IITs put India on world map
3 Institutes Feature In Top 50 Global Univs For Engg Courses

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: IIT Delhi’s electrical engineering department has been ranked the 37th best globally, the highest entry from India across all categories in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world university rankings.

QS is a reputed British education and career advice company, which, until 2010, produced the rankings with the Times Higher Education.

The IIT Bombay’s civil engineering department has been ranked 39th while IIT Delhi’s mechanical and aeronautical engineering department has been positioned 43rd. Indian Institute of Science ranks 50th in materials science.

IITs have come as the only saving grace for Indian universities in the rankings released on Wednesday. Not a single university or department has made it to the top 200 altogether in 12 of the 50 disciplines covered in the global rankings.

Important subjects without a single Indian institution featuring in the top 200 include medicine, law, economics and education.

The best performances from Indian universities came in the field of engineering, as expected. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras are all ranked in the global top 50 in at least one of the four areas of engineering: civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical.

Delhi University and JNU have made it to the top 100 in the world for English literature. Chinese universities, on the other hand, have bagged 37 top-50 rankings in 23 subjects, compared to just four for India.

“These rankings reflect the progress made by the IITs in recent years in engineering, but in many other areas of the academic spectrum, India is lagging way behind its international competitors,” said QS head of research Ben Sowter.

“India faces numerous challenges as it attempts to expand participation and increase university funding. These rankings make it clear that it is some way off achieving a truly internationally competitive higher education system,” he added.

Covering 30 subjects, the QS rankings by subject are the largest of their kind. The US and UK universities dominate the list, with Harvard ranking number one in 10 subjects, ahead of MIT (7), University of Oxford (4), UC Berkeley (4), University of Cambridge (3), Imperial College London (1) and UC Davis (1).
New Delhi: HRD minister of state Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has designed and successfully tested a new concept of needle-less vaccine delivery system.

Tharoor said the new method has been developed based on the collaborative work between the laboratory for hypersonic and shock wave, the department of aerospace engineering, and the microbiology and cell biology departments. IISc is the only organization in the world that has developed such a device.

Tharoor said, using the new technique, typhoid vaccines have been successfully delivered into mice in the laboratory. He said this method utilizes the instantaneous mechanical impulse generated by micro-blast waves to achieve subcutaneous delivery of vaccines.

Tharoor claimed animals did not feel pain during vaccine delivery because the depth of penetration of the drug is very small. He said animal trials have also shown that by using this method, a lower quantity of vaccines is required to provide resistance to animals against infection, when compared to conventional methods.
IITs, IISc mull certificates for online courses

NPTEL would send a proposal in this regard to HRD ministry soon

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 8 May

If the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, have their way, those registering for online courses under the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) would soon begin certifying.

Meant to benefit students, faculty members and working professionals alike, NPTEL is a joint venture by seven IITs — Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Roorkee — and the IISc. The programme offers web and video-based course material for basic sciences, engineering and humanities. It was started along the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s OpenCourseWare programme.

“We are on our way to completing the second phase of the project. Under NPTEL, we are exploring the possibilities of offering certificates to online web and video course users. Currently, there is no compulsion or motivation for students and professionals to learn through NPTEL. Certificates could be an incentive," says Kushal Sen, NPTEL coordinator at IIT-Delhi.

Discussions are underway to decide which entity would offer the certificates. "The certificate could come from NPTEL or IITs, or even from an industry consortium, making users employable. Once the discussions are over, NPTEL would send a proposal to MHRD (ministry for human resource development) soon," says Sen.

Launched in 2007, the programme introduced engineering courses on Google and YouTube in the first phase. During this phase, NPTEL had developed 260 courses, available online for 4,500 hours, free of charge. The course material (both web and video) can be accessed by anyone, irrespective of their location.

"So far, NPTEL was being used informally by millions of viewers and online users. But we are in discussions to bring in a formal way of offering these courses," says Sen. The courses are designed by faculty members of IITs, IISc and other technical and engineering institutions.

After about 6,000 hours of video were uploaded on its YouTube channel, the viewership of the NPTEL course material rose to about 80 million, with about 160,000 subscribers. The technology institutes have also roped in 25-30 engineering colleges for content creation. Today, about 700 engineering and management institutions across the country are using course material designed under NPTEL.

In the second phase, about 1,000 courses were added to the programme.

Sen says, "Within NPTEL, we are discussing the possibility of a third phase, in which the project could be made more formal. Apart from possible certificates for users, we are also talking to the industry, primarily information technology companies, about recruiting those studying through NPTEL. Talks are also underway on the possibilities of using industry premises for conducting online tests for NPTEL participants."

In a boost to the project, most of the grant of 496 crore from MHRD has been released, Sen says.

Among the IITs, it is IIT-Madras that officially handles the venture and distributes web content for free of charge to government-funded institutions. Mangala Sunder Krishnan, national web course coordinator at IIT-Madras, was unavailable for comment.

In addition to the courses on Google and YouTube, as well as web and video courses on the NPTEL website, the project also allows content to be hosted on local websites in institutions (intranet). For a fee of Rs1,00,000, privately-funded institutions receive the entire web course content on DVD ROMs, to be hosted on their intranet.

Faculty members from new IITs are set to develop course material for NPTEL. Various universities, research laboratories and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research are also part of the programme.
Dronacharyyas for profit

Hard to put down IIT coaching menace

ONE of the objectives of the change in the system for admission to IITs introduced this year was to discourage coaching of candidates outside the school system. It failed. The other objectives — including improving the ‘quality’ of students joining IITs — are yet to be tested. However, the fact that most candidates who have cleared the first part of the IIT selection process had taken coaching does not mean that they would not have made it had they not taken coaching. No parent wants to risk putting his child at a disadvantage — even if perceived — for an individual has only one shot at life. And that is precisely what the professional marketing teams of coaching centres, backed by huge advertising budgets, target.

The million dollar question still remains — does coaching help further a student’s chance at getting into the IITs? The answer is yes, at least vis-a-vis a student not taking coaching, all other factors remaining constant. After all, a student imagining for himself what a paper would be like and how to prepare for it cannot compete with one backed by a team of professionals analysing exam and success patterns for years. One charge against coaching is that it has led to not-so-good students also succeeding in getting into IITs. It may not be as much a case of incompetent students — given the competition, hardly anyone unintelligent can make it — as their imagination curtailed by a system of spoon-feeding.

There is no denying that a system that charges anything from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh just for the two-year preparation for an entrance test and gives a child virtually not a day’s break for that period does seem unholy. There would be many candidates to lay the blame on — population; lack of good institutes; lack of alternatives in education; unreal ambition; unequal access to good schooling, et al. By giving weightage to the school board score, the government has sought to check the practice of coaching. Perhaps a far wider assessment of aptitude and personality — more than crash courses can influence — is required before that can begin to happen, if at all.
With JEE quota cut-offs hitting new low, will IITs restart bridge course?

Scores don’t tally with answer keys of coaching classes

PREPARATORY COURSE

- The IITs generally reduce cut-offs for reserved category students to fill seats
- Such students are made to attend a preparatory, or bridge, course for one year
- The arrangement started in the mid-90s
- It was the IT administration that wrote to the government for permission to run the special course

Could admit a few students to a preparatory course,” said another insider.

It was in 2012 that the first time the IITs did not hold a preparatory course for ST students. In SC students, 2012 was the third consecutive year when the course was not held. Only four seats remained unfilled, too, so the eligible students did not get streams of their choice.

Performance in JEE (Main) 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cut-off</th>
<th>Selection</th>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
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<td>OBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46.18%</td>
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Candidates for IITs

- The number of candidates for IITs has increased significantly
- The number of candidates for IITs has increased significantly

High scorers tell tales of grit, determination

High scorers Aditya, Charmi and Pranayd

Scores don't tally with answer keys of coaching classes

THE NEXT STAGE

JEE (Main) RESULTS

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<th>Accessible</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<td><a href="http://jeemain.nic.in">http://jeemain.nic.in</a></td>
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</table>

JEE (Advanced) RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidates</th>
<th>1.5 lakh out of 12.6 lakh who registered for JEE (Main)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figures are approximate</td>
<td></td>
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Leadership

Mumbai: Most candidates who failed to clear JEE (Main) cannot believe their scores. They are finding the gap between expectation and reality too wide to bridge with the acceptance that they did not perform well.

“I expected to score 150, but got 70,” said Lohith Wani. His father, Nilesh, said Lohith had matched OMR sheet with the answer key provided by coaching classes. “Even if there were errors in the answer keys, the difference with the result should not have been so high.”

Chemistry teacher Prakash Patil of the coaching centre RTO IIT Academy said of a student that he had scored less than expected. “The CBSE officials have made a huge mistake. The official result sheet has not been accurate, and the students have a right to know the correct answers,” he said.

The CBSE officials have clarified that the OMR sheets are filled by the students themselves, and that the results are based on the accurate answers provided by the students.

“Scores don’t tally with answer keys of coaching classes

High scorers Aditya, Charmi and Pranayd

Scores don't tally with answer keys of coaching classes

In the final round of results, the CBSE had published the results on its website, which showed a large number of students had scored above 150. However, the official results showed that only a small number of students had scored above 150. This has caused a lot of confusion among students and parents.

CBSE officials have clarified that the results published on its website are the final results, and that the students who have scored above 150 in the final round will be published in the next round of results.

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Registration begins for JEE-Advance

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The online registration of candidates who qualified for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advance for admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) began on Wednesday. The last date for the online registration is May 13.

The nationwide test for selection of candidates for admissions to 15 premier technical institutes as well as Indian Institute of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, will be conducted by Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs on June 2.

About 1.5 lakh candidates from all categories including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been selected for the JEE-Advance on the basis of their performance in the JEE-Main, results of which were declared on Tuesday.

For online registration, eligible candidates for JEE-Advance can visit website http://jeeadvonline.iitd.ac.in/ or http://jeeadv.iitd.ac.in/.

At the examination hall, the downloaded admit card should be presented to the invigilators for verification. The original admit card for the JEE (Advanced) - 2013 will be issued to the candidates in the respective examination centre on the day of examination after verifying their candidature, it added.
When anxiety trumped euphoria

Results for IIT-JEE round one declared; next test on June 2

Vasudha Venugopal

CHENNAI: Engineering aspirants will have to make quicker decisions this year about accepting or foregoing admissions to a particular college.

Premier institutions, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) will finalise their admissions only towards the end of June or July, but admissions to State colleges and deemed universities will be over by then.

Nearly 1.5 lakh students across the country, who cleared the cut-off in the main paper of the IIT-Joint Entrance Exam (JEE), results of which were declared on Tuesday, will have to write another test on June 2 - IIT-JEE advanced, which will finally determine their entry to the country’s top engineering colleges.

The results of this second test will only be declared in the last week of June. Those students, who have set their sights on NITs, will have to wait till July 7, when the rank list will be announced and their admission secured.

Nearly 85,200 students in Tamil Nadu took the IIT-JEE mains.

State and deemed universities however, are finishing their admission procedures much faster this year, in order to begin the academic year sooner. While Anna University has decided to finish its first round of counselling in June, deemed universities have said they will close their merit list admissions by the end of May.

With this difference in schedules, many students said they would rather accept a seat at a private college as it would be safer than waiting for the offer chance of getting into an IIT or NIT.

Another issue is the fact that the State rank list, usually released at this time, has not come out this year, leaving students wondering about where they stand, score-wise, compared to students from other States, and if they are eligible for the home State reservation quota at NITs.

S. Nagarajan, a parent said, "Since my son has already put in so much effort to clear JEE, both mains and advanced, I won’t force him to get into a State college. But giving the private colleges’ counselling session a miss is not advisable, as JEE advanced can be difficult and students can lose out here. I may have to shell out around Rs. 30,000 to at least book a seat,” he said.

"Until last year, a student had many options. This time, she has to decide fast and choose carefully," said he has been focusing on JEE advanced alone, as it is a six-hour test, and the syllabus was vast.

The most worried lot however, are students who have secured between 150 and 220 on JEE mains. "Ideally, I would like to get into one of the NITs, but without knowing the State rank, it is very difficult to know where I stand," said Krupali Patel, a student who has scored 190.

CBSE officials said a rank list would have to collate students’ performances in board exams and JEE mains, and that could only be done once all the boards released their class XII results.

"Since JEE 2013 is, for the first time, linked with class XII results, the slight delay when compared to last year is inevitable but does some good, as students are expected to make mature decisions," said dean, Sona University, S. Vaidhyasubramaniam.

Why students are confused

• Until last year, IITs released JEE results by mid-May. This year, students have to take another test on June 2, and then wait for results to be declared on June 23.

• Until last year, admissions to NITs would begin by June 14. This year, students have to wait till June 7, just to get the rank list. Only then will counselling for NITs start.

• Until last year, Anna University counselling would begin only in mid-July, giving students enough time to finish counselling to IITs and NITs. This year, the university has expedited the process.

• Private universities will begin their counselling procedures from May 15. Most students, believing it is safer to have a confirmed seat, may pay non-refundable admission fee starting from Rs. 30,000.

• This could affect their chances of getting into premier institutes such as IITs, NITs whose admission lists release much later.

The Top Scorers

NITHIN RAMASEN | Score: 326

I have been preparing for four years for the test. I took the office job because I wanted more time to prepare for JEE Advanced.

SOORAJ NARAIN | Score: 330

It is important not to get demoralised while studying. Every mark is important here, so coaching and continuous testing help.

AJAY KUMAR | Score: 305

This is just the first step. JEE Advanced is a greater battle, and it is all about how you perform in those six hours. It is lot of pressure.

SHIMON JOSEPH | Score: 300

I was expecting a higher score. It would have helped if they released the official answer key. I want to do electrical engineering at IIT-Madras.

SAI PRAVIN | Score: 331

I am from Bikaner and have been studying here for the past two years, preparing for JEE. I want to take up computer science at IIT-Bombay or in California.
City’s top scorers in JEE-Main now aim for IIT-B

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MAY 7

MANY of the city’s high scorers in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main), who are eligible for IIT (Advanced) for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), have their eyes set on IIT Bombay. The reasons, according to the aspirants, range from campus life and flexible curriculum to faculty, location in the country’s financial hub and placements.

Since 2005, when 52 of the top 100 JEE rankers opted for IIT Bombay, the institute has retained its position as the most preferred destination among top rankers. In 2012, 86 candidates listed IIT Bombay as their first choice and 77 got admission offers from the institute.

The results of the first JEE (Main), which replaced the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), were declared Tuesday. Of the 12.49 lakh candidates who appeared for JEE (Main) this year, 1.5 lakh have now become eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced). Around 12.62 lakh had registered for JEE (Main).

“Faculty from IIT Bombay is said to be the best and the institute is considered the best among all the IITs. I have heard that campus life here is better as compared to the other IITs. My preparations are on in full swing as I want to secure a good rank to get into IIT Bombay. Though I haven’t yet zeroed in on the discipline, electrical, computer science and mechanical engineering are some of the preferred ones,” said Aditya Kale, a Thane resident, who secured 331 out of 360.

A top scorer from Maharashtra with a score of 335, Yash Bhalgat is also an IIT Bombay aspirant. “I have heard that the quality of education offered at IIT Bombay is good. I am working hard for a good rank to get into IIT Bombay. It will also be closer to my hometown,” said the student from Pune.

Pradyot Prakash, who scored 322, also wants to join IIT Bombay. “I have heard that IIT Bombay has a good campus culture. Events like Techfest and Mood Indigo give you exposure and opportunity to hone your talents. Besides the fact that I will be closer to home, excellent placement opportunities and good industry exposure are the other reasons why my first choice is IIT Bombay,” said Prakash, a Nerul resident.

Others like Yashraj Bhosale from Pune (321), Vivek Pandit from Ghatkopar (320), Rishab Iyer from Powai (317) and Devang Thakkar from Thane (305) also prefer IIT Bombay.

JEE (Advanced) will be held on June 2 and eligible candidates will have to register from May 8-13.
City boys top
JEE Mains exam

Hyderabad: Students from Hyderabad secured the top two ranks out of 13.5 lakh examinees in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains, which brings them closer to getting admissions in IITs.

Sixteen-year-old M Viswa Virinchi, a resident of Kukatpally, secured the first rank with 345 marks, and could be the youngest to crack the exam this year, officials said, while Owais Khan Mohammed, a resident of Tolichowki, secured the second rank with 341 marks.

Interestingly, the two toppers are classmates from Sri Chaitanya Narayana IIT Academy, Madhapur. The third student Ravi Jagannath Vishal, who secured 340 marks, is from Visakhapatnam.

▶ No bookworms: P8

“I had expected a good rank but did not think that I would top the mark list,” said Virinchi. His friend and classmate Mohammed said he worked very hard but the second rank came as a surprise. “I hope to secure a good rank in IIT-Advanced too,” Mohammed, who wants to get into IIT-Bombay, said.

JEE Mains is considered to be a qualifying examination for JEE Advanced and also an entrance test for National Institute of Technologies (NITs) and other government-run top institutes directly on the basis of this showing. The third rank holder Ravi Jagannath Vishal whose father is a senior manager (projects) in HPCL said that he is glad to have done well as he had put in 12 hours of study every day.

JEE mains examination was held in various centres across the country last month. According to the new rules, about 1.5 lakh passouts will be selected for the IIT-Advanced examination on June 2, the entrance test meant for admissions to IITs.

Out of a total of 1.5 lakh students who cleared the examination, about 31,514 were from Andhra Pradesh, JEE-Main zonal office in Hyderabad revealed.

“Students from AP have been doing well every year in AIEEE which was replaced by JEE-Mains. As much as 21% of the students in IITs are from AP. We are quite proud of the state’s performance in this examinations,” said Rahul Shukla, coordinator, IIT-JEE Zonal Centre, Hyderabad, in a media conference.
13 साल के सत्यम ने फिर पास की आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा

घटना: बिहार के भोजपुर निवासी 13 वर्षीय सत्यम कुमार ने फिर आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा पास की है। वे इस परीक्षा को पास करने वाले सबसे युवा छात्र बन गए हैं। सत्यम ने पिछले साल आईआईटी परीक्षा साढ़े बारह साल की उम्र में पास की थी। उन्हें सीबीएसई ने विशेष अनुमति दी थी। तब उनकी रैंक 8137 थी। सत्यम ने इस बार अपनी रैंक सुधारने के लिए वापस परीक्षा में बैठे। अब वे एडवांस की तैयारी कर रहे हैं।
HC refuses stay on DU’s 4-yr undergraduate courses

Harish V Nair
harish.nair@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In a major relief to the Delhi University administration, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to stay the introduction of four-year undergraduate programme.

An NGO, Sambhava, had alleged that the course, which will commence from this academic session in July, was discriminatory against visually-impaired students of the university. The NGO had raised objections on various counts, major among them being that two mandatory foundation courses based on mathematics and science would be a hurdle for visually-challenged students.

“Why should we stay it? The course anyways is beginning only in July. We will hear the petition next week,” a bench of Chief Justice D Murugesan and justice Jayant Nath told the NGO’s lawyer, Pankaj Sinha. The petition had sought a stay on the course till the university made special arrangements for the differently-abled.

The court, however, issued notice to the Delhi University seeking to know by May 15 what extra facilities and provisions have been made so that the visually-impaired students do not face any difficulties in adopting the course.

DU’s counsel MJS Rupal told the court that the university is considering extra facilities for such students and a meeting on Wednesday was being convened in the to deal with their grievances.

Sinha, a visually-impaired lawyer, told the court that visually-challenged students are exempted from studying science and mathematics after class eight in some cases and after class 10 in most cases. He said with the university making these foundation courses compulsory, which will require prior knowledge of these subjects, it would be unfair to the students if requisite arrangements are not made in advance.

He said another major concern was access to sufficient reading material for such students such as Braille textbooks, e-texts or audio texts. “Maths cannot be studied in braille,” said Sinha. They claimed the course was not discussed with disabled teachers and students.
High Court notice to DU on four-year programme

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Delhi University on a public interest litigation by a non-government organisation seeking a stay on implementation of the “discriminatory” four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) by Delhi University from the next academic session.

Issuing the notice, a Division Bench of Justice Darmar Murugesan and Justice Jayant Nath asked the university to file a reply to the petition by May 15, the next date of hearing.

Accepting the notice, counsel for the university submitted that several issues connected with the four-year programme had been addressed by the Academic Council and the grievances raised in this petition had also been considered.

The petitioner, Sambhavan, an organisation of physically-challenged teachers and students in the Capital, said that the existing design of FYUP was discriminatory as it did not take into account the aspirations and specific needs of students with visual impairment and other print-disabilities.

It stated that if the course in its present form was implemented, the visually-impaired students would suffer irreparable loss as a large number of them would not be able to avail of the proposed benefits.

Under the inter-disciplinary programme, students were required to study foundation courses from multiple streams. Two of the 11 foundation courses to be studied over first two semesters would be on mathematics and science. In most cases, visually-impaired students were discouraged or practically barred from taking the two subjects after class XII, the petition said.

It further said that like most schools in Delhi, the university had not made adequate arrangements for teaching the two subjects to these students. Yet, the new programme had made it compulsory for all the students to study courses that required prior knowledge of science and mathematics, the petition stated.

The university had two options in this case. Either it could exempt these students from studying courses that required knowledge of the two subjects or it could tell them to look for some other universities. In either case, it would be treating them as second class students in complete violation of their fundamental and other legislative rights of equal participation, the petition alleged.
UP girl commits suicide in Kota after IIT-JEE result

HT Correspondent
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KOTA: A girl studying in a coaching centre in Kota reportedly committed suicide on Tuesday after being unable to cope-up with the pressure of failing in IIT-JEE, said police.

Ayushi Tiwari, 18, a native of Uttar Pradesh, used to live in a hostel in Rajeev Nagar area of Kota. After the engineering exam results were declared on Tuesday she locked herself in her room and hanged herself to death, they added.

The girl has left a suicide note for her parents stating that she “regretted not living up to their (parents) expectations,” said cops.

The hostel owner informed the police about the incident.

The postmortem examination was conducted and body was handed to family members on Wednesday, said police.