

## Newspaper Clips September 6, 2016

Pioneer ND 6/09/2016 p-5

# India has big deficiency in quality of education despite IITs: Pranab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Pranab Mukherjee on Monday regretted the fact that despite of prestigious institutions like IITs, NITs and IIMs, country is ridden with “big deficiency” in the quality of education. At the same time Mukherjee, on the occasion of Teacher’s Day, indicated that the flow of Indian students to institutions abroad too needs to be reversed.

“Our IITs, our NITs are excellent so far as campus recruitment is concerned. Despite this infrastructure, there is a “big deficiency” in terms of quality of education. Unless we have the quality of education, you cannot build a knowledge society. Unless you build the knowledge society, you cannot occupy your rightful place in the comity of nations,” Mukherjee said at the National Teachers Awards.

Mukherjee said from 6th century BC to 12 century AD--the heydays of Taxila to the collapse of Nalanda-India was the leading centre of higher education and Indian universities attracted mighty minds from all across the globe in form of teachers and students.

“Today, every year more than 60,000 students leave our country for higher education to Oxford, Cambridge, MIT etc. We shall have to make this flow reverse. This reversal of flow cannot be made only in the universities but a beginning has to be made at the primary level, Mukherjee said.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar and his deputies Upendra Kushwaha and Mahendra Nath Pandey were also present at the event.

In his speech, Mukherjee



President Pranab Mukherjee honours a teacher as Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar and Mos for HRD, Upendra Kushwaha look on during the National Award to Teachers 2015 function on the occasion of Teacher’s Day in New Delhi on Monday  
Alwin Singh | Pioneer

said he was the Visitor of 114 central institutions, including 30 NITs, 16 IITs, 45 universities, management institutions etc. There are 732 universities and 36,000 degree colleges in the country presently.

Javadekar also echoed Mukherjee’s thoughts, saying while 27 crore students were enrolled and access of education had spread, it was quality which was the biggest challenge.

On the occasion

Mukherjee also lauded the second President of the country, S Radhakrishnan, on whose birthday Teachers’ Day is celebrated. He said he realised that a nation cannot be built unless it rests on the solid foundations of education.

Javadekar raised the issue of lakhs of teaching posts being vacant in the country and said he would hold a conference with Chief Ministers and assure the Centre’s assistance in this regard.

Hindustan Times ND 6/09/2016 P-1

# Declining IIT cutoffs spark fears of falling standards

**Neelam Pandey**

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**NEW DELHI:** The IITs are struggling to get the best students, so much so that cutoff marks have been lowered in the past two years to fill seats in the country's premier engineering institutes.

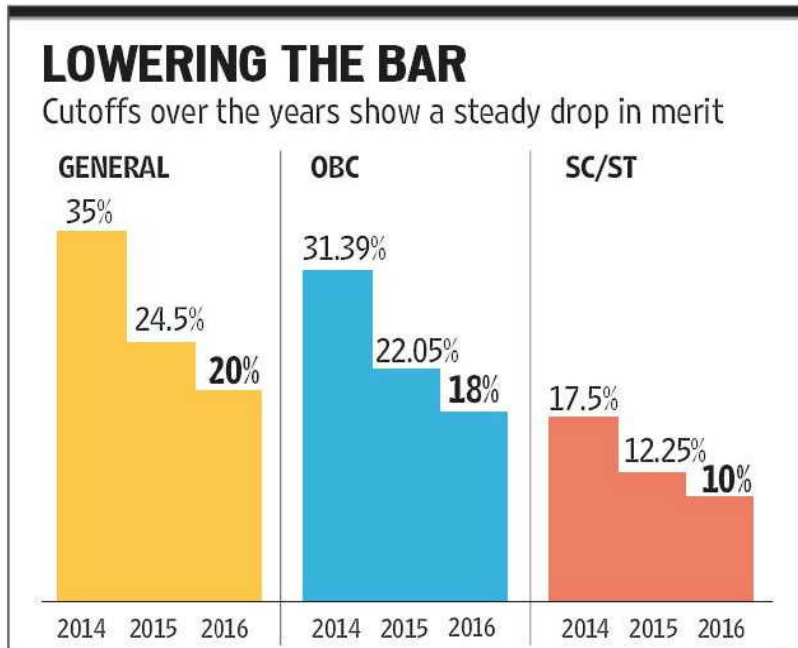
Marks as low as 75 out of 372 in the joint entrance examination (JEE-Advance) this year were good enough to land a general category student a seat in one of the 23 IITs. Reserved category students — Dalits, tribals, and people with disability — had to get only 38 to secure admission.

This comes at a time the IIT Council decided to increase the number of students from around 70,000 to 100,000 over the next three years, enrolling even day scholars for the first time.

The lowered benchmark has raised questions about academic quality.

IIT-Roorkee expelled 11 BTech students early this year for poor academic performance. Last year, the premier institute expelled 72 students for dismal academic record, but re-admitted them later.

Experts said tough question papers and negative marking in the entrance examination had



Source: IITs

resulted in a shortfall of candidates meeting the benchmark, thus forcing the IIT management to lower the bar.

Doubts over a fall in standard have been dismissed.

“The teaching-learning process at IITs is intense, and many students who come with low ranks in JEE turn out to be gems when they pass the BTech programme,” said the director of an IIT who didn't wish to be named.

A former director suggested

improving the education standard at schools so that students could pass the entrance exam for IITs with higher grades. Of 147,678 students who appeared for this year's JEE (Advanced), 36,566 qualified.

“Maintaining quality is a major issue which is why IITs coach such students so that they are on par with the rest. Students who were expelled by IIT-Roorkee in 2015 have done much better now with extra help, coaching from other students and faculty.”

Business Standard ND 6/09/2016 p-20

# IISc, 6 IITs slip in QS World University Rankings 2016-17

Indian institutions' consistent decline attributed to relatively low numbers of PhD-qualified researchers and low international faculty ratio

VINAY UMARJI

Ahmedabad, 5 September

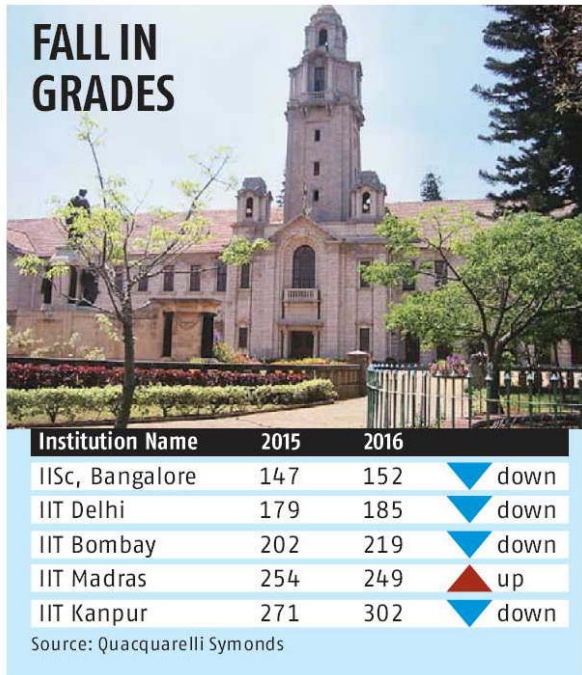
A relatively low number of doctoral students coupled with globally insufficient faculty-student ratio have resulted in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, along with six of seven top-ranked Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), slip in the 13th edition of the QS World University Rankings 2016-17.

Compiled by global higher education think tank Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the ranking saw Massachusetts Institute of Technology being ranked as the world's best university for the fifth consecutive year, while India's highest ranked institution IISc Bangalore dropped out of the top 150 to be ranked at 152nd this year, down from 147 last year.

Six IITs, including Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati too slipped, while IIT Madras improved by five places to break into the global top 250 universities.

Among the six premier institutes, IIT Delhi was ranked at 185 place for 2016-17, against 179 last year, IIT Bombay at 219 (against 202 last year), IIT Kanpur 302 (271), IIT Kharagpur 313 (286), IIT Roorkee 399 (391) and IIT Guwahati in the 481-490 band, against 451-460 band last year.

In terms of different parameters, four Indian institutions remain among the world's top 100 for research impact, as measured by QS' citations per faculty metric, the education



think tank stated in an official communiqué. However, this is one fewer than in the 2015-16 installment. IIT Madras drops eight ranks to 101st for research impact.

On the upside, IISc Bangalore is now ranked as the world's 11th best research institution, according to the citations per faculty scoring, data for which was sourced using Elsevier's Scopus database.

Ben Sowter, head of research at the QS Intelligence Unit, attributed Indian institutions' consistent falls to factors such as relatively low numbers of PhD-qualified researchers and low international faculty ratio, among others. According to Sowter, numbers of PhD-

qualified researchers have a direct impact on research productivity and impact of Indian universities. Sowter further noted that no Indian institution ranks above 700th for QS' international faculty ratio metric.

"This year's rankings imply that levels of investment are determining who progresses and who regresses. Institutions in countries that provide high levels of targeted funding, whether from endowments or from the public purse, are rising. On the other hand, Western European nations making or proposing cuts to public research spending are losing ground to their US and Asian counterparts. The performance of Indian institutions

in our recent regional rankings suggests that India is gaining some ground on its regional competitors. Though India is making substantial and commendable progress towards ensuring that more of its tertiary-age population has access to tertiary education, the global edition indicates that substantial challenges remain," said Sowter.

Further, nine Indian institutions also fell for faculty-student ratio, which measures the ability of universities to maintain class sizes conducive to high-quality teaching, thereby showcasing institutional teaching quality by proxy. This year's findings suggest Indian universities are still struggling to provide both the quantity of quality faculty members necessary to meet rapidly-increasing student demand.

The QS World University Rankings called for considerable investment, in terms of human and capital for Indian institutions to remain competitive and upwardly mobile in the rankings even as the ministry of human resource development continues to target further increases in Gross Enrolment Ratios for the tertiary sector.

Meanwhile, globally Stanford University displaced the University of Cambridge in the top three positions, with Harvard moving to second position. Further, while countries like Russia, China, South Korea and Japan saw considerable improvements, others like the UK, France and Italy lost ground in the QS World University Rankings.

## **IIT team in Bangladesh to meet students**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/iit-team-in-bangladesh-to-meet-students-116090500653\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/iit-team-in-bangladesh-to-meet-students-116090500653_1.html)

A delegation from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) is in Bangladesh to meet high school and university students as part of the Indian High Commission's efforts to provide an opportunity for Bangladeshi students to pursue engineering at the premier engineering institutes.

The delegation is on a visit to Bangladesh from Sep 4-7. They are interacting with interested students in Dhaka on Sep 4 and 5 and will be in Chittagong on Sep 6 and 7.

The primary objective of the visit is to make students in Bangladesh aware about the IITs and provide them a clear idea about admissions.

The delegation will also survey and prepare the ground for holding Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), which is planned to be conducted in Bangladesh as well from 2017.

They met higher secondary students at DPS- STS School, Uttara, and final year engineering students at the Dhaka University campus on Sunday. On Monday, the delegation was to meet final year engineering students at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at 11 a.m..

The delegation will meet the higher secondary students at Aga Khan School in Uttara, and interact with interested students in Chittagong on September 6 and 7, the High Commission said.

The IIT delegation would address two groups of students separately - Group A for students in Class 11 and 12, set to appear for the JEE, and Group B for students in final year of engineering target audience for (GATE) 2017.

The JEE (Advanced) 2017 will be conducted in the month of May 2017 and GATE 2017 in the first and second weekends of February.

## **National PG College gets IIT Bombay courses**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/National-PG-College-gets-IIT-Bombay-courses/articleshow/54022251.cms>

LUCKNOW: National PG College (NPGC) students will get an opportunity to study what is being taught in IIT Bombay with as many as 28 basic computer learning modules available for online from next week.

"The link of the 'Spoken tutorials' developed by IIT Bombay will be made available on the college's official website. From registration to examination, everything will be online. The course will be certified by IIT Bombay," said NPGC principal SP Singh. Students, while studying or after graduation, can enrol themselves for computer course for better job opportunities. The online course will help students of all streams to gain IT knowledge without paying any fees, he added.

The courses include MS office, The Perl programming language, Inkscape, C++, PowerPoint presentation and other short term courses. All courses offered, of the duration of three to six months, will be available for free. "Our seniors are pursuing tally and computer basic courses, the spoken tutorials will help us to pursue courses online. It would be time-saving as we don't have to rush from college to computer coaching," said Anandita Dixit, a BCom student.

## **IIT Indore , Cambridge varsity win tech contest**

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

INDORE: A joint team of IITIndore and Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge bagged the first prize in the National Technical Institutes Competition 2016 held in Pune on Friday. The team won the prize for its project titled ' Smart Manufacturing' at the Manufacturing Today Awards & Conference 2016. The project aims to apply technology to build machines with artificial intelligence so as to accelerate bulk manufacturing procedures and make India a manufacturing powerhouse. The project, being carried out under the partnership of FICCI and UK' Royal Academy of Engineering, focuses on capacity building in collaborative research for advanced manufacturing. Students of IITIndore also got the chance to be mentored by the faculty of University of Cambridge under this project. This project finds its place under the Newton Bhabha fund which builds science, innovation and research and development ties between India and The UK and is sponsored by both the governments. Team members Karthich S, research fellow, Newton Bhabha Project; Vaibhav Bedi, Project Staff, Newton Bhabha Project and Vibhore Pandhare, M Tech, IIT Indore and research associate at IIT Mumbai presented the project under the mechanical engineering department of IITIndore . The research work is focused on developing a system that enables embedded intelligence in manufacturing equipment through effective data gathering, communication, analytics and decision making capabilities. The team demonstrated their research using 3D printing technology, computational and sensing infrastructures. Representatives of TATA Motors, JCB, Nokia and Mahindra appreciated the research work at the conference. "A number of MNCs have showed interest in collaboration with IIT Indore," said Dr Nirmala Menon, facultymedia coordinator IITIndore . "We wish to enable the recognition and adoption of smart manufacturing paradigm within India's manufacturing sector," stated Dr Bhupesh Lad, assistant professor (Mechanical engineering) IITIndore and a faculty in the project.