs or the 1:30 format followed sometimes for extra classes," an official versed with the IIT council's agenda told **ET**.

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## PECKING ORDER

California Institute of Technology leads the elite global education league table, while IISC, Bengaluru, takes the top spot in India.

### TOP 10 IN THE WORLD

| Rank 2015-16 | Institution |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | California Institute of Technology |
| 2 | University of Oxford |
| 3 | Stanford University |
| 4 | University of Cambridge |
| 5 | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| 6 | Harvard University |
| 7 | Princeton University |
| 8 | Imperial College London |
| 9 | ETH Zürich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich |
| 10 | University of Chicago |

### TOP 10 IN INDIA

| Rank 2015-16 | Institution |
| --- | --- |
| 251-300 | Indian Institute of Science |
| 351-400 | Indian Institute of Technology Bombay |
| 401-500 | Indian Institute of Technology Delhi |
| 401-500 | Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur |
| 401-500 | Indian Institute of Technology Madras |
| 501-600 | Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati |
| 501-600 | Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur |
| 501-600 | Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee |
| 501-600 | Jadavpur University |
| 501-600 | Panjab University |

Source: Times Higher Education World University Ranking

MOHSIN SHAIKH/MINT

## THE RANKING

# IISc, IIT-Bombay only two Indian institutes among top 400 varsities

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NEW DELHI

Indian universities continued to fare poorly in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking, which was led by the California Institute of Technology for the second consecutive year.

According to THE, the British ranking agency, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is the best-rated Indian institution, ranked in the 251-300 grouping.

This year, only two Indian institutions have made it to the top 400—IISc and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, which was ranked in the 351-400 cohort. After the 200th rank, THE does not award individual ranking but groups institutions in blocks.

"It is good news for India that 17 of its institutions feature in this year's list of the world's best (800) universities. But it will have to work harder to compete with other emerging economies such as China, which has 37 institutions featured in this year's rankings," Phil Baty, editor of THE World University Ranking, said in an email.

"With the population of young people in the country continuing to expand, resulting in further pressure on resources, it is now more crucial than ever that India invests in research and strengthens its links with other nations. The government has spoken about improving its universities but is yet to implement an initiative in this area. It will need to act, and fast, if it wants to match up against its fellow BRIC nations and the rising stars in Asia," he added.

The biggest surprise this year is that Panjab University, Chandigarh, and IIT-Roorkee, the other two institutions besides IISc and IIT-Mumbai in the top 400 list in 2014 have slipped significantly. Panjab University and IIT-Roorkee are now in the 501-600 group.

M.K. Surappa, a former director at IIT-Ropar and now a professor of IISc, said the traditional focus on research at IISc is the reason why it is finding a good ranking, though he believes that the Bengaluru-based institute deserves a better rank.

In Asia, China's two leading universities, Peking and Tsinghua, are within the world's elite top 50 group.

Singapore's National University of Singapore with a rank of 26 is Asia's top university.

Globally, the US remains the world leader when it comes to elite universities—39 of the top 100—down from 45 last year. There are 70 European universities in the world top 200 and 34 in the UK.
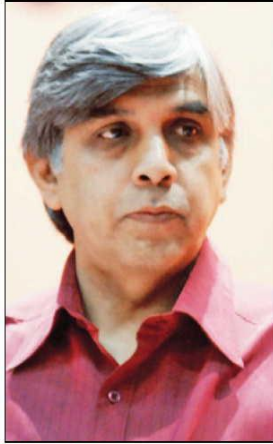
Among all the universities, California Institute of Technology leads the elite global education league table. University of Oxford (UK) is at number two spot followed by Stanford University (US) and University of Cambridge (UK) in the number third and fourth positions, respectively.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Princeton University, are the next three on the top 10 list followed by Imperial College London (UK), ETH Zürich—Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Switzerland) and University of Chicago (US) complete the top 10 list.

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# VC's name dropped from Prez trip

## HRD Ministry Protests; Senior DU Official Now Part Of Delegation

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**New Delhi:** The decision to include Delhi University vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh in the President's delegation to Palestine and Israel caused a difference of opinion between Rashtrapati Bhavan and HRD ministry. After HRD ministry protested on Tuesday, Singh's name was dropped.

An HRD source said, "We were outraged to find Singh's name. How can a VC who was served a show-cause notice by the Visitor (President) himself can be a part of his delegation? This puts both the ministry and Visitor in an embarrassing position." Sources said senior ministry officials spoke to Rashtrapati Bhavan officials and got Singh's name removed. Instead of Singh, some other senior DU official will now be part of President's delegation.

Ministry sources say the fact that Singh survived removal from the post of VC does not mean he can be part of high-level delegations. A senior official said, "Government did not process his reply to the showcause notice as a section within argued that since he has barely few months left it will be advisable to let him finish the full term. Few senior Cabinet ministers were also pleading for no action against him".

Ministry officials also point out that Singh had been defying directives. For instance, despite UGC's clear directive that three months before his term ends no policy decision or appointments should take place, DU VC allowed appointments in various colleges. Moreover, one official said, the mess created by the introduction of Four Year Undergraduate Programme is yet to be fully cleared.

Singh's term as VC ends on October 29. HRD has already set up a search-cum-selection committee under UGC chairperson Ved Prakash and consisting of former CAG Vinod Rai and space scientist K Kasturirangan for the next VC. Shortlisting of candidates has been done and the name of Singh's successor, sources said, should be finalized in next month.

**SHOW-CAUSED:** Dinesh Singh