

**Newspaper Clips**  
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**Indian Express ND 18/09/2015 P-9**

**MoU WITH FOREIGN INSTITUTES**

# PMO wants institutions to seek HRD ministry approval

**RUHI TEWARI**

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

IN WHAT could make it more tedious for educational institutions to enter into agreements with foreign institutions, the government has instructed that all Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with financial implications on the government be routed through the human resource development (HRD) ministry.

In a circular dated September 8, the HRD ministry has instructed all bureau heads in the ministry to circulate instructions from the Prime Minister's Office to this effect to all institutions and bodies under them for "strict adherence".

In an office order dated

August 12, the PMO has said the "institutions coming under MHRD should seek prior approval of the ministry before signing MoU with foreign institutions in case it has financial implication on the Government of India".

Sources, however, said the HRD ministry has raised objection to this. The ministry wants "financial implications" to be defined clearly, and not be left as a broad category, since most MoUs would have some sort of such implication.

Earlier this year, following a cabinet circular asking all ministries and departments to ensure every MoU signed by an agency with any foreign country or agency be routed through the cabinet, the HRD ministry had written to the cabinet secretariat

seeking that higher educational institutions that sign a number of MoUs with foreign universities be exempted.

Following this, the cabinet secretariat in July communicated to the ministry that higher educational institutions including the IITs, IIMs and central universities won't need a Cabinet nod for collaboration with foreign institutions.

This was, however, in contrast to the ministry's own internal note prepared in January this year where it proposed that while signing any MoU for collaboration with foreign universities, Indian institutions must refer to the ministry of external affairs' advisory in context of "national interest", as well as keep the MHRD "informed". This note was, however, later buried.

Meanwhile, the prime minister had also expressed displeasure with the delay in getting the MoUs vetted by the cabinet after they were signed.

On August 14, the cabinet secretariat wrote to the Secretary, Higher Education in the HRD ministry, noting that cabinet notes on MoUs were being brought to the cabinet for post facto approval or with considerable delay from the date of signing of such MoUs and that the prime minister had "expressed displeasure" in this regard. The PM, according to the note, had directed that all MoUs that are signed and are required to be brought before the cabinet for post facto approval or information should be submitted within one month of the signing of the MoU.

# Hindustan Times ND 18/09/2015 P-13

## IITs' foreign MoUs need govt nod

**Brajesh Kumar**

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**NEW DELHI:** Higher educational institutions including the IITs, IIMs and central universities entering into foreign collaboration with "financial implications" would need prior approval from the HRD ministry, the Prime Minister's Office has instructed.

The directive forwarded to all institutions on September 8 for compliance is yet another

change in the stand of government on the matter with the Cabinet Secretariat first directing that all foreign collaborations between institutions needed prior approval of the government and then reversing it later.

In February, the Cabinet Secretariat had issued an order to all the ministries and the organisations functioning under them to seek Cabinet's prior permission before entering into an

agreement (except agreements on Culture and Science & technology) with any foreign agency.

In July, the February order was reversed with the Cabinet Secretariat saying institutions could enter into MoU with foreign institutions with only the approval of their board of governors.

The latest order from the PMO is likely to be objected by the HRD ministry which, sources said, wants more clarity on the term "financial implications".

Indian Express ND 18/09/2015 P-8

## Village of IITians struggles with a new equation

**MUZAMIL JALEEL**  
PATWA TOLI (MANPUR), SEPTEMBER 17

YOU CAN hear the clatter of looms from a distance. And as you make your way through a narrow lane that cuts through concrete structures, there are no noticeable signs of affluence. But Patwa Toli is no ordinary Bihar neighbourhood.

While the din of looms is a sign of good business, the children here have been wearing a dream, too, every year: cracking the entrance exams for top engineering colleges, including IITs. Prem Narayan Patwa, who heads this weaving community of 1,400 households, says they have sent 180 students to IITs; 30 families from here now live in the US. "One family has seven IITians. If you count all our boys and girls in engineering colleges, the number will be 800," he says.

Today, the chatter at the looms and street corners is all about the elections. Residents say they have traditionally supported the BJP but this time, they are not quite sure.

"The government has never done anything for us. This community has got everything through hard work. But we have been BJP supporters for long. We started supporting the BJP because of Ishwar Choudhary," says Patwa, who heads Vastra Udyog Bunkar Seva Samiti, an association of weavers. He is referring to the well-known BJP MP from Gaya, who was murdered in 1991.

"There are 48 booths of Wazirgunj constituency in Patwa Toli and they used to be

called 'BJP booths'. No one from any other party would even come here," he adds.

Patwa says there are two major reasons for a debate this time. "Our BJP legislator Virendra Singh has never come here. On the other hand, the Nitish Kumar government decided to move Bunkars (the weaver community) from OBC to EBC (extremely backward)," he says. "I have been involved with the BJP for a long time. I am not saying people won't vote for the party, but there are serious questions this time."

Patwa says they had written to BJP president Amit Shah with a request for "a good candidate, who is ready to soil his shoes, walk on these narrow lanes and understand our problems". But in its first list, the BJP gave the Wazirgunj ticket to Virendra Singh again.

"The government has done nothing for us. We are taken for granted because we are BJP supporters. We don't want any doles. In fact, 35-40 villages nearby are dependent on us for employment. There are 1,600 units in the neighbourhood and 80 tonnes yarn is woven into cloth every day," adds Patwa.

One factor that's keeping voters from going with Nitish is his alliance with Lalu Prasad. "We don't remember Lalu's time with fondness. There was a lot of *goanda gardi*. We are business people and don't like disruptions. If Nitish had gone alone this time, there was no doubt everybody here would have supported him," adds Patwa.

It's not as if the entire village has turned its back on Lalu. "His rule may not have been great but he has played a major role in what-

ever good has happened here," says Arun Kumar, another resident. "Lalu gave us a voice. Before him, no one from the middle and lower castes could muster the courage to say a word," he adds.

And so, the debate continues. "What has the BJP done for us? Bunkars are spread across Bihar but there is no member from our community in the BJP's central committee on Bihar or in the state unit," says Patwa.

Residents say the community will take a joint decision regarding their vote.

### The turnaround

Patwa Toli's newfound voice isn't linked solely to the spike in business. The transformation began in 1991 when Jitendra Prasad became the first in the community to crack the IIT entrance. "He became the inspiration for our children," says Patwa. "He went to the US later but by then other children had cracked the exam. Each year, the number kept growing and the seniors set up an organisation called Nav Prayas to help students. They would come during their vacation and set up coaching classes."

Villagers recount the story of Tej Narayan Prasad. His father, an illiterate insurance agent, had sent him to school to study English so that it could help in his work. He ended up as an electrical engineer from IIT Kanpur. "Bekhray Patwa's household has seven children in IITs, six boys and a girl. Jitendra's family has four in IITs. The son of a local mafia don, too, is in an IIT," says Patwa.

Then there's Dhanraj Kumar, son of Lalku



Prem Narayan Patwa in Patwa Toli. *Muzamil Jaleel*

Prasad, who declined to join IIT Kharagpur because he had "a better option". "He was among the 54 students selected in the highly competitive SCRA (Special Class Railway Apprentice) exam," says Lalku Prasad, a weaver himself. "One of my daughters is in her third year at NIT Bhopal. Another daughter will appear for her IIT entrance in 2017. I am sure she will get into an IIT."

Prasad is sitting with a group of weavers at the home of a neighbour, Amit Kumar Patwa, whose daughter Deepa qualified for

an IIT but chose an IT course at Jadavpur University instead.

Before Jitendra showed the way, there was hardly a graduate in the neighbourhood. "We would study till matric or intermediate at the most and become weavers," says Prasad. "Our women were illiterate. Today, more than a dozen of our daughters are studying engineering."

### Caste or competence

Prasad says the biggest problem in Bihar

is that MLAs are chosen more on the basis of caste than competence. "An illiterate person is as good as a buffalo and we get illiterate candidates," he says.

Rather than helping students who crack prestigious exams, the Bihar government had even suspended the OBC scholarship scheme, claims Prasad. "They would give Rs 15,000 to a student a year which is nothing. It took me dozens of trips to Patna to convince them to release this scholarship for my daughter. I am not complaining though. We would sell everything we have to fund the education of our children," he says.

The problem with governments in Bihar is that any scheme they announce takes 4-5 years to start, says Amit Kumar. "Around a dozen of our boys who completed their engineering course returned to their family business. But while the government announced a subsidy on electricity, they never got it," says Amit Kumar.

One of his nephews, Chandra Kant Pateshwari, 26, is preparing for the civil services. He says there has been a lot of change during Nitish's tenure. "He built a lot of roads. He did small things that aren't visible unless you have lived here," he says. His uncle interrupts: "But whatever Nitish did was while he was in an alliance with the BJP."

The debate is back to square one as Amit Kumar gives credit for the community getting EBC status to the JD(U)-BJP coalition. "We like Nitish. But we loved him when he had an alliance with the BJP. The choice is very tough," says Patwa.

## SIMPLY PUT



IISc Bengaluru is a new entrant in the list, and ranks 147th. IISc official web site

## How IIT-D and IISc rose in the global education pecking order

What are the QS World University Rankings? What have IIT-Delhi and IISc Bengaluru done to make the cut? RUHI TEWARI explains

### What are the QS World University Rankings?

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings, which were first published in 2004, list more than 800 of the world's top universities, based on six key performance indicators. The aim is to allow students to compare the best-performing universities in the world, sorted comprehensively by region, country and subject area.

### What criteria are followed to determine the rankings?

Six key indicators, of different weights, cumulatively determine an institution's overall score. The academic reputation of the university carries the maximum weight of 40 per cent, citations per faculty and student-to-faculty ratio carry 20 per cent weights each, employer reputation accounts for 10 per cent weightage, and international faculty ratio and international student ratio account for 5 per cent each.

### What is new with respect to India in the rankings this year?

For the first time, two Indian institutes have found a place in the top 200 list of the world's best universities. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been ranked 147th, and the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D), 179th. IIT-D was ranked 235th last year; IISc is a new entrant in ranking list. Overall, there are 14 Indian universities in the rankings this year.

### How has IIT-D improved its ranking?

IIT-D's own assessment is that the improvement is "primarily based on the quality of faculty and the research output" over the past five years. An indication of this is the fact that IIT-D has secured the 36th rank based on 'globally based citations per faculty'. It has, however, fared poorly in criteria such as the faculty-student ratio, international faculty, and international students.

### What about IISc, Bengaluru?

The absence of undergraduate courses had thus far kept IISc from fulfilling a key condition to be on the list. The institute met this criterion this year — the first batch of students admitted to a four-year undergraduate programme, Bachelor of Science (Research), graduated. Some changes in the QS methodology too has been a factor in the ranks obtained by the Indian institutes this year.

Amar Ujala ND 18/09/2015

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## सीट छोड़ने पर छात्रों को एनआईआईटी व आईआईटी वापस करेंगे एक्सेप्टेंस फीस

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी और एनआईआईटी संस्थानों को पसंदीदा संस्थान या कोर्स में दाखिला नहीं मिलने की स्थिति में सीट छोड़ने वाले छात्रों को अब जमा एक्सेप्टेंस फीस वापस करनी होगी। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने इस संबंध में छात्रों और अभिभावकों की उलझन को दूर करते हुए स्थिति स्पष्ट कर दी है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक इस संबंध में ज्वाइंट सीट एलोकेशन अथॉरिटी (जेओएसएए) और सेंट्रल सीट एलोकेशन बोर्ड (सीएसएबी) ने मामले पर विचार करते हुए पुराने नियमों में बदलाव किया है।

मंत्रालय की ओर से नोटिस में कहा गया है कि एक्सेप्टेंस फीस भेजने वाला छात्र अगर रिपोर्टिंग सेंटर में रिपोर्ट करता है और संस्थान में हिस्सा नहीं लेता है तो समझा जाएगा कि छात्र ने उस संस्थान में दाखिला लेने से इनकार कर दिया है। ऐसी स्थिति में भी आवेदक आवंटन प्रक्रिया के बाद रिफंड की मांग कर सकता है। इन मामलों में आवेदकों को एक हजार रुपये की राशि काटकर एक्सेप्टेंस फीस रिफंड कर दी जाएगी। वहीं दूसरी स्थिति में अगर कोई छात्र दाखिला लेने के बाद संस्थान को छोड़ देता है और खाली हुई सीट दूसरे छात्र द्वारा दाखिले की अंतिम तारीख तक भर जाती है तो ऐसी स्थिति में सीट छोड़ने वाले छात्र को एक महीने की फीस और हॉस्टल के किराये की राशि स्थिति के अनुसार काट कर रिफंड वापस कर दिया जाएगा।

## Hindu 18/09/2015

# IIT campus served as an American airbase during World War II

Shiv Sahay Singh

**KOLKATA:** As the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur on Wednesday paid homage to the inmates of the infamous Hijli detention camp, who were killed in police firing on September 16, 1931, the discovery of a box of negatives in Illinois, U.S., shed more light on the history of the area.

Though it is well known that the IIT campus used to house the notorious Hijli prison where many freedom fighters, including women, were kept, many are not aware that it served as a base for the American Air Force during World War II.

Allan Teller and Jerry Zbrail, a couple from Evanston, Illinois, chanced upon a box containing 127 negatives of the photographs of the region taken around 1945.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Illinois, Alan Teller, a teacher of anthropology and photography, said: "During World War II, the U.S. was planning an attack on Japan and set up bases in the Kharagpur and Hijli region. The American troops were stationed there between 1943 and 1945. The photographs we found were taken in 1945."

According to Mr. Teller,



*An American soldier in front of the Hijli tower, which is now the IIT-Kharagpur campus.*

– PHOTO: NEHRU MUSEUM,  
IIT-KHARAGPUR

the decision to open strategic bases in Hijli, Kalaikunda and Piardoba might have helped to shorten the war by six months.

Under their project 'Following the Box,' Mr. Teller and Ms. Zbrail visited most of the locations depicted in the photographs taken by American soldiers: temples, rivers

and villages. "At the IIT-Kharagpur, we located a dark room and we believe that the photographs were developed here," Mr. Teller said. The Hijli camp was the central point of activity for American troops. The photographs of American soldiers in front of the Hijli tower could be seen at Maxwell Airforce Base in Huntsville, U.S.

The couple will return to India in December to hold an exhibition of the photographs at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi in January.

The place where the Hijli camp stood is now the Nehru Museum of the IIT-Kharagpur. "The IIT-Kharagpur has grand plans for the Nehru Museum, and we hope the endeavour of Allan Teller and Jerry Zbrail will enrich the history of the place. We requested them to hold an exhibition of the photographs at the institute," said Dhrubojyoti Sen, Professor of Civil Engineering and Faculty in charge of the Nehru Museum.

Though the couple have located the region depicted in the photographs, only half of the mystery has been solved because they are yet to find out who the photographer was.

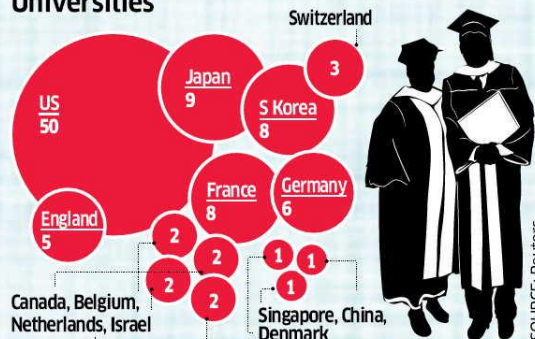
# Stanford World's Most Innovative University

Stanford edged out tech giants such as MIT and Ivy League stalwart Harvard to emerge No. 1 in a Reuters ranking of the world's top 100 innovative universities. Fifty of the 100 institutions are from the US while 27 are European, according to the listing compiled by the Intellectual Property & Science business of Thomson Reuters. Japan is home to nine of the 100, second only to the US. Eight universities each in France and Germany found place in the ranking. While no Indian university made it to the list, China's Tsinghua University, a research varsity located in Beijing, came 72nd. The ranking criteria, based on 10 metrics, focused on academic papers and patent filings. Top-listed Stanford's faculty and alumni have founded some of the biggest tech companies in the world, including Hewlett-Packard, Yahoo and Google. According to a 2012 study by the university, companies formed by Stanford entrepreneurs generate total global revenue of \$2.7 trillion annually. Here's a look...

## Top 20 Innovative Universities

Rank	University	Country	Score
1	Stanford University	US	1,685
2	Massachusetts Institute of Tech	US	1,671
3	Harvard University	US	1,609
4	University of Washington	US	1,576
5	University of Michigan System	US	1,562
6	Northwestern University	US	1,558
7	University of Texas System	US	1,557
8	University of Wisconsin System	US	1,548
9	University of Pennsylvania	US	1,519
10	Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Tech	S KOREA	1,515
11	Imperial College London	ENGLAND	1,478
12	Pohang University of Science & Tech	S KOREA	1,470
13	University of California System	US	1,469
14	University of Southern California	US	1,462
15	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	US	1,460
16	KU Leuven	BELGIUM	1,453
17	Duke University	US	1,441
18	Osaka University	JAPAN	1,429
19	Johns Hopkins University	US	1,424
20	California Institute of Technology	US	1,420

## Countries Home To Reuters Top 100 Innovative Universities



## GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2015 REPORT

# India ranks 81 among 141 countries

Behind Brazil, China and South Africa; Switzerland tops the list

ISHAN BAKSHI  
New Delhi, 17 September

India ranks 81 out of 141 countries on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2015, well behind middle income countries such as Brazil, China and South Africa. But, in the Central and Southern Asia region, it retains its top spot in the regional ranking, followed by Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka. Globally, Switzerland, followed by the United Kingdom, Sweden, Netherlands and the US are ranked as the most innovative countries in the world.

The GII 2015, released on Thursday, is calculated on the basis of how a country fares on seven key parameters — institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology outputs and creative outputs.

According to the report, top scoring middle income economies, such as China, Brazil and India are closing the gap with the developed

## DOWN THE LADDER



world on innovation quality, in large part fuelled by an improvement in the quality of higher education institutions.

India, along with China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Jordan, Kenya and Uganda, is part of a group of countries that are outperforming their eco-

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	United Kingdom
3	Sweden
4	Netherlands
5	USA
29	China
60	South Africa
70	Brazil
81	India

### Central and Southern Asia

1	India
2	Kazakhstan
3	Sri Lanka

Source: Global Innovation Index 2015

nomics peers, with India being one of the eight economies that can be signalled as innovation achievers outperforming their peers on overall score.

Despite falling five positions in the overall rankings since 2014, India, along with 10 other developing coun-

tries, is now categorised as innovation outperformers. The "relative fall in India's overall ranking this year is due to availability of old data up-to 2103-14 period, and it does not truly reflect the performance of the economy in last one year" said Chandrajit Banerjee, director general of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). "The new innovation policies put in place by the new Indian government, which are not yet effectively captured by the data used in the GII", he added.

The report says India's strength lies in knowledge diffusion (ranked 34th), research & development (44th), general infrastructure (43rd) and investment (42nd). On innovation quality, it ranks 3rd among middle income countries, behind Brazil.

The report notes that this year, the country has made substantial improvements in patents filed.

But despite its notable achievements, the report contends that "India still needs to

implement substantial reforms in its innovation policy to further improve its innovation performance." The country has consistently "performed poorly during the past four years in political stability, ease of starting a business, tertiary inbound mobility and environmental performance" it adds.

India's poor performance on the ease of doing business is well recorded. The country ranks 142 on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business. The revised rankings are likely to be released later this month, which will shed light on the progress made by the country on improving the ease of doing business over the past year.

On the innovation sub-indices, the country performs poorly on institutions (ranked 104th) and infrastructure (87th), with the report noting that its position has deteriorated in human capital and research (103rd), market sophistication (72nd), business sophistication (116th) and creative outputs (95th).