Newspaper Clips
March 12-14, 2016

Business Standrad ND 23.09.2016 P-22

IISc edges closer to top 200 in Times World University Rankings

Moves up from 251–300 to 201–250 band; 31 institutes represent India

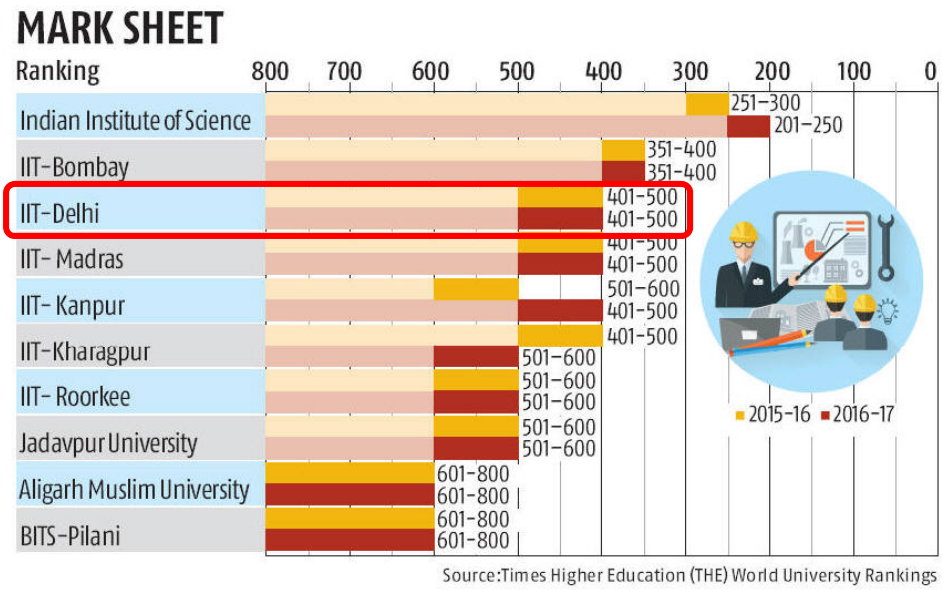
BS REPORTER
Ahmedabad, 22 September

Efforts to improve the research quality and global benchmarking seem to be paying off for the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, whose position moved up from the 251-300 to 201-250 band in the 13th edition of Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) this year. With this, the premier institute is inching closer to the top 200 global institutes in the rankings.

IISc and Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) were the two institutions from India that have made it to the top 400 in THE WUR. While IIT-B maintained its spot in the 351-400 cohort, IIT Kanpur moved from 501-600 band to 401-500 band. The rankings also saw 14 new institutes debuting from India. In all, 31 institutions from India represented the country in the 980-long list.

Now, in its 13th year, THE WUR applies rigorous standards, using tough global benchmarks across all key areas of an institute such as teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook. However, the 980 names in the rankings represent just five per cent of the world's higher education institutions.

According to Phil Baty, editor of THE WUR, this year, calculations of the rankings have been subject to an independent audit by professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Source:Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings

"India takes 31 places in this year's expanded list of the world's top universities. Its leading university, IISc, is also edging closer to the top 200, claiming a spot in the 201-250 band — its highest ever position. IIT-B once again features in the 351-400 band. The nation has four new entries in the top 800. India's strong performance is partly thanks to the country recognising the importance of participating in global benchmarking exercises; just last month, the government launched a new funding-backed project aimed at catapulting Indian Institutes of Technology to the top of world university rankings," said Baty.

Baty also highlighted of the Indian government's efforts towards creating world-class universities. "THE WUR features an increasing number of leading east-Asian universities that are beginning to rub shoulders with the global elite. It is encouraging that the Indian government has the same ambition to create world-class universities and that its leading institutions are already edging towards the world top 200."

Asian Age ND 23.09.2016 P-4

Record 31 Indian varsities make it to world's top list

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, SEPT. 22

India has improved its position in the global higher education, with a record 31 educational institutions making it to a new list of the worlds top varsities topped by the University of Oxford.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, is Indias top institution in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2016-17 list released on Wednesday, up nearly 50 places from its 2015 rank.

Only two Indian universities have made it to the top 400 universities list.IISc (201-250 group), up from 2015's 251-300 group, is accompanied by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay (351-400 cohort), in the top 400 table.

There is no Indian university in the coveted top 200 list.

This years list, which includes 14 new entrants, is topped by University of Oxford, the first UK university to top in the 12-year history of the table. Five-time topper California Institute of Technology came second while Stanford University was ranked third.

"But the star of the region is India, which has 31 universities in the list. Its leading university 'The Indian Institute of Science' is edging closer to the top 200, claiming a spot in the 201-250 band, its highest ever position and the country has four new entries in the top 800," said Phil Baty, the ranking editor. "India's strong performance is because of its recognition of importance of participating in global benchmarking exercises."

HALL OF FAME

- Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
- IIT Delhi 401-500 bracket
- IIT Kanpur
- IIT Madras
- IIT Kharagpur
- IIT Roorkee
- Jadavpur University
- Aligarh Muslim University
- Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
- University of Calcutta
- University of Delhi
- IIT Guwahati
- NIT Rourkela
- Panjab University
- Savitribai Phule Pune University
- Sri Venkateswara University
- Tata Institute of Fundamental
- Tezpur University

Tribune ND 23.09.2016 P-10

ISRO to launch IIT-B students' satellite 'Pratham' on Monday

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

Indian space agency ISRO will shoot off the "Pratham" satellite designed and built by students of the IIT-Bombay among the eight satellites, including its weather satellite, on Monday, an official said here.

Conceptualised in 2008 with the aim of making IIT-B a centre for space science and technology research, the satellite weighs just 10 kg, is designed to fit within a cube of 30 cm, and has a life span of around four months.

"The objective of Pratham is to empower the students involved with the skill set required to develop a satellite through various stages of design, analysis, fabrication and testing," said the official.

The project will also kickstart a collaboration between IIT-B and other Indian universities keen to contribute in the space sector and to share knowledge and facilities.

This has led to completion of ground-stations for tracking the satellite in several college, including the Atharva College of Engineering here.

The IIT-B has collaborated with some international universities like UCL, London and IPGP, Paris for the project.

Pratham will transmit data when it passes over India and any university with a small ground station can detect its signals and measure the total electron counts (TEC) above the ground station as part of the education process to spread awareness among the students.

The student-designed satellite's mission is four-fold: acquiring knowledge in the field of satellite and space technology, to fully design it by the students of IIT-B, launch it and measure TEC of ionosphere above India and Paris, and involve students from other universities in the satellite project, said the official.

Pratham's payload instrument comprises two monopole antennae transmitting at 145.98MHz and 437.45MHz.

Measuring 30.5 cm by 33.4cm by 46.6 cm, it weighs 10.12 kg, is made of aluminium alloy and other space-grade materials, and has an on board computer.

It has three monopoles, GPS, magnetometer, sun sensors, magnetorquers and is powered by Li-ion battery and four solar panels.

It will be positioned in a sun-synchronous orbit around 670 km away and will pass over India around 11.30 a.m.

For the project, entirely funded by the IIT-B, the ISRO has provided lot of technical help in terms of testing and guidance and the integration of the flight model of Pratham for which tests have been carried out in ISAC, Bangalore and SHAR, Sriharikota.

Each year in September, a rigorous selection test was conducted for all IIT-B students from which they were inducted into the Pratham team and formalized after ascertaining their satisfactory work. — IANS

Exclusively for students

- Pratham (pic), a satellite, has been designed to empower students involved with the skill set required to develop a statellite
- It will transmit data when it passes over India and any university with a small ground station as part of the education process

COURTESY: FACEBOOK

- The satellite's mission is to acquire knowledge in space technology and involve students from other universities to help design satellite

Times of India ND 23.09.2016 P-04

IIT-D's road campaign gains traction

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Indian Road Safety Campaign, started in Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, after several students died in a car crash, is travelling great distances. It now has students of 15 colleges on board and is reaching out to schools as well. In the three years since it started, they've made interventions in the form of design and traffic management in Samaypur Badli (Delhi), Tonk and Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan) and Ranchi (Jharkhand).

"We ask interns who work with us to spot traffic problems in their hometowns, devise solutions and also approach the authorities to implement them," said Amar Srivastava, who graduated from IIT-Delhi this year.

The campaign harnesses the power of students through residential internships. Every summer, IIT-Delhi hosts between 150 and 200 students from across India who participate in one of two types of internships — policy-based and technical.

Srivastava said, "The interns identify areas prone to traffic hazards, talk to all stakeholders — traffic police, passengers — and take the help of experts in IIT to come up with a proper solution." The campaigners then communicate their solutions to the authorities.

SAFETY FIRST

At Gangapur, an underbridge that can be used even during the rains, was built. A sewage treatment plant was built to drain water to prevent flooding. In Mahesh Nagar, Tonk, a T-junction notorious for its traffic jams was cleared with a traffic light "with in-pavement detectors."

"Sensors buried under the road sense the traffic" and operate the traffic signals accordingly. They've even suggested changes for Samaypur Badli. At IIT-Delhi, they work with the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP). They also work informally with other IITs and engineering institutes including Delhi Technological University.

They have NGOs to conduct workshops and experts to deliver lectures. They have had doctors from AIIMS speak to them. "Some problems with traffic have to do with social and behavioural issues, but there may be technical problems as well. The engineering interns typically deal with those while the others work on the social and policy aspects.

While TRIPP has funded the competitions, the campaign is now crowd-funding its expansion. Till now, Srivastava has been footing most of the bills but is now raising funds for the "day-to-day functioning."

Hindustan ND 23.09.2016 P-15

Teaching quotas must in IIMs: HRD ministry

LAYING THE LAW Sources say that a number of IIMs are facing difficulties in getting quality faculty and are unable to fill quota seats

Neelam Pandey
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The human resource development ministry (HRD) has said the elite Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) will have to provide reservation in teaching appointments.

According to sources, the ministry pointed out that reservation is provided in the Constitution and no one can bypass it.

"There are a few technical and research institutes that are exempted but IIMs are not. A number of them are already following the reservation policy in faculty," said a source.

"There might be a few who are not implementing it completely but there is no complete defaulter. Many don't get enough candidates".

Sources further said that a number of IIMs face difficulty in getting quality faculty and are unable to fill the quota seats. The ministry said that it was a temporary arrangement if they are not able to follow reservation completely as they are unable to get candidates but are not exempted.

■ Quota has been a contentious issue with IIMs. HT FILE

HT on September 15 had reported that IIMs will have to follow the reservation in teacher appointments, which has been a contentious issue. Sources said that many of the country's 20 IIMs have resisted introducing reservation in appointment of faculty, citing quality concerns. The government in 2008 asked all centrally funded institutions, including Indian Institutes of Technology and IIMs, to set a quota for SC, ST and OBCs in teaching positions.

On September 20, HRD minister Prakash Javadekar held a meeting of chairmen and directors of IIMs at IIM-Shillong and discussed the issue, sources said.

There were protests against the move. Then HRD minister Arjun Singh had brought in a bill exempting India's leading education institutes, including IITs and IIMs, from reservation. The Rajya Sabha passed the bill but not the Lok Sabha. The proposed law lapsed after the 14th Lok Sabha was dissolved.

IITs, despite strong reservations, toed the government line while recruiting assistant professors but IIMs remained defiant.

In 2013, higher education secretary Ashok Thakur asked IIMs to follow the reservation system after a parliamentary panel pointed out that the business schools were not following the quota system.

Javadekar's predecessor Smriti Irani had in April again asked IIMs if they were following the reservation policy.

Hindustan ND 23.09.2016 P-12

देश में 20 विश्वस्तरीय उच्च शिक्षण संस्थान विकसित होंगे

तैयारी

नई दिल्ली | पीयूष पांडेय

देश में 20 विश्वस्तरीय उच्च शिक्षण संस्थान विकसित करने के लिए केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और नीति आयोग ने रणनीति तैयार की है।

सरकार ने अगले बजट में इसके लिए अलग से कोष आवंटित करने का निर्णय लिया है। चयनित संस्थानों को सरकार द्वारा शैक्षणिक स्तर, सुविधाओं और ढांचागत व्यवस्थाओं के लिए वित्तीय सहायता दी जाएगी।

सहमति बनीः मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर और नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष अरविंद पनगढ़िया के बीच 20 शिक्षण संस्थानों को विश्व स्तरीय बनाने पर विचार-विमर्श हुआ। जावड़ेकर ने आयोग द्वारा तैयार की गई रूपरेखा से सहमति जताई। आयोग के एक अधिकारी के मुताबिक 2016-17 बजट में विश्व रैंकिंग के अनुरूप देश के संस्थानों को बनाने की घोषणा को अप्रैल, 2017 से लागू करने का निर्देश प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने आयोग और मंत्रालय को दिया है। जावड़ेकर और पनगढ़िया के बीच संस्थानों के चयन, विश्व स्तरीय सुविधाओं से लैस करने और विदेशी शिक्षकों की विशेष कक्षा की व्यवस्था करने पर चर्चा हुई। आयोग ने विश्व रैंकिंग में अच्छे स्थान पर काबिज उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में सुविधाओं का एक प्रस्तुतीकरण भी दिया।

अलग से कोष मुहैया कराने को मंजूरी मिली

वैश्विक रैंकिंग संस्था के मापदंडों पर 10 सरकारी और उतने ही निजी संस्थानों को खरा उतारने के पहलू पर मंत्रालय व आयोग ने मिलकर रणनीति तैयार की है। दोनों ने पीएमओ से संस्थानों को विकसित करने के लिए अलग से कोष मुहैया कराए जाने की सिफारिश की थी जिसे मंजूरी मिल गई है। अब वित्त मंत्रालय द्वारा वर्ष 2017-18 के बजट में इसके लिए अलग से धन जारी किया जाएगा। आयोग का मानना है कि सिर्फ वित्तीय स्वायत्तता या सहायता ही किसी संस्थान को आगे ले जाने का रास्ता नहीं है। इसीलिए आयोग ने हरेक उस पहलू पर विचार किया, जो विश्व के जाने-माने शिक्षण संस्थान के शीर्ष पर होने की वजह बनेगा। आयोग और मंत्रालय इस योजना में आईआईटी, सरकारी व निजी विश्वविद्यालयों समेत डिग्री प्रदान करने वाले सभी संस्थानों में से 20 को चुनेगा।

Scientists at IIT- Roorkee develops Smart Inverter Controller Device

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Scientists-at-IIT-Roorkee-develops-Smart-Inverter-Controller-Device/articleshow/54463309.cms

Roorkee: Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) on Wednesday claimed to have developed a Smart Inverter Controller Device (SICD) which they said will help in efficient and economical use of solar energy as well as conventional energy.

Professor Kamal Jain of the institute's civil engineering department said the smart device has been devised "to increase the optimal utilization of solar energy in those residential or commercial buildings where solar photovoltaic panels and conventional electricity panels are being used simultaneously by consumers."

He added that such a device was till now not available in India but was needed to make use of solar energy economical and widespread.

The solar energy is stored in batteries and an inverter converts this (DC) energy to be an AC energy for general electricity supply to household requirements. And in conventional grid power, the AC energy is taken first to inverter to charge up the batteries.

According to the scientists involved in this project, the main requirement of a consumer is that his inverter battery should remain fully charged all the time.

"When battery would be charged from solar energy, the device would automatically disconnect grid electricity of the house," scientist Sushil Sharma said.

The SICD first monitors the discharge patterns of the battery as per the consumption of power by the user and then adjusts itself. This device also records weather conditions.

"The device is like a set-top box of any TV. The cost of this device is Rs 5, 000," the professor said.

"Our device can be used to adjust the charge/discharge cycle; and we have noticed this device makes the normal life of batter to double too," added the professor.

‘Quick healing of wounds to be a reality soon’

http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer

KANPUR: Nanocomposite materials may soon play a key role in faster healing of wounds in human body. A scientist at the Indian Institute of TechnologyKanpur (IITK), Dr Ashish Diwedi, said experts were working hard to develop a unique nanocomposite which could be used for medicinal purpose.He said deep wounds sustained by patients of diabetes took a long time to heal with existing medicines. “However, nanocomposite material will help in easy and quick healing,” said Dr Diwedi. He said nanocomposite material would be available in the form of readymade healing bandage which would help in fast healing and check formation of pus. Dr Diwedi said in view of the research, it was expected that the material would be available to patients within next oneandahalf year. He said research was on to develop certain antibiotics with nanomaterials. “These antibiotics will be highly effective. Trial of the newlydeveloped nanomaterial has been done successfully at various labs,” he added. “Nanomaterial has gained greater importance in every field due to its potential and effectiveness. Nanomaterial is also being used in defence sector to produce sophisticated arms and ammunition. It is

also being used in developing hitech uniform for army personnel," he said.A nanocomposite is a matrix to which nanoparticles are added to improve a particular property of a material. The properties of nanocomposites have caused researchers and companies to consider using this material in several fields.