IIT-JEE advanced results out, Rajasthan's Chitraang Murdia is topper

Vanita Srivastava, Hindustan Times
New Delhi, June 19, 2014


The results of Joint Entrance Exam (JEE advanced) for admission to 16 Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad was announced on Thursday.

Chitraang Murdia is the topper of JEE (Advanced) – 2014 who belongs to Rajasthan under IIT Delhi zone. He has secured 334 out of a total of 360 marks. Aditi from IIT Roorkee zone is the topper amongst female candidates securing an All India Rank of of 7. There are five female candidates amongst the top 100 rankers.

A total of 27,151 candidates out of 1,26,997 registered, have qualified the examination with 19,416 in common merit list,---6000 in OBC (NCL), 4400 SC and 1250 ST merit lists. A total of 243 candidates who are persons with disability (PWD) have qualified the examination.

Compared to 2013,--3500 more candidates have qualified with an increase of qualified candidates in all categories. The joint implementation committee of JEE (Advanced) – 2014 has decided to allow twice the number in each category to fill choices for various undergraduate courses in IITs and ism. The choice filling portal will be operative from June 20 till June 24.

There are a total of 9,784 seats and around 19,000 have been shortlisted.
Our own rank

The proposal for India-specific university rankings is worthy. But problems in higher education run deep

The absence of an Indian institution, even the IITs, from the top 10 of the 2014 QS University Rankings: BRICS, prompted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call for an independent, India-specific ranking system for educational institutions. Comparisons of the quality of higher educational institutes across varied socio-political contexts are always fraught exercises, and India's unspectacular performances in lists compiled by the two best-known private ranking systems, QS and Times Higher Education, have provoked accusations that the assessment criteria are skewed towards Western institutions. These charges aren't entirely unfounded. The IITs do, for instance, suffer for not being allowed to admit international undergraduate students, which is one metric in the evaluation process. There are also government restrictions barring them from hiring foreign faculty, who can only be appointed for a temporary period subject to a minimum annual income. In both the QS and THE rankings, academic reputation is the dominant indicator. But the manner in which academic reputation surveys are conducted has long been questioned, with concerns that they are designed to select elite universities, most of which are in the West. Academics responding to such surveys also often nominate universities based on their past reputations or reputations in other areas, rather than on their knowledge of the institution.

These very real biases suggest that the notion of a ranking system conceived specifically for India, one that factors in domestic challenges and priorities, is a valuable one. Yet, the temptation to attribute India's consistently poor showing on lists of university rankings to flawed methodology must be avoided. After all, the BRICS rankings compare nations at nominally similar stages in their development. Yet even there, India is the only nation unrepresented in the top 10.

The UPA years were marked by an inertia on education reform, with key bills that could address the structural problems limiting the availability of quality colleges and universities mouldering in Parliament. Poor rankings, for all the publicity they attract, are only a symptom of what afflicts the education system. The new government must not get distracted from the less glamorous but much more urgent task of pushing through higher education reform.
IIT aspirants get ‘rank prediction’ before result

**Vanita Srivastava**
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**NEW DELHI:** Mohit Mehta (name changed) has got a ‘predicted’ all India rank in IIT of 17 by his coaching institute. He has a score of around 304 and has made up his mind to join computer engineering at IIT Bombay.

Saurabh Garg (name changed) has been given a ‘predicted’ rank of 45 by his coaching institute. He has already decided which branch to opt for and which IIT.

While the IITs are to formally declare the results on Thursday, most of the coaching institutes have in the last few days been busy ‘predicting’ the ranks of the students.

Many coaching institutes have formally put a ‘rank predictor’ on their website. The student submitted their scores and got a ‘predicted’ rank.

The task for predictions began after the IITs uploaded the answer keys and the OMR sheets, on the basis of which the students could calculate their score.

“We don’t just give the expected ranks but even the branch that one can get on the basis of past cut offs. This is an interface that is based on the previous years data. We can understand the anxiety of students and this kind of interface helps.”

Pramod Maheshwari of Career Point, Kota adds: “We have already estimated how many of our students will come in top 100.”

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IIT ‘EXIT RESULTS’ OUT, REAL DEAL TODAY

**Vanita Srivastava**

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ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

In top 100, 10 Indian institutes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Ten Indian institutes have made it to the top 100 in the Asia University Rankings 2014 published by Times Higher Education. In 2013, only three institutes were in the top 100.

Panjab University’s dream run continued as it led the Indian tally at 32nd place, followed by the IIT-Kharagpur (45) and IIT-Kanpur (55). Jadavpur University (76), Aligarh Muslim University (80) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (90) also made the cut.

Panjab University’s citation record gives it an edge over IITs and other varsities.

“India is the most improved nation in this year’s rankings by far. While it had only three top 100 institutions in 2013, it now has 10, thanks to the Indian academy’s growing engagement with the rankings process,” said a press statement by Times Higher Education.

Phil Baty, editor of the rankings, said the newly-elected government could raise the prospects for India’s education sector.

China emerged as the rising star in the rankings, while Japan retained its supremacy, leading the rankings with the University of Tokyo.

While Japan has 20 universities in the list, China has notched up 18 places, up from 15 last year. South Korea follows with 14 institutions.

Hong Kong has six representatives in the rankings — all among the top 50. Singapore is represented by the National University of Singapore at second position and Nanyang Technological University at number 11. A total of 13 nations have found a place on the rankings with five countries — Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and China — among the top 10.

Turkey has five institutes, all in the top 40, while Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel have three institutes each. Lebanon has one institute in the top 100, while Malaysia and the UAE failed to find a place this year.

The rankings employ 13 performance indicators such as teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook to examine each university’s strengths.
**NEW DELHI:** A new global ranking released on Wednesday, the Asia University Rankings 2014 published by the Times Higher Education, finds ten Indian institutes in the top 100 compared to just three last year.

This reflects on the positive progress made by Indian institutions, thanks to Indian academia’s growing engagement with the rankings process.

The rankings reveal that China is challenging Japan’s traditional supremacy in the region. Although the latter retains its crown, China has gained ground with its total rising from 15 in 2013 to 18 this year. In third place is South Korea with 14 institutions, followed by Taiwan with 13 (down from 17 last year).

Among Indian universities, the first place is taken by Panjab University, the alma mater of former PM Manmohan Singh (joint 32nd). It is closely followed by IIT Kharagpur (45th) and the IIT Kanpur (55th). Six of India’s representatives are IITs but the list also includes Jadavpur University (joint 76th), Aligarh Muslim University (80th) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (90th).

Phil Baty, editor of Times Higher Education Rankings, says, “These prestigious rankings are wonderful news for India. The country’s decision to embrace global performance has improved its representation.”

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Ten Indian institutions have made it to this year’s Asia University Rankings by Times Higher Education, while Japan topped the list with 20 institutes on the top-100 list. Last year only three institutions from India had figured on the list. IIT-Bombay is not on this year’s list (see chart). Last year it was ranked 33. Panjab University, 32nd on list this year, was the topmost from India. This institution was also the topmost institute of higher education in the country, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings released in October 2013. The rankings revealed that China is posing a stiff challenge to Japan, which used to enjoy supremacy in the region. Although the latter retained its premier position, with the University of Tokyo scoring the No. 1 position and other 19 of its universities in the top 100, it lost two candidates from the list. On the other hand, China has improved its position with 16 of its universities figuring on list against 15 in 2013.

It showed that India made maximum progress in this year’s rankings. India now has 10 universities on the list. Panjab University (32nd rank) is followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kharagpur (45th), IIT-Kanpur (55th) and six more IITs. Jadavpur University (76th), Aligarh Muslim University (80th) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (90th) have also found place on the list.

In third place is South Korea with 14 institutions, followed by China with 13 (down from 17 last year). While Japan is the topmost country, the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (81st in 2013) and Yokohama National University (joint 96th) have exited the table this year and three more institutions are close to the precipice: Okayama University (down nine places to 94th), Kanazawa University (96th) and Chiba University (which has fallen a massive 23 places to 98th).

India’s Secretary for Higher Education Ashok Thakur writes the question of whether the country should go “full hog” for the global university rankings “has mercifully been laid to rest by none other than the president of India, Pranab Mukherjee, who has made it clear that as a matter of policy, all institutions in the country have to participate wholeheartedly in the rankings process”.

Phil Baty, editor of Times Higher Education Rankings, said these prestigious rankings were wonderful news for India. “A drive to introduce systematic quality assurance and accreditation for the country’s huge range of higher education institutions, plus plans to boost university research, should push it even further. And the election of a majority government raises the prospect of further decisive action in the higher education sphere, cutting through the red tape that has untrammeled previous initiatives,” he said.
Ten from India Among Top 100 Asian Universities

Implements standing with Panjab University leading at 32nd position

OUR BUREAU
MUMBAI

India has dramatically improved its standing in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2014 with 10 universities in the top 100 compared to just 3 last year. Panjab University tops the Indian list at joint 32nd position. Six of India’s representatives are IITs, but the list also includes Jadavpur University, Aligarh Muslim University and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

Japan leads the list in the rankings with 20 representatives in the top 100, though China is a close second with 18 institutes. South Korea is in the third spot with 14 universities while Taiwan falls to the fourth place from last year’s second with 13 representatives.

India, however, is the clear winner in terms of improvement in rankings, a phenomenon attributed to Indian academic circles’ growing engagement with the rankings process. Panjab University, which took top spot among Indian universities in Times Higher Education 2013-14 World University Rankings, has made its debut in the Asia rankings at the first place in India (joint 32nd on the list).

The alma mater of former PM Manmohan Singh is followed by IIT Kharagpur (45th), IIT Kanpur (55th), IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee at joint 59th, IIT Guwahati (74th) and IIT Madras and Jadavpur University (joint 76th). Aligarh Muslim University and Jawaharlal Nehru University bring up the rear at 80th and 90th spots respectively.

“The country’s increased engagement with the international agenda, particularly its decision to embrace global performance benchmarks and Times Higher Education’s rankings, has dramatically improved its representation among Asia’s top 100 universities. A drive to introduce systematic quality assurance and accreditation for the country’s huge range of higher education institutions, plus plans to boost university research, should push it even further.” said Philpatty, editor of Times Higher Education Rankings in a release.

Overall, five countries or regions are represented in the top 10: Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and China. The University of Tokyo is Asia’s number one.
PU top Indian university in Times Asia’s Best 100

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18
Panjab University, Chandigarh, is the highest ranked Indian higher educational institution in the globally recognized Times Higher Education’s Asia rankings released worldwide today.

Placed 32nd in Asia’s top 100 institutions’ league table which The University of Tokyo leads, PU has outperformed IITs on all ranking parameters.

Following PU in the league are IITs Kharagpur (45th), IIT Kanpur (55th), IITs Delhi and Roorkee (59th), IIT Guwahati (74th); IIT Madras (76th).

Three new Indian universities entering the 2014 rankings powered by Thomson Reuters are Jadavpur University (76th), Aligarh Muslim University (80th) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (90th).

Even without any presence among Asia’s top 10 varsities, Indian institutions have made outstanding progress this year with 10 institutions in the list against three last year. Bad news is — IIT Kharagpur and IIT Roorkee ranked last year have fallen behind with Kharagpur slipping 15 ranks from 30th to 45th this year and Roorkee down three places from 56th to 59th.

Overall in Asia, five countries are represented in top 10. These are Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and China. University of Tokyo retains the first place followed by the National University of Singapore. The Rankings use 13 performance indicators to examine university’s strengths against all its core missions of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. It may be recalled PU had not figured among India’s top 17 varsities in another Asia’s best rankings published by Britain-based Quacquarelli Symonds last month.
PM wants system to rank educational institutions

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Close on the heels of reputed world rankings such as Times Higher Education painting a grim picture of India’s higher education sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the country needs to develop its independent ranking system to judge domestic higher educational institutions and gradually involve SAARC nations in the effort. PM’s refrain — the existing world rankings are heavily skewed in favour of the west.

Modi’s suggestion came yesterday when Britain-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released its latest BRICS rankings which show the presence of 20 Indian institutions including five original IITs of Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras and Kharagpur and Panjab University, Chandigarh.

IIT Kharagpur has been found to have a higher proportion of PhDs among its staff than any other university in the five BRICS nations. The other Indian institutions in BRICS QS list 2014 are University of Mumbai, University of Madras, Banaras Hindu University, Manipal University, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, University of Pune, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Calcutta University, Delhi University, Allahabad, Amity University and Anna University. On overall staffing levels only Manipal University has featured in the top 100 among the universities of the BRICS countries. While the latest QS Rankings are heartening, only 17 Indian institutions had figured in Asia’s top 300 QS list published last month.
The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) along with a team from IIT-Chennai has resumed restoration of Kedarnath temple which was damaged in last year’s flash floods in Uttarakhand. A senior official from the Culture Ministry said that a six-member ASI and IIT-Chennai team is carrying out geophysical testing of the site of the structure through Multi-Channel Analysis of Spectral Waves (MASW) tests.

Once their report is available, the necessary underpinning and repairs to the foundation of the temple, if required, will be carried out.

“Major works to be accomplished at the site this year by ASI include packing the stones (matching the original profile and design), providing wooden flooring, cleaning of temple interior and preserving its stone surfaces and repairs to the temple steps and stone plinth, including resetting and repairs to the roof over Mandapa of the temple,” said the official.

ASI has engaged stone dressers (from Rajasthan), labourers and carpenters for the conservation work for which ₹2 crores have been earmarked.

India aims to be a knowledge economy and one of the key prerequisites of achieving that goal is the availability of good quality human resources. Unfortunately, the education system has consistently failed to meet this crucial quality test. There are several reasons for this. Poor quality of syllabi and educators and lack of good infrastructure top the list. However, there is one more serious shortcoming: The quality of school textbooks. According to a recent news report, Class 7 and 8 textbooks in Gujarat are replete with wrong information: Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on October 30, 1948, Japan nuked the United States in 1948 and a new country ‘Islamic Islamabad’ was formed after Partition with its capital at ‘Khyber Ghat’ in the Hindu Kush. These information were put together by a panel of experts of the Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training and the Gujarat State Board for School Textbooks. The state government has now appointed another set of experts to review and revise these textbooks.

However, the Gujarat case is not an aberration. In 2012, a Punjab School Education Board textbook defined heavy industries as: “Industries in which very heavy type of raw materials are used are known as heavy industry”. It’s not just the different state boards that have dished out such unacceptably low quality textbooks, even the National Council of Educational Research and Training, which assists and advises the central and state governments on academic matters related to school education, have done the same. Then there have been several attempts by political parties to thrust their agendas on impressionable minds via school textbooks. India’s poor showing in international assessment tests is often a result of such unprofessional pedagogical approaches.

There are several reasons behind such substandard textbooks: State boards often lack finances to get the top academics to write these books. Second, the physical quality of the books are often not up to the mark because of costs pressures and often mistakes go uncorrected because of logistical difficulties. This shoddy approach of government agencies and textbook publishers should get adequate attention of the HRD ministry.
NanoDegree: Higher education in 6 mths

Eduardo Porter

could an online degree earned in six to 12 months bring a revolution to higher education? This week, AT&T and Udacity, the online education company in US founded by the Stanford professor and former Google engineering whiz Sebastian Thrun, announced something meant to be very small: the “NanoDegree.” At first blush, it doesn’t appear like much. For $200 a month, it is intended to teach anyone with a mastery of high school math the kind of basic programming skills needed to qualify for an entry-level position at AT&T as a data analyst, iOS applications designer or the like.

Yet this most basic of efforts may offer more than simply adding an online twist to vocational training. It may finally offer a reasonable shot at harnessing the web to provide effective schooling to the many young Americans for whom college has become a distant, unaffordable dream.

Intriguingly, it suggests that the best route to democratizing higher education may require taking it out of college. “We are trying to widen the pipeline,” said Charlene Lake, an AT&T spokeswoman. “This is designed by business for the specific skills that are needed in business.” Thrun sounded more ambitious about the ultimate goal: “It is like a university,” he told me, “built by industry.”

American higher education is definitely in need of some disruption. Once the leader in educational attainment, the US has been overtaken by a growing number of its peers. Education still offers children from disadvantaged families their best chance at climbing the ladder of success. David H. Autor of the MIT reports in a new study that in 2012 a typical family of graduates from a four-year college earned about $58,000 more than a family of high school graduates. But this very statistic underscores the depth of the nation’s educational deficit. One reason for the enormous payoff from a college degree, which is almost twice as big as it was in 1979, Autor finds, is that too few young Americans — despite a bump in enrollment right after the Great Recession — ever earn one.

Employers have been complaining for years about a lack of skilled workers to fill jobs. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the skill level of the American workforce is slipping dangerously behind other nations. And yet despite the promise of a higher wage, only about half of high school graduates from low-income families enrolled in college in 2012 — compared with 80% of high-income graduates. Worse, only a small share of them manage to finish. NYT News Service
Top educational institutes to come up in 3 clusters of Andhra Pradesh

Centre to provide support, efforts to begin academics early

OUR BUREAU
Hyderabad, June 18

Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Central University are among major institutions, varsities and centres of excellence to be set up in the three clusters in Andhra Pradesh with support from the Union Government.

The newly formed Andhra Pradesh Government has begun identifying the land required to set up these institutions and other infrastructure in the three clusters of Tirupati, Krishna-Guntur region and Vizakhapatnam, said Ganta Srinivasa Rao, State Minister for Human Resources Development.

Speaking to newsmen after assuming office at the State Secretariat here on Wednesday, he said, "A meeting held with State Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has decided to begin academic sessions early from makeshift premises till such time the infrastructure required for these projects is created." The Chief Minister will meet the Prime Minister and other Union leaders during his visit to Delhi on June 25-26 to seek support to expedite these projects, he said.

He said it was decided to locate IIT, NIT, IIM, IIS Education Research, AIIMs, Central University, Tribal University Agriculture University and National Institute of Disaster Management, in clusters based on the availability of infrastructure, connectivity and human resources in these areas.

It was decided that Vizag would be the ideal location for petroleum institute as PCPIR (Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region) is coming up in the coastal region there and HPCL is a major player.

Demarcation
It is proposed to set up AIIMS, NIT, NIDM and Agriculture University in the Krishna-Guntur area. And Tirupati would accommodate Central University, IISCR and IIT. Each of the three circuits would have about 1,000 acres initially with a proposal to increase it by another 1,000 acres.
DU defends FYUP: All procedures followed before introducing course

ANUBHUTI VISNOI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

WITHIN days of the University Grants Commission (UGC) calling for a review of the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP), Delhi University came out in strong defence of the course, claiming that all due procedure was followed in implementing the course last year.

Responding to a communication from the UGC regarding the issue, DU pointed out that the FYUP was introduced in 2013 after following due procedure and by an amendment to the ordinance concerned.

The reply, sent by Delhi University Registrar, also stated that the amended ordinance was sent to the Ministry of Human Resources Development last year itself, as is the procedure for seeking approval of the Visitor (the President).

Hardly waiting any time on the issue, the UGC shot off yet another letter to DU on Wednesday, asking it to send a copy of the communication it had sent to the HRD Ministry in this regard.

According to the Viceroy, the Visitor’s approval is desirable for an amendment to a University ordinance. Sources said the DU administration may have covered its tracks by sending the amendment to the ordinance to the HRD Ministry as per procedure, it can always be questioned why it did not follow up on the same and ensure that the Visitor’s approval had come.

Also, it is to be noted that while DU currently, students wanting to pursue an MBA opt for Faculty of Management Studies in the city, the proposal to pass the two courses — MBA (International Business) and MBA (Human Resource and Organisational Development) — was submitted by the Academic Council meeting on June 21.

To introduce the two courses, DU is doing away with its Masters in International Business (MIB) and Masters in Human Resource and Organisational Development (MHROD) courses, which are currently being offered by the university.

According to the agenda of the meeting between DU and the Department of Commerce, the two had been communicating regularly regarding the implementation of the courses. Since MBA is a UGC (University Grants Commission) specified degree, it was suggested that DU may award an MBA degree, but mention the specialisation in parenthesis.

In a subsequent meeting with the department, it was decided to restructure the two courses — MIB and MHROD to MBA (IB) and MBA (HR&OD).

A four-member committee was then constituted by the department to revise the course structure and keep the course content up-to-date with contemporary practices in the two fields.

Known for being affordable and providing quality education, Faculty of Management Studies, has over the course of years become a popular choice for students wanting to pursue an MBA. The university’s proposal to offer two new MBA courses with specialisations, will be a cause for cheer for thousands of aspirants who apply for MBA courses every year.
IIT-B tech to get water from sewage in Dwarka

New Delhi:
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Water-deficient Dwarka will get an additional 1.1 million gallons a day by January next year through a technology developed by IITBombay students that will purify sewage to provide potable water.

Delhi Development Authority has decided to test the technology being used by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for Dwarka. “We will be keenly watching the project's development. If the project turns out to be successful in handling huge amounts of water, this could solve a lot of issues related to potable water across the capital,“ said vice-chairman Balvinder Kumar.

The mechanism, which its inventors call the “soil bio technology“, will increase the 4MGD supply to the area to 5.1MGD. The peak demand of the sub-city is 12MGD. The source of the supply will be the Palam drain, which will be “bioremediated“- biologically treated with the use of organisms to remove or neutralize pollutants--to make the drain water, high in biochemical oxygen demand (BoD), hygienic.

“BoD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms in water to break down the organic material in a sample at a certain temperature over a given period,“ said an official.

A DDA official said the pilot project, on 5,000 sq m, would cost Rs 3.75 crore. By January , 5 million litres daily will be available which is equivalent to the supply from 50 tubwells.

“Kumar, along with a team of engineers and senior officers, assessed the proposal. The soil bio-technology is already being used by BMC and in other places,“ said a DDA official.

DDA will implement the project jointly with Intach and Vision Earthcare, a company of the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at IITBombay . A tri-partite agreement will be inked to formalize the project.

DDA officials will visit the sites in Mumbai. The facility would be developed underground so the top layer of the soil can be landscaped and developed as a green area.
Smriti Irani asks State Govts to Ensure that Universities Conform to Standard Facilities

http://www.ibtimes.co.in/smriti-irani-asks-state-govts-ensure-that-universities-conform-standard-facilities-602475

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Zubin Irani has asked State governments to monitor higher education universities and institutions mushrooming in their purview and check whether the management is providing the required facilities for teaching.

Expressing concern about numerous institutes and universities coming up in various parts of the country with no standard facilities or full faculty, the Minister asked states to ensure that such institutes conform to the required standards.

The Minister held an interactive session with State representatives at the Conference of State Secretaries of Higher and Technical Education in New Delhi on Tuesday, 17 June.

Irani suggested a drive called, "Know Your College" in the websites of universities, where students can get all the information about the institute and make correct choices.
The Minister sought the help of states to create a healthy environment for education of children in backward areas, minorities, women, weaker sections and tribal zones.

She also stated that a new central university for "Himalayan Technology" will soon be set up in Uttarakhand, which will also have an international faculty.

The central university for Himalayan Technology is one of the BJP's election promises and Irani has already sought funds from the Union Finance Ministry for setting up eight new IITs.

Special steps are being taken by the Ministry to meet the needs of higher education of students from the North-east in the form of collaborative efforts with premier institutes of the country, she said.

The Minister also underlined the need to make science interesting for children.

She asked the states to revisit the Right to Education Act in the light of their experiences. The fragmentation between the primary, higher and secondary education should be removed and skill development should start at the school-level while continuing up to the higher levels, she added.

Technology will be leveraged for empowering the students and teachers. For this, the Ministry proposes to launch a large number of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and also establish a National e-Library by the end of this year.

There should be a national framework of ranking of universities and colleges suited to the local conditions, circumstances and requirements.

The "Shaala Deep Programme" of schools can also be replicated in colleges, she added.

During the conference, representatives of states presented their respective states' specific issues as well as ideas to improve the quality of higher education in the country.

**Setting up IITs, IIMs in every state a tough proposition**


As a professor at IIT Kanpur, Sudhir Jain had disliked the idea of setting up a string of new IITs. That was seven years ago, when a fresh set of IITs were conceived by the government. But Arjun Singh, the then human resources development minister, persuaded Jain to take up the directorship of IIT Gandhinagar. After five years at the new institute, Jain has a different view on the topic. "You get a lot of freedom in a new institution and you can build something truly innovative," he says.

A new government in Delhi is once again on an institution-building mood, and is planning to extend the founts of excellence in engineering and management education— the IITs and IIMs —to every state. The numerical case to expand is compelling. Today, there are 17 IITs and 13 IIMs. In 2013, for every 158 students who sat for the IIT entrance exam, only one made it. In IIMs, it was one in 58 students.

India needs these two institutional systems of higher education to be bigger, a geographical expansion of the kind outlined —one of each in every state —is a real challenge if quality is to be preserved, more so for IIMs than for IITs. It will take great resourcefulness and imagination to pull this off, and Jain is attempting to do this at IIT Gandhinagar.

Jain loves to build things in his own way, stretching the notion of flexibility given to directors to its limits. Since his vision of a great IIT revolved around great faculty, he started looking for outstanding researchers regardless of their subject of expertise, even if the subject was not a traditional IIT discipline. One of his early recruits was a researcher in
cognitive science, a young researcher called Jaison Manjaly. He hired three more young researchers after Manjaly joined; IIT Gandh ..

IITs have had some connection with social sciences right from their beginnings, but their reputation was built on core engineering disciplines. Moreover, each IIT was built on the other's image, with very little differentiation between them. Some of the new IITs are choosing to cut their own path, deciding to organise their institutions in novel ways. Most new IITs offer some unusual courses for an engineering institution. At least one, IIT Jodhpur, has done away with traditional structures and ..

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Some new IITs are also struggling, but in the race to be world-class institutions, they are moving ahead of the new IIMs. Although their new campus constructions were delayed, some IITs are now preparing to move into their new campuses.

IIT Hyderabad will begin moving after a month, and IIT Gandhinagar will move in December. IIT Mandi has been moving slowly into its own campus over the last one year. These IITs will be followed soon by those in Patna and Bhubaneswar. The IITs have also had better success in attracting new faculty, including directors.

By comparison, none of the new IIMs, even IIM Shillong, set up in 2007, has moved into a new campus. Also, they have remained small, with only 120 students on an average, against the 400-odd in the older IIMs. The average shortage of faculty — number of sanctioned posts versus vacant positions — is about 40%, say IIM officials.
‘India to become 4th nation to complete Mission Mars’

ISRO CHIEF K Radhakrishnan exhorts ITians to join space research programmes

KANPUR: Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Dr K Radhakrishnan on Wednesday said this year, the country would become the fourth nation in the world to carry out ‘Mission Mars’ successfully.

In Kanpur to address the 46th convocation of the IIT-K, Dr Radhakrishnan told media that sets satellite launched by ISRO last year through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle would reach Mars by September 24, 2014. “That day it would be just 500-kms away from Mars. This would be a moment of success for the country,” he added.

Elaborating on the spacecraft, he said, “It is highly sophisticated and fully automatic. It needs no command from the ground. If a fault occurs, it will automatically detect it and get it repaired. Even if the direction of its antenna gets disturbed or solar panels are displaced, the spacecraft can correct them without receiving any command from the ground.”

He said it was a matter of pride that the country had become the biggest centre in the world for launching satellites. “Within the next few months, about 35 foreign satellites would be launched from the centre at Sriharikota,” Dr Radhakrishnan added.

He called upon young engineers of IIT-K to think about making a career in space research. He said, “Several alumni from IIT-K have played seminal roles in shaping the Indian space programme.” Dr Radhakrishnan said he had no doubt that the technological dimension of the Indian space programme was intellectually challenging, professionally exciting and emotionally rewarding.

Throwing light on the ISRO programmes, he said, “For 2013-14, 10 communication satellites are planned to be released and orbited to provide 110 more transponders for in-orbit replacement of ageing satellites and enhancement of national capacity.” It was a matter of prestige that the country was the fourth to offer space-based satellite navigation services to aviation sector in the world, Dr Radhakrishnan added.

On the occasion, 462 E Tech students were given degrees. The top five medallists went to Nittish Kumar Srivastava, Vasal Sharan, Saranya Kapoor, Gaurang Gupta and Vishesh Kumar Panahi.
PGI ties up with IIT for cervical cancer diagnostics

HT Correspondent

CHANDIGARH: Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai, to determine performance of visual inspection and conventional cytology as primary screening test for the detection of cervical cancer.

Last week, the institute started a collaborative project with IIT, Chennai, and Maham Cancer Centre, Thalassery, Kerala, entitled “Evaluation of feasibility and appropriateness of liquid-based cytology (LBC) in cervical cancer screening in resource-constrained settings”. Arvind Rayasani, head of department of cytology, PGIMER, said within this project, at least 5,000 healthy women will be screened through these tests, free of cost, to determine sensitivity, specificity and cost-effectiveness. He further said IIT, Chennai, will prepare low cost equipment and software, based on material collected in this study for automated screening of LBC/ conventional pap smear which will be cost effective in a low-resource setting like Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research.

According to experts, cancer in the breasts and cervix is one of the major causes of mortality and morbidity in women. Among females, cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer, next only to breast cancer.

For decades, cervical cancer was the most common cancer diagnosed in Indian women and more deaths were attributed to cervical cancer than any other; but over last ten years or so, cases of breast cancer have risen steadily.
IIT Bombay racing team to compete in 2014 Formula Student Racing

Sourabh Sharma | Jaipur
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For the Formula Student UK 2014 race, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay Racing team has unveiled its electric car, the EVo 3.0. The car is build in association with TE Connectivity (TE), a world leader in connectivity. TE supported the team with high-performance connectors to enhance the safety and performance of the formula electric car. In the competition, the IITian team will compete with 200 racing units from different countries at Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom from July 9 to July 13.

Speaking about TE’s contribution, Vishwanath S, director of Automotive, TE India said: “TE is happy to support IIT Bombay Racing for the Formula Student UK 2014. We believe in championing the next generation of engineers and have partnered with several institutions globally to encourage and excite students about science and innovation. We are confident that the IIT Bombay racing team will make India proud, and we wish the team the best of luck for the race.”

The AMP+ manual service disconnect is a tool which provides a tool-free solution for disconnecting the internal high-voltage (HV) battery pack and protecting the battery pack HV cables from short circuiting. Thus, in order to keep the race car safe and sound, TE Connectivity’s AMP+ HVP 1100 is finger-proof, touch-safe, one-position high-current connectors and headers, designed specifically for the flexibility in hybrid electric vehicles. The product also provides a safe heaven to the service technicians and emergency response teams when working with or near the HV battery and components in the EVo 3.0.
“We are thankful for TE’s support to help us make the EVo 3.0 an extremely reliable, high-performance machine. We believe that we stand a good chance at Formula Student UK 2014,” said Team Captain Siddhesh Sakhalkar.

As we know that the electric mobility is changing the conventional automobiles design, thus the experts at TS expand battery solutions, electrified powertrain connectivity and charging infrastructure which defines the hybrid and electric mobility. The products of TE are ruggedized in extra HV applications (800kV+) which provide safety and reliability in different climatic conditions, whether it be too hot or too cold. The components also provide secure off-roading capability which is used in commercial vehicles and electric utility applications.

As we know that the biggest challenges for hybrid and electric vehicles revolve around the battery, leading to capacity and safety issues. TE enables electric mobility by creating safe, high-quality components for every part of the charging station both inside and outside the battery.