

Newspaper Clips

October 3, 2013

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 3, 2013; Section: Times Nation; Page: 11;



Panjab Univ bests IITs in Times list

No Indian Institution In World's Top 200, But 3 Newbies In Top-400 Club

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Although no Indian institution of higher learning has made it to the top 200 in the Times Higher Education's (THE) World University Rankings list 2013-14, one new entrant — Panjab University — has come closer to the elite group.

Panjab University is the highest ranked Indian institution clubbed in the group of universities ranked between 226 and 250. According to THE, this is India's best performance so far with five institutions making it to the top 400. The other Indian institutes on the list are the Indian Institutes of Technology from Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Roorkee, all in the 351-400 slab.

Worldwide, the California Institute of Technology retains its place at the top for the third consecutive year, while Harvard University regained the second place (up

GLOBAL RANKING

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013-14

India's top 5	In the group	Last year
Panjab University	226-250	New entry
IIT-Delhi	351-400	New entry
IIT-Kanpur	351-400	New entry
IIT-Kharagpur	351-400	226-250
IIT-Roorkee	351-400	351-400

* Universities below 200 ranking have been put in the group

World's top 5	Rank	Country
CIT*	1	US
Harvard University	2	US
University of Oxford	2	UK
Stanford University	4	US
MIT**	5	US

* California Institute of Technology; ** Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Source: www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/

from fourth in 2012-13), a position shared with the UK's University of Oxford. Stanford University slips from joint second to fourth.

India's improved showing in the world-renowned rankings has seen it add three new entrants to the top 400. The in-

creased representation for India in the rankings follows a two-day National Policy Dialogue in May on international rankings, when THE representatives were invited to meet with senior university leaders by the ministry of human resources development and the

Planning Commission.

At the meeting, department of higher education secretary Ashok Thakur said Indian institutions must no longer hide behind the "excuse" that the global rankings metrics and indicators are not well suited for India's



institutions. "We must play the same game as the rest of the world is playing," he said.

The three new entrants in the top 400 are Panjab University, IIT-Delhi and IIT-Kanpur. They join IIT-Kharagpur, which slipped from the 226-250 group into the 351-400 group and IIT-Roorkee, which remains in the 351-400 group.

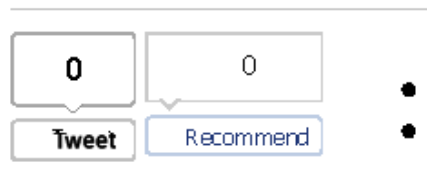
Phil Baty, editor of the THE World University Rankings, said: "These results should be encouraging for India. While no Indian institution makes the top 200, one player new to the rankings, Panjab University, is close in the 226-250 group. Moreover, India now has five representatives in the top 400 — a sign of growing commitment to the global rankings."

Japan's University of Tokyo maintains its status as Asia's number one and moves up four places to 23rd.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

MTech student from IIT slits wrist, saved

Yogita Rao, Oct 2, 2013, 05.05AM IST



Tags: [stress](#) | [Powai police](#) | [Andhra Pradesh Venkatpuram Chari](#) | [Andhra Pradesh](#)

MUMBAI: An MTech student from IIT-Bombay attempted suicide last week in his hostel room on the campus. The post-graduate student slit his wrist, and after a while approached the security guards outside the hostel. He had lost a lot of blood by then. The guards rushed him to the institute's hospital, saving him in the nick of time.

While the institute officials have not been able to ascertain the reason, the student has left for his hometown with his parents and will be back after a while. A senior institute official said that the student was under some stress. "We have not managed to establish the reason behind his act. But students go through tremendous pressure at this age. They feel responsible for their family. Getting a good job during the placement season also is worrisome for many. It is not just the BTech students who are under [stress](#)," said the official.

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A professor said that the student's parents had told the institute that their ward had problems adjusting in the hostel better off the previous year, when he was living with a roommate.

"He has gone to his hometown with his parents. The dean of the academic would decide on his joining date and other details," said the professor. Though the police were called, there is no complaint registered at the Powai police station.

While some students claim that the first phase of MTech project evaluation, which will start from this month-end, is stressful, another set of students believe it is not. "We have only the project work to deal with, so it should not be stressful. The student kept to himself and did not interact much with his classmates. He could have been under some stress, but academic," said a classmate. Not many students on the campus are aware about the incident.

In another incident, a 26-year-old youth from [Andhra Pradesh](#), Venkatpuram Chari, committed suicide at CETTM hostel near IIT Powai on September 21. Senior inspector Y L Jadhav from Powai police station claimed the youth was probably in the city to attend a seminar at the institute. According to the complaint filed, Chari left a suicide note stating he was facing financial problems and was unable to arrange money for the same.

IIT students develop mobile phone game in support of AAP

HT Correspondent

■ hreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Two IIT-Ropar students have come up with a two-level game 'Aam Aadmi Runner' in support of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

On the lines of Temple Run, a mobile phone game, level one of the game 'Evolution of a Revolution' has a runner — who resembles Kejriwal and holds AAP's symbol, the broom. He needs to dodge obstacles such as water cannons and corrupt leaders to form AAP.

On the second level, 'Fight for True Swaraj', he has to sweep through water-logged roads, electricity wires, broken flyovers and corrupt netas. "In the process, he collects votes to gain power," said Arpit Jain, who created the game with his friend Arink Verma.

Four days ago, the duo met Kejriwal, who had told them "It was a great idea to convert the agitation into a game."

They got inputs from the party, which helped them bring order to the game.

IIT-Madras tops regional round of Nobel quiz

Author: Express News Service

- Published Date: Oct 3, 2013 10:19 AM
- Last Updated: Oct 3, 2013 10:19 AM

The Bangalore regional round for the Sweden — India Nobel Memorial Quiz, to be held in New Delhi on November 16, was held in the city on Wednesday.

The Bangalore regional round for the Sweden — India Nobel Memorial Quiz, to be held in New Delhi on November 16, was held in the city on Wednesday.

A team of three students from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras won the Bangalore round.

However, the second and third places were bagged by Sapthagiri College of Engineering and PESIT, Bangalore, respectively.

The regional round was open to all college teams. The intercollegiate quiz competition is organised every year as part of the Sweden — India Nobel Memorial Week, which celebrates the spirit of the Swedish philanthropist Alfred Nobel.

Apart from Bangalore, the regional qualifying rounds will also be held in Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and New Delhi between October and November.

The national winners will win a paid trip to Sweden, where they will get to visit the headquarters of partner companies, universities and the Nobel Museum.

e-paper

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 3, 2013; Section: Editorial; Page: 18;

Delhi government proposes to reserve 12,000 seats for local students in Delhi University

Will kill brand DU

The Delhi government proposal to reserve seats in Delhi University (DU) for resident local students is fraught with problems. Not only does it ignore the fact that DU is a central university, it will also destroy meritocracy in the premier institution. Besides, coming as it does days ahead of the implementation of the model code of conduct for the Delhi assembly elections, the move is merely a last-ditch effort to gain electoral brownie points.

Consider the argument for reservations. It is the Delhi government's contention that because it provides grants to 28 DU colleges, these should reserve a proportionate number of seats for Delhi students. This means that 12 colleges would have to reserve 90% of their seats, while another 16 colleges would have to ensure a 50% local quota. But as per the DU Act and rules of affiliation, grants given by the Delhi government only entitles it to nominate members to colleges' governing bodies. As it is, DU is already bound by central reservation quotas. A local quota over and above this would have a crippling

effect on university infrastructure and quality of education.

If the argument is that local students are being crowded out by non-resident students in DU, then the solution lies in having more univer-

■ **TIMES VIEW** ■

sities. If grade inflation of students from other states is a problem, that can be neutralised by factoring it adequately into DU's admissions policy. But domicile reservations would go against the very character of DU, which prides itself on attracting the best talent from across the country. In fact, it is this diversity and heterogeneous academic environment that are responsible for making DU a coveted brand. This in turn translates into industry interest as reflected in campus placements. Local quotas would simply kill the goose that lays the golden egg.



Local's hot in US and China

Just last month, Delhi University made it to the Alma Mater Index of universities that have contributed prominent CEOs to the world. This is just the latest in its string of honours, which defy

■ **COUNTERVIEW** ■

Rudrani Jalan

other Indian educational institutions' repeated failure to get featured in global rankings. But despite having this august institution in their backyard and despite boasting an exacting school system that conscientiously preps students for excellence, Delhi's taxpayers find it increasingly impossible to get their children admitted into their local university. Outstation students coming from much more sloppy school systems are sending cut-offs soaring, and then shoving Delhiites out of the picture.

This is patently unfair. A public university's first loyalty must be towards in-state students, albeit in meritocratic fashion.

It's understandable that DU's popularity has risen in direct proportion to decline of some of the other universities that used to boast of being among the best in our country. But if Delhiites keep getting penalised for this, because they just can't keep up with grade inflation elsewhere, then DU's standards will also sink sooner or later. Such a race to the bottom has no upsides. It must be thwarted. Reserving seats for Delhiites is a perfectly respectable way of achieving this goal.

A similar practice also prevails in the world's most successful university system. In the US, seats are reserved and tuition rates at public universities highly discounted for in-state residents, to nurture students from a state and dissuade those from outside a state. Even Hong Kong has adopted a similar formula, addressing sharp gaps in school performance with the Chinese mainland by sharply raising university fees for non-local students. In short, the Delhi government's decision to reserve locals' seats in colleges that it funds is quite sensible. This is what local taxpayers demand and deserve.

It's a cultural masala at IIT-M

Author: Express News Service

- Published Date: Oct 3, 2013 7:20 AM
- Last Updated: Oct 3, 2013 7:20 AM

It was a mix of Indian and foreign cultures at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) as the premier institution observed its International Day.

It was a mix of Indian and foreign cultures at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) as the premier institution observed its International Day.

R Nagarjan, dean of International and Alumni Relations and professor, department of chemical engineering, told City Express that the day highlighted the cultural diversity in the campus to help international student acclimatise to the Indian environment. The campus has more than 80 students from across the world, of which a majority are from Germany with whom the institute had a tie-up since its formation in 1959 revealed Nagarajan. "We also have students from France, Spain, Singapore, Taiwan, Italy, Korea and Australia," he said and added that it was a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi as it the day was celebrated during Gandhi Jayanthi.

Interestingly, it was the enthusiasm among the foreign students that caught the eyes of visitors to the Student Affairs Council. Many dabbled with their native cuisines while some tried to adopt the Indian culture. Tobias Gebauer, a German student in Mechanical Engineering and Business administration in IIT-M, said that he was in India for the first time. "I've heard many good and bad things about India. This is totally a different world," he said and added that the campus is beautiful.

Gebauer also tried his hand at displaying his culinary skills. "I am preparing Arme Riter, a traditional dish from Germany that was served after Second World War," he said. "It's mostly vegetarian," he added, smiling.

For Simone, a German student at the Department of Mathematics, the Indian experience was a beautiful one. "Germans keep to themselves. They hardly mingle," she said and added that people here were friendly and helpful. "Days like this makes one open-minded and understand people better," she said.

The other foreign student, who tried to tempt people into eating his Spanish Omelette, was Angel Bueno Rodriguez. After hearing about his seniors' Indian experiences, Rodrigues opted to study in IIT-M though the University of Granada. "This is my last year. I would try to continue studying in India," said the Spaniard. He said he had heard many bad things about India but after coming out here he found most of it untrue. "I like the food, people and the culture of India," he told City Express.

20 yrs after PhD, PU scholar denied nod to guide others

NOT UP TO MARK? PU syndicate allows academicians to supervise others' research. but the principal alleges PU Punjabi department not following orders

Surender Sharma

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CHANDIGARH: The department of Punjabi, Panjab University (PU), turned down the request of a PhD holder who is also a PU senator, to guide others in research work saying that his work was 'not up to the mark'.

Awarded a PhD in 1994, Hardiljit Singh Gosal is the principal of Govind National College, Narangwal, Ludhiana. Gosal had approached the Punjabi department in July to allow him to supervise Punjabi language scholars of MPhil and PhD at his college, but was recently apprised by the department that he could not be allowed to do so.

Interestingly, Gosal did his PhD from the same department



I QUALIFY IN BOTH CATEGORIES. I HAVE COMPLETED TWO BOOKS AND RECENTLY FINISHED A UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION PROJECT.

HARDILJIT SINGH GOSAL, principal

at Punjab University.

The PU syndicate had allowed academicians in colleges to supervise the research work of others in 2012.

Gosal alleged that other departments had allowed college teachers to become guides, barring the Punjabi department of PU.

He further claimed that a

PhD with a five-year's experience of teaching postgraduates was allowed to become the guide for someone who was doing a research for the past three years.

"I qualify in both the categories. I have completed two books and recently completed a University Grants Commission project and bagged another project. Also, I am surprised

as to where did they read my research as I had not attached any work with my request," he said, further alleging that the department was doing so because they do not want to lose power by allowing college teachers to become guides in research works.

He added, "If my work was not up to the mark, why did they award a PhD to me? They should not have done so."

When contacted, PU Punjabi department chairperson Sukhdev Singh confirmed that Gosal's request was turned down. "It was not my individual decision. It was taken by an academic committee of the department," Singh said, adding that being a researcher was one thing and guiding others in researches was another.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 3, 2013; Section: Times Nation; Page: 15;

Political rock show, with Modi as star

Srijana MitraDas | TNN

Pumping bass, fluorescent lights, throbbing dance, Power Point — and Narendra . Welcome to a new-age political meet, 'Manthan' by youth group CAG, featuring over 6000 students from IITs, IIMs and colleges across India, talking with political, social and corporate minds. Topics ranged from the north-east to the PDS, increasing clean drinking water to slashing muscle power in politics. But this wasn't just a brain-storming session.

Rather, this was a political rock-show — with Narendra Modi as its star. Over 84% of the young crowd voted to hear Modi over any other politician, giving him a standing ovation before he began speaking - and another when he ended. "I am voting for Modi," a DU student said. "He has a track record and a vision." When asked about options, he retorted, "Not Rahul Gandhi! He's no youth icon, he's nearly 47!" Even a correction about Rahul's age didn't make a difference.

"I don't care." Mostly pro-Modi, students were well-informed. One IIT student said how Chandrababu Naidu hadn't factored in the US meltdown. An IIM student discussed port development while a Gujarati IIT student described Gujarat as relatively free from bribery. He men-

New youth body set up for '14 polls

A group of young professionals have come together to give voice to the views of young India. Indian CAG (Citizens for Accountable Governance) organized Manthan, a youth convention, to set the agenda for general elections in 2014 and present it before the present political leadership. But members of Indian CAG which comprises of IIT and IIM alumni among other professionals want to remain anonymous. TNN

tioned, "My milkman's a Muslim. He's happy, his children go to school, he earns well." A student from Salem said, "I think the BJP's ending its hardcore Hindutva days. In Karnataka, we saw more Muslim candidates." He added, "This is our time — we don't want divisions. We want a good GDP."

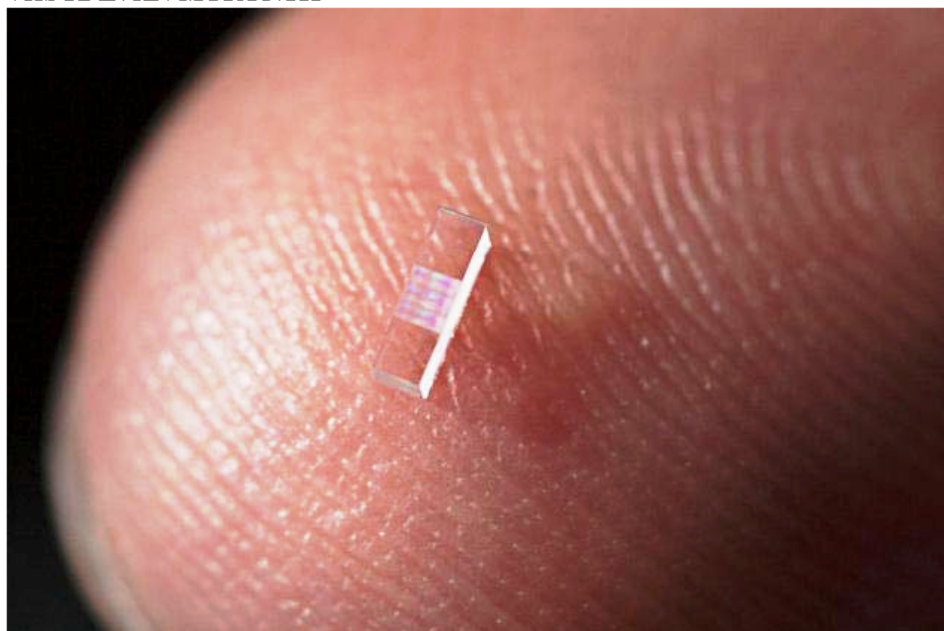
Modi promised that, sketching word paintings of optical fibres as rivers of the future, technology for transparency and how the young won't tolerate 'beimaani'. A few notions — like 'lab to land' agri-tech transfers — didn't find much traction. However, Modi made up with jibes at the PM, eliciting hearty laughter.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Published: October 3, 2013 00:50 IST | Updated: October 3, 2013 00:50 IST

Nanoscale particle accelerators

VASUDEVAN MUKUNTH



The key to the accelerator chips is tiny, precisely spaced ridges, which cause the iridescence seen above.

Broad Plummer/SLAC

Particle accelerators are important tools used to leverage the features of high-energy physics for research and diagnostics. Almost 49 per cent of the 26,000 accelerators worldwide in 2010 were used for some medical research (*Physics Today*, 2010), such as in radiotherapy to kill cancer cells in the body. These devices are typically large and costly to build and operate, although it is in public interest to enhance access to them.

Advances in accelerator physics have given scientists the freedom to think up better particle accelerators that are smaller and cheaper. New acceleration techniques “may lead to much smaller devices so that pretty much any hospital might have advanced diagnostic tools at hand,” Dr. Peter Hommelhoff, Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, Germany, said in an email.

These devices are inherently sophisticated. Typically, they have a series of stages through which particles, like electrons, are consecutively accelerated using carefully directed electromagnetic fields, before being energized some more in the final stage. Then, they can be collided against each other or at stationary targets depending on the purpose.

In a step toward achieving this goal in an affordable way, scientists from Stanford University have built a particle accelerator that could sit on your fingertip. They have achieved this by eschewing the use of electromagnetic fields using high electric input, instead using lasers to cause the necessary acceleration.

The action takes place in a tiny glass channel less wide than 1/200th the thickness of the human hair. Infrared laser light with a wavelength exactly twice the height of the channel is shined across it. The light waves have electric fields that oscillate back and forth, respectively applying accelerating and retarding forces on the electrons. A team led by Dr. Robert L. Byer, Stanford University professor and the principal investigator etched nanoscale ridges in the channel so that, as electrons passed over crests, they would accelerate much more than they retarded when passing over troughs.

“The electrons achieve an acceleration gradient of 300 million electron volts per meter or 300 MeV/m,” said Dr. Byer in an email. This gradient, the amount of energy gained across some distance, is almost 10 times more than is achieved in the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre, the world’s largest linear accelerator.

After injecting electrons already accelerated to 60 MeV into the channel, the system adds to that energy at “0.15 V per 0.5 mm,” consuming only 10 mW. At the moment, it can also handle only electrons and anti-electrons. Dr. Byer added, “In the future, we will operate at 10 million times more average power for applications in particle physics.”

He also foresees his technique providing greater access to medical research in the future, but is wary of the hurdles before such 'accelerators-on-chips' become practical tools. To achieve an acceleration gradient of 1,000 MeV/m, which Dr. Byer is aiming for, he says they will have to focus on better "coupling of power to the accelerator and focusing."

A competing method that also uses lasers, called plasma acceleration, is taking shape. While Dr. Byer's method is easier to scale up, plasma acceleration offers higher acceleration over shorter distances, according to Prof. Simon Hooker, a physicist at Oxford University.

"In plasma accelerators, the acceleration gradient is about 1,000 times smaller than possible with conventional machines, leading to an enormous saving in space and cost. This would allow accelerators and radiation sources driven by them to be brought from national-scale facilities into university and industrial labs, and into hospitals," wrote Prof. Hooker, who was not involved in Dr. Byer's study, in an email.

While laser-driven accelerators are some way off from serving high-energy physics, it seems that with lower energies and immediate cost benefits, they are still very useful for less demanding but equally necessary research. As Dr. Hommelhoff speculated, "I'd say that the future is bright for laser-driven particle accelerators."

Keywords: [Particle accelerators](#), [medical research](#), [radiotherapy](#), [Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics](#)

Printable version | Oct 3, 2013 12:31:30 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nanoscale-particle-accelerators/article5193286.ece>

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

IIT-Gandhinagar offers Rs 50 lakh for viable start-up ideas

Runa Mukherjee Parikh, TNN | Oct 3, 2013, 10:24 AM IST



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iFOREX

AHMEDABAD: The annual technical summit of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) Amalthea is ready with its fourth edition. The highlight of this year's event is the IIT-Gandhinagar incubator's initiative to support entrepreneurs with solid tech ideas. The summit, which will be held on October 19 and 20, will provide Rs 50 lakh support for innovative ideas selected after several rounds of screening.

Amalthea, one of the most significant events in the arena, is being organized since 2010 with various themes, and this year, it is 'Innovation'. "A developing country like ours needs to encourage and nurture innovation on a large scale to make it to the top. This theme will create a strong movement for innovative thinking in the country," core member of Amalthea-2013 Gaurav Sharma said.

"We have designed the event with an idea to identify, promote and celebrate outstanding innovative ideas and talents that can be demonstrated and commercialized. The event is being supported by IIT-Gn

Incubation Center (IIC) and funds have been provided by the department of information technology, Government of India," dean of research and development at IIT-Gn Professor Abhijit Mukherjee said.

While the summit will host various events, the search for innovative ideas will be held through a special event called 'Incubation for Innovation'. After preliminary screening, the selected entries will be called to the campus to give a presentation about their idea, business plan and product. Those selected will be offered to participate in a workshop on technology incubation after which teams will be selected for the final round.

"We have started receiving many entries from various parts of the country, including entries from institutes such as IIT Bombay and Guwahati. There are 16 entries from Gujarat," coordinator of the event Muzammil Rawoot said. Last year, Amalthea hosted more than 8,000 visitors.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Oct 3, 2013;Section: Times Global;Page: 20;

Google accused of illegal wiretapping

Claire Cain Miller

San Francisco: One of the world's biggest web companies, Google, must defend itself against accusations that it is illegally wiretapping in the course of its everyday business — gathering data about internet users and showing them related ads.

The accusations, made over several years in various lawsuits that have been merged into two separate cases, ask whether Google went too far in collecting user data in Gmail and Street View.

Two federal judges have ruled over Google's protests, that both cases can move forward.

The wiretapping rulings are the latest example of

judges and regulators prodding Google over privacy violations. The company is on the defensive, struggling to persuade overseers and its users that it protects consumer data, while arguing that the law is stuck in the past and has failed to keep up with new technologies.

GMAIL CASE

"It's been a bad month for Google," said Alan Butler, a lawyer at the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

The Gmail case could have broad effects because half a billion people use the service, and because if it is, as expected, certified as a class action, the fines could be enormous. Google automatically scans email messages and shows ads based on the email contents. **NYT NEWS SERVICE**