

Delhi pride DU retains spot on top 100 univ list

But only 4 Indian institutes make it

By **Mail Today Bureau** in New Delhi

FOUR Indian institutes, including Delhi University, have made it to a list of top 100 varsities in the world for undergraduate studies in the year 2014. IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and IIT-Kanpur are the other three on the list.

Delhi University, which has started a slew of new initiatives, including the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP), in recent years, has moved two positions up on the list from 99 to 97.

The top three ranks have however been bagged by American universities, with Harvard University topping the list released by *Youth Incorporated*, a leading youth magazine in Mumbai. Rank 2 and 3 have been given to Stanford University and University of Pennsylvania, respectively.

The universities were judged on a scale of 100 points while considering factors such as value for money, student and recruiter satisfaction, infrastructure and facilities and teaching methodologies to decide their ranks. While DU has scored 52 points, with a score of 93, IIT-Bombay has moved down from 19 last year to 24, a post by *Youth Incorporated* said.

The Global University Rankings 2014 were released by *Youth Incorporated*, Education Times and Rediff.com.

According to the list, IIT-Delhi is at rank 27 with a score of 92.4. The premier institute has maintained its ranking from last year

which was 27 in the 2013 list also. On the other hand IIT-Kanpur has slipped from its last year's rank of 79 and come down to 86 with a score of 60.2.

The Global University Rankings 2014 also gave out a list of top Asian Universities in which

IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi stand at rank 3 and 4 respectively. Interestingly, IITs which are famous world over for their engineering programmes stand at lowest ranks in the list of top ten Engineering Programmes. IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay were

kept at rank 9 and 10.

In terms of student's satisfaction, American Universities have fared the best. Seven out of the ten universities which top in terms of student's satisfaction are American with Cornell University topping the chart.

The university has scored 54 out of 100 points against Harvard University's 100.



INDIA'S TOP FOUR

RANK	INSTITUTE
24	IIT-BOMBAY
27	IIT-DELHI
86	IIT-KANPUR
97	DELHI UNIVERSITY

**Conducted by Youth Incorporated, Education Times and Rediff.com*

WORLD'S BEST FIVE

1	Harvard University	USA
2	Stanford University	USA
3	University of Pennsylvania	USA
4	University of Oxford	UK
5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA

After ranking, reputation of Indian institutes takes a beating

IITs & IISc do not figure in the latest Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings

VINAY UMARJI & M SARASWATHY
Ahmedabad, 5 March

A better world ranking is not the only aspect the leading higher education institutes in the country — Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) — need to work on. It appears, they need to up their international reputation, too.

In the latest World Reputation Rankings 2014 by Times Higher Education (THE) magazine for the top 100 prestigious universities, India is the only BRICS nation absent from the list. It needs to be mentioned that unlike global university rankings, THE's World Reputation Rankings 2014 takes into account an institute's global repute in academics.

"A university's reputation for academic excellence is absolutely vital to its success: it drives student and faculty recruitment, international research partnerships, and helps attract philanthropy and industrial investment. And while reputation is based on subjective opinion, in this case it is the informed, expert opinion of those in the know experienced scholars from around the world," said Phil Baty, editor of Times Higher Education Rankings.

The Times Higher Education's World Reputation Rankings 2014 saw Harvard University taking the first place, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford

University, University of Cambridge and University of Oxford being ranked second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively. In the Asia-Pacific region, Australia lost ground with five top 100 representatives in 2014, down from six in 2013.

The rankings come at a time when a committee set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to look into the international positioning of the IITs is in the process of submitting its report. The IITs had earlier acknowledged it was the lack of visibility at the right global forums that kept them out of international rankings.

THE's World Reputation Rankings 2014 takes into account an institute's global repute in academics

While Times Higher Education Rankings does not rank institutions below 100, it has revealed that the IISc continues to be the most highly rated university in India, though it has seen its position drop from around 130th place to just below 200 in the world. IIT Bombay has also dropped to the 210-220 group, while IIT, Delhi and IIT, Kanpur both now feature just below 250th position in the world.

Among the BRICS nations, while India is the only one which does not have a university in the world top 100, mainland China has two, both in the top 50, followed by Russia and Brazil with one each.

The IITs admitted they were only looking at building on their global perception now.

No Indian university in top 200 global list

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

INDIA's unimpressive run at global academic rankings continued as no higher education institute from the country found place among top 200 reputed universities of the world in a list based on a survey of senior academics across the globe.

The 2014 World Reputation Rankings, released by the UK-based Times Higher Education on Friday, was dominated by the American and British institutions, but it also had a few universities from Asian nations like China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

In the World Reputation Rankings, described as a definitive list of the world's 100 most prestigious universities, the famed IITs and the Indian Institute of Science have slid below the 200 mark.

Phil Baty, the editor of Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, told The Indian Express that India is clearly "some way off the pace".

He pointed out, "India's most prestigious institution, based on the results of our expert global opinion poll, is the Indian Institute of Science, but it sits roughly around the 200th position and fell further since last year. IITs - Bombay, Delhi and Kanpur - are also top of India's ranking, but they have slipped in the global list".

Baty said India's absence from the list could affect its ability to attract globally reputed faculty.

IIT alumni design robot that talks, sings & reads human feelings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

TALK about robots that can walk, talk, sing, read the news, tell the weather, go internet shopping and even read human feelings! Meet Charles or Charlie, one of the world's most advanced robot, designed by Rajiv Khosla an alumni of Indian Institute of Technology and professor at Australia's La Trobe University, which can do all of that.

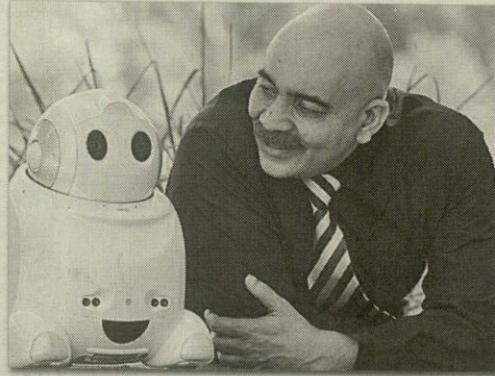
At mere 20 cm tall, Charlie is a 'partner-personal robot', that has been specifically designed to assist children and adults with problems like dementia, autism, cerebral palsy, brain injury and other such illness.

"A child with dementia will often forget to wash his hands in

the washroom. The robot will constantly have his eyes on him and remind him that he hasn't washed his hands and that he needs to do it," Khosla said at the demonstration of the model organised by the Australian High Commission.

More than 20 field trials have been conducted with Charlie and other robots — Matilda, Jake, Lucy and Sophie — in Australia. Communication with the robots can be done through voice commands, touch pads, tablets and even using facial expressions. They detect how a person feels and accordingly personalises their services.

"These robots are multi-lingual and can be personalised based on the language, culture and lifestyle of their human



ROBO SUPERVISION: These robots are multi-lingual and can be personalised based on the language, culture and lifestyle of their human partners

The 20 cm tall robot has been specifically designed to assist children and adults with problems like dementia, autism, cerebral palsy & brain injury

partners," Khosla said.

An alumni of IIT, Khosla an expert in creating "emotionally engaging robots" said he believes that robots like Charlie can cross the boundaries of "language, culture and lifestyle."

"Once the emotional status is established, then the learning starts for both the robot as well as the human being. It can be used by all age groups to take therapeutic effects and positive stimulus," he added.

Capable of providing emotional engagement with users, the robots are designed to have natural integrations with users, said Khosla who is the director of the research centre for computers, communication and Social Innovation at the La Trobe University.

Build a Culture of Innovations in Univs: Ram Shriram

Founder of Sherpalo Ventures says faculty must be proactive and consult with companies to bring more projects

OUR BUREAU
CHENNAI

Billionaire investor Ram Shriram is on a hush-hush trip to his hometown Chennai, where he delivered a lecture at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) on Monday that was completely out of bounds for the media.

The founder of Sherpalo Ventures and one of the earliest investors in search giant Google spoke on "What drives innovation at Stanford and in Silicon Valley" at a closed-door event at the 620-acre campus that was open only to the faculty and students as well as a few special invitees.

Sherpalo invests mainly in technology startups.

While details are sketchy, one of the students who attended the lecture told ET that Shriram said it was important to build a culture of innovation in the Indian universities.

"He (Shriram) said the faculty must be proactive and consult with companies and bring more projects for the students," said the student on condition of anonymity.

"Though that's already happening at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, he said more such activities must happen. I really liked that idea."

In a lighter vein, Shriram, who graduated from the city's Loyola College, compared San Francisco (where he stays) and Chennai and said both are similar as they are on the coast, but just that Chennai is a bit hotter.

Those who attended the lecture told ET that the auditorium was packed, with many sitting in the aisles and standing wherever they could.

"He said mobile platforms would be the key for innovation," said another student pursuing his dual degree at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

Born in Chennai, Shriram worked with Amazon before becoming a founding

board member of Google. He is also a founding board member of 247-inc.com, a company that provides 'intuitive consumer experience'.

"The important aspects (of the lecture) that struck me were graduates staying back to start companies in the Valley and universities supporting the students. If this is done in India, there would be more scope for innovation," said a business consultant who attended the event but does not want to be named.

An Indian Institute of Technology alumnus said Shriram is on a personal visit, but agreed to give a lecture at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.



IIT alumnus designs a robot that can sing, tell the weather, read human feelings

Press Trust of India, March 05, 2014



Talk about robots that can walk, talk, sing, read the news, tell the weather, go Internet shopping and even read human feelings.

Meet Charles or Charlie, one of the world's most advanced robot, designed by Rajiv Khosla an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology and professor at Australia's La Trobe University, which can do all of that.

At mere 20cm tall, Charlie is a 'Partner-Personal Robot' (PaPeRo), who has been specifically designed to assist children and adults with problems like dementia, autism, cerebral palsy, brain injury and other such illness.

"A child with dementia will often forget to wash his hands in the washroom. The robot will constantly have his eyes on him and remind him that he hasn't washed his hands and that he needs to do it," Khosla said at the demonstration of the model organised by the Australian High Commission in New Delhi.

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Capable of providing emotional engagement with users, the robots are designed to have natural integrations with users, said Khosla who is the Director of the Research Centre for Computers, Communication and Social Innovation at the La Trobe University.

Khosla along with his team at La Trobe University collaborated with Japanese electronic giant NEC Corp designed the robots.

"While other apps and phones in the market are screen based, Charlie is not. It will provide personalised services naturally. It looks at the mood and the expression unlike other apps and then responds accordingly. It is not a button-bound apparatus," Khosla said.

The 6.5kg robot which was designed by Khosla in association with the Japanese electronics giant, NEC Corp, can even assist parents in babysitting.

"If it doesn't recognise a face, it immediately sends a message to the care taker," the researcher said.

The robots are designed to have one-to-one interaction but if it detects multiple faces, it creates profiles of all of them in a database, recording all the individual likes and dislikes and responds to them accordingly.

"Till now we have deployed seven such robots in Melbourne at homes with health conditions. And the owners are perfectly happy with them. The whole idea of PaPeRo is to compliment human beings," Khosla said.

While a static version of Charlie will have to be physically carried and plugged on to a charging point when it gives the indication "I am hungry. Charge me", its mobile version can walk up to a docking station and charge itself on its own.

The robots can also be programmed to speak in 11 different languages including Hindi, Tamil, Chinese, Italian, and German.

"It will wish you good day in the morning, can recommend you where to go and where to not, can sing your favourite songs and even dance for you," Khosla said.

The researcher said they were looking for research and business partners "who might be interested in exploring what applications they might have in India."

The market price for a robot like Charlie is estimated at Rs. 90,000.

IIT-K goes all out for women empowerment at Techkriti

[Sumit Jha](#), TNN | Mar 6, 2014, 12.00 AM IST

The festival this year will also focus on women's issues apart from its technical attractions

Usually Techkriti, the annual tech festival of IIT Kanpur, features robotic shows, mechanical wonders created by IIT-K students and musical events for entertainment. But this year, the festival being organised from March 6-9, is focussing on another aspect too - [women](#) empowerment. With the International Women's Day falling during the festival, on March 8, the organisers have invited well-known personalities who would enlighten students about women's issues.

Telling us more about the theme, Shubham Chirania, a member of the Techkriti organising team says, "Talking about women [empowerment](#) is the need of the day. This year we thought that we should have discussions which would highlight issues of women empowerment in the country. Our idea is that since the students from the institute will be holding important designations in future, they should be aware of such issues and try and solve the problems to the best of their abilities."

"We will be having the usual robotic events and music shows during the fest, but we think that a healthy discussion on women related problems would make the festival even more meaningful," adds Rohit Kumar, another member of the festival organising committee.

Experts who represent different age groups and are from different fields have been invited to present their views on women's issues. "There will be people like politicians Alka Lamba, Meenakshi Lekhi and Suhasini Ali, [journalist](#) Naomi Datta and scientist Prameela Vadreu attending techkriti this year," says Ibrahim Faruqi, who is pursuing a dual degree in chemical engineering and is also one of the members of the organising committee for Techkriti.

The festival will also have its share of glam with guests like actor Pallavi Sharda speaking about women's emancipation. "We have also invited Miss World 1998 Linor Abargil, who was abducted and raped just two months before the pageant, to speak on the issues plaguing women these days and there will also be a screening of a documentary film made on her," informs Faruqi.

And it's not just discussions with these eminent guests that are in store for visitors at the festival. The event will also have world famous 3D street painter Tracy Lee Stum who will be showcasing her art at the event. "Tracy's presence at the fest will help in our endeavour as she very effectively represents in her paintings how a woman can excel in any field by utilizing her talent and powers," informs Sachin Chaudhary, a student of mechanical engineering and a member of the Techkriti organising team.