LUCKNOW: The Joint Admission Board of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) has officially released the schedule for JEE (Advanced) - 2014 for admissions to the IITs. The JEE Advanced will be held on May 25, 2014, a week in advance as compared to last year. The board had earlier decided not to go for a computer-based JEE-Advanced 2014. Instead, aspirants will have a paper-pencil test. The test will include two papers— the first to be held from 9 am to 12 noon, and second from 2 pm to 5 pm. The questions will be objective (multiple choice) type that will test comprehension, reasoning and analytical ability of candidates.
3 Indian Universities Shine in Global Employability Rankings

By SiliconIndia | Wednesday, 30 October 2013, 17:36 IST | 1 Comments

#3. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Rank: 145

Slotted at the 145th position, IIT-B is the last entry from India. Established in 1958, it was the first IIT to be set up with the assistance of foreign players such as UNESCO.

IIT-B is a renowned leader in engineering education and is noted for research in varied areas of technology that are making significant contributions to the nation. It is also well-known for the superiority of its faculty and the exceptional competence of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

Presently, IIT-Bombay has about 14 academic departments that offer undergraduate and post graduate degrees in engineering, science, mathematics and technology. And in the last five decades, more than 39,000 students have graduated from this prominent institute.
India invites rating agency to improve institute rankings

Prakash Kumar, New Delhi, Oct 31, 2013, DHNS:

Eleven top central varsities along with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are set to get tips from Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), an agency that rates institutes across the world, next month to improve their international rankings.

After several months of dialogue with the foreign agency on the issue, a committee of the IIT Council has invited QS to hold a workshop at IIT-Delhi to apprise the premier technical institutes as well as central varsities of the methods and processes it adopts while ranking various higher-education institutions globally.

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has asked Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia from the national capital, Aligarh Muslim University and Allahabad University from Uttar Pradesh, and Hyderabad University from Andhra Pradesh to participate in the workshop and understand what they need to do in order to improve their position among other institutions across the world.

Representatives from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Chhattisgarh, Dr Hari Singh Gour Sagar University in Madhya Pradesh, North Eastern Hill University in Shillong and Hemwati Nandani Bahuguna Garhwal University are also expected to participate in the event. "We have invited only these central varsities because we felt they have the potential to figure in the QS ranking," a senior HRD Ministry official told Deccan Herald.
No land in sight, National Institute of Technology could bid Goa adieu

PANAJI: The inevitable is near. National Institute of Technology (NIT), Goa, which has been waiting for its promised land in the state for the past five years, could find a permanent home elsewhere.

Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) secretary Ashok Thakur has shot off a letter to Goa chief secretary B Vijayn asking for a final word on whether the state can provide land to the NIT.

As per the letter, if the state government fails to provide a concrete reply within a month, the lone central government higher education institute in Goa will be shifted to a neighbouring region, sources said.

The process to find an alternative home for the institute already seems to have begun with NIT Goa director GRC Reddy asked to identify a place in a neighbouring state for a permanent campus for the institute, sources said.

Reddy, when contacted, confirmed plans to shift the institute outside Goa.

The central government letter points to 'insufficient space and lack of proper infrastructure' and also speaks of the consequent failure to attract permanent faculty, sources said.

Thakur in his letter has given a month's deadline and cited the benefits to Goan students studying in the NIT. He has also said MHRD "has waited enough" for the land at Canaconim to be handed over to NIT Goa.

Central government officials appear tired of Goa government's failed assurances.

The October letter is the fourth from MHRD to the state government seeking clarity on the NIT land imbroglio, which refuses to be settled with locals at the identified site in Canaconim in south Goa, opposing the institute on grounds like assurance of job reservation at the NIT in return.

NIT Goa is presently operating in a lone building located on the fringes of the Goa Engineering College premises in Pammagudi. Earlier this year, the institute had to put off its expansion plans indefinitely due to lack of essential infrastructure like spacious hostels, state-of-the-art laboratories or vast mini-township like campuses that are a hallmark of NITs.

Goa government under chief minister Manohar Parrikar had put down a 50% reservation for Goan students as a prerequisite before the state can acquire land for the institute but Goa has been unable to keep its promise even after the condition was fulfilled.

No land is in sight for the institute even after it agreed to half of the original stated land requirement of the NIT of 300 acres of contiguous land.
INDIA 106TH IN WORLD PROSPERITY INDEX

LONDON: India has slipped by five places to the 106th spot, way below neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and China in the World Prosperity Index, largely due to poor ‘safety and security’ environment. In the ‘Prosperity Index’ ranking of 142 countries compiled by London-based Legatum Institute, India dropped from 101st position last year, while Norway continues to remain at the top. Besides, India has fallen down the prosperity index rankings consistently over the last five years, the report said. The 2013 Legatum Prosperity Index evaluates nations in eight categories, including education, health, economy, safety and security.  

PTI
Former Anna University VC suspended

Staff Reporter

Former Anna University vice chancellor Mannar Jawahar has been suspended following a preliminary investigation by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) into allegations of corruption. After serving as the VC of the university between 2008 and 2012, Mr. Jawahar has been working as a professor in the department of automobile engineering at Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), Chromepet, since June 2012, and was set to retire on Thursday.

Sources said an enquiry against him was initiated last year when a professor from MIT, one of the constituent colleges of Anna University, wrote a letter to government officials, alleging that he was being forced by university officials to boost marks of certain students during revaluation of papers. Three professors were suspended when the scam broke out. DVAC started inquiries based on a complaint filed by the university a few days ago. An official said a detailed probe is on.

Mr. Jawahar said he was never called for any enquiry nor was sent any notice by the university or DVAC.
Mars mission is one step closer to blasting off

**D-DAY** Launch rehearsal a success, countdown starts at 6.08am on Nov 3

**SRIHARIKOTA:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) had a launch rehearsal for its ambitious ₹450 crore Mars Mission on Thursday where the entire procedure of the final stages of the nearly eight-and-a-half hours countdown leading to the take-off was simulated. The 56-hours-30-minutes countdown for the launch will start at 6.08am on November 3. Soon after, the propellants will be filled in the spacecraft. However, the launch authorisation board will meet here on November 1 to give the final clearance for the launch prior to this procedure.

The spacecraft is slated for a take-off at 1436 hours on November 5. The PSLV-XL will carry the 1337 kg Mars Orbiter Satellite into a 290km x 23500km elliptical orbit.

“Everything went smoothly. Now, we are preparing for the countdown which begins on November 3. Except for the ignite button, all other procedures were checked on the rehearsal day. All vehicle systems were powered up and the health of the systems were found to be normal,” says P Kunhiraman, project director of PSLV, said. The spacecraft will move out of the Earth’s sphere of influence on December 1 at 06:42 hours and will enter into the heliocentric (sun centric) orbit. It will remain here for 300 days and will finally enter the Martian orbit on September 24, 2014.

The spacecraft will carry five payloads, including one for measuring methane.

They will carry out different scientific and technological experiments once the spacecraft enters the Martian orbit.
Focus our attention on ICT based learning: President at IIT Patna Convocation

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee along with the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar and Governor of Bihar, Dr. D.Y. Patil addressed the 2nd Convocation of Indian Institute of Technology Patna on October 26, 2013.

During his speech, the president called upon the intellectuals, students and academics to work together to improve the quality of education, science, research and development. He advised the students to not only be job-seekers but also job providers. Expressing happiness over IIT Patna’s consistent endeavour on research and development, he emphasized that the institute can be a role model for others.

He said a renewed focus by our engineering institutions towards courses on entrepreneurship is essential for the progress of our nation. It is perhaps a kind of commitment to oneself, to one’s abilities, to one’s persistence and of course to one’s performance. He was glad to know that IIT Patna is conducting an Entrepreneurship and Innovation course for undergraduate students and is proactively nurturing their creativity in a dedicated innovation centre.

However, Shri Mukherjee expressed deep concerns over the ranking of Indian universities on a world scale. He regretted the fact that not one of the Indian institutes could ever make it to the list of top 200 best places of higher learning despite India being the world seat of learning in the ancient era.

On the occasion, the President awarded gold medals, silver medals, three PhD medals and degrees to 89 students of the IIT, Patna. The president’s gold medal was earned by Abhinav Kohar of Computer Science and Engineering while Kshitiz of Electrical received director’s gold medal and Ashutosh Kumar of Mechanical Engineering received the silver medal.

Noted space scientist Dr K Kasturirangan, Professor C N R Rao (in absentia) and secretary, department of atomic energy, Ratan K Sinha, were conferred with distinguished academics award by the President.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Governor, D.Y. Patil congratulated the degree recipients and hoped that educational institution like IIT Patna will revive the past glory of Bihar and provide a platform for growth and prosperity in times to come.
IT-Kharagpur's research on Phailin cyclone. Reports revealed

The Bay of Bengal cyclone ‘Phailin’ originated from a remnant cyclonic circulation over the South China Sea. It reached Andaman Sea on 07 October 2013 as a low-pressure area. Moving in the northwesterly direction, it intensified into a cyclonic storm at 17:30 UTC 09 October. It continued to move in the same direction and rapidly intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm on 10 October and it became equivalent to a Category-5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale on 11 October. It crossed east coast of India near Gopalpur, Odisha on 12th October around 2230 IST on 12 October 2013 night with maximum sustained wind speed of about 200 Km h-1 and gust speed of 220 km h-1. It caused substantial damage in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) was closely monitoring the movement of Phailin with advisory bulletins issued in a timely manner. The biggest evacuation effort of the past 23 years by the Odisha State government and National Disaster Response Force teams had saved loss of human life. The evacuation efforts include shifting human population from the coastal areas of Ganjam, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts of Orissa.

Read more at: http://education.oneindia.in/news/2013/10/31/iit-kharagpurs-research-on-phailin-cyclone-reports-revealed-007297.html

IIT-B ties up with Washington University to offer EMBA

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Washington University will now offer a joint Executive MBA programme

A joint Executive MBA (EMBA) programme will now be offered by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) and Washington University, St Louis. The course will be offered at the Shailesh J Mehta School of Management, IIT-B from January 2015 in collaboration with the Olin School of Business, WUSTL.

The decision to offer a joint EMBA was made at the ongoing IIT-B-WUSTL Corporate Leaders Conclave at St Louis. Faculty from Olin School of Business will also be available for the course.

Devang Khakhar, director, IIT-B has stated to the media “IIT Bombay and WUSTL have active research collaborations in areas related to energy and environment. The Corporate Conclave, in which several corporate leaders and distinguished alumni of IIT Bombay participated, marked the initiation of a corporate alliance to support this partnership. The joint research seeks to address global problems by bringing together the outstanding faculty members and students of these two eminent institutions, along with the industry,”.

IIT Bombay spoke at a session on ‘Entrepreneurship and Innovation: R&D Technology Park’ at the Conclave saying that it will establish a Research Park within its campus. The research park will carry out cutting edge research in the areas of concern to the Indian society and will be owned and operated by the Institute with the support of the Indian Government. Companies will be allowed to use the scientific and technical expertise available with the faculty members of IIT Bombay.

(http://www.edu-leaders.com/content/iit-b-ties-washington-university-offer-emba)