Seven Indian institutes have been listed in the top 400 educational institutions in the world by a UK survey, which saw Cambridge slipping out of the top three global universities for the first time.

According to QS World University Rankings 2016 survey, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) holds on to the top spot, followed by two other American universities -- Stanford at second position and Harvard at third position.

Indian universities continue to lag behind in the global top 200, with Indian Institute of Science dropping five notches to 152 from 147 last year and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi at 185 from 179 in 2015, the survey said,

Other Indian universities that make the cut within the top 400 on the list are the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) -- Bombay (219), Madras (249), Kanpur (302), Kharagpur (313) and Roorkee (399).

“This year’s rankings imply that levels of investment are determining who progresses and who regresses. Institutions in countries that provide high levels of targeted funding, whether from endowments or from the public purse, are rising,” said Ben Sowter, head of research at QS.

Cambridge University has fallen out of the global top three for the first time in the latest university rankings released.

Cambridge, which was ranked a joint third with Harvard last year, slips to fourth with British competitor Oxford retaining its sixth rank.

Experts believe the exact post-Brexit impact on UK universities will become clearer next year as bulk of the research for this year’s rankings was conducted before Britain voted to leave the European Union (EU) on June 23.

London’s mayor Sadiq Khan said: “Boasting more of the globe’s top universities and welcoming the most international students, London is the higher education capital of the world and I want to make sure it stays that way.”

The rankings include 916 universities from 81 countries, with 33 countries featured in the Top 200.

The US dominate, with 48 institutions, ahead of the UK (30), Netherlands (12), Germany (11), Canada, Australia (9), Japan (8), China (7), France, Sweden and Hong Kong (5).

The ‘QS World University Rankings’ are based on four categories: research, teaching, employability and internationalisation.

The methodology consists of six indicators: academic reputation (40%), employer reputation (10%), faculty student ratio (20%), citations per faculty (20%), international students (5%), and international faculty (5%).
How IIT-Madras broke into world's top 250

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Madras) is the only Indian institution to have bettered its position in the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) ranking for 2016-17 released on Tuesday. IIT-Madras moved up from the 254th position in 2015 to 249 this year, entering the global top 250 institutions.

The other eight Indian institutions that featured in the top 700 institutions in 2015 saw a dip in their ranking position this year. Ben Sowter, head of research at the QS intelligence unit, attributes the fall of Indian institutions to a number of factors. "One such factor is India's relatively low numbers of PhD-qualified researchers, which has a direct and deleterious impact on the research productivity and impact of India's universities. This problem is exacerbated by India hiring and attracting fewer PhD-qualified researchers from abroad.

IIT-Madras has been constantly improving its QS ranking in the last three years. It was at 322 in 2014 and has moved up 73 positions in three years a significant achievement for a university. Director of IIT-Madras Bhaskar Ramamurthi, said, "There is no significant improvement in the parameters as such. In fact, we are concerned about the temporary faculty shortage due to the increase of PhD students." However, he attributes the improvement in the ranking to the rising intake of PhD scholars. "Until three years ago, we were admitting 200-250 candidates every year, which has risen to 400-450 now. This will help improve our research output," said Ramamurthi.

However, IIT-Madras has slipped eight positions in the ranking of institutions based on research work. IIT-Madras was 93 in 2015 and has slipped to 101 this year. "We have to look into this and identify the reasons. But, in general if you see institutions with better research rankings, they have got more published research work in life sciences. For some niche engineering and technology streams it is tough to get into reputed international journals," said Ramamurthi.

When asked about the need for increasing intake of international students, Ramamurthi said that Union ministry of human resource and development (MHRD) is working on improving this parameter in public-funded institutions. "We are looking at conducting graduate aptitude test for engineering (GATE) in countries abroad. In the last two months, professors have visited some countries and have studied the possibilities," he said. The ministry is exploring options like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Singapore, Afghanistan some countries in Africa and the Middle East.

In the last two council meetings, the ministry has emphasized on achieving 20% postgraduate students from abroad.

IIT-Madras also has a plan in place to improve its ranking, but, Ramamurthi said that most German technical institutions, including some most sought-after places for higher education, are also ranked around the IITs.
रैंकिंग...
दुनिया के टॉप 150 एजुकेशन इंस्टीट्यूट्स में हमारा एक भी नहीं
रिसर्च की कमी से निर्भर, आईआईटी ने किया निराशा
पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
पत्रिका.com
नई दिल्ली. हमारे आईआईटी इंस्टीट्यूट दुनियाभर के टॉप एजुकेशन इंस्टीट्यूट व यूनिवर्सिटी की सूची में पिछड़ गए हैं। टॉप 150 में एक भी आईआईटी नहीं है।
क्यूएस वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग 2016-17 जारी हुई है। इसमें भारत की यूनिवर्सिटी को इस बार ज्यादा बेहतर नहीं माना गया है।
आईआईटीसी बेंगलूरु पिछले साल तक टॉप 150 में था। जो इस साल 152वें स्थान पर विस्तार गया है।
शोध नहीं कर रहे हैं हमारे संस्थान
किंग आकादमिक शोध और शिक्षकों की गुणवत्ता के आधार पर ता की गई है। ये से में भारत की शिक्षा व्यवस्था और उसकी गुणवत्ता पर सबक उठ रहे हैं।
शोध की कैटेगरी में टॉप 100 में भारत की चार यूनिवर्सिटी है।
आईआईटी मद्रास की रैंकिंग शोध के मामले में अभी रैंकिंग खिसक गई है। इस दफा यह इंस्टीट्यूट 101वें स्थान पर आया है। शोध के तहत भी इस आईआईटीभी बेहतर माना गया है। उसे 11वां स्थान मिला है।
क्यूएस इंटीलीजेंस यूनिट के शोध विभाग के प्रमुख बने सम्मानित कहते हैं कि भारत में शिक्षा का स्तर स्थानिक की वजह पीएचडी छात्रों की संख्या में कम है।
यमुना को प्रदूषण मुक्त करेंगे
अवजलशोधक संगठनों का अभ्यास करने के लिए कमेटी गठित

अमर उजाला धृष्टि

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने यमुना नदी को प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने के लिए मंगलबार को एक कमेटी गठित कर दी। कमेटी बोर्ड के समाय अवजल शोधक संगठनों का अभ्यास करने उनके संबंध में प्रात सिरेंडर करेगी। दिल्ली सरकार के जल मंत्री कविन्द्र मिश्रा ने कमेटी को एक महीने में सिरेंडर तैयार करने के निर्देश दिये हैं।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के मंगलबार को यमुना नदी को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की कार्ययोजना तैयार करने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय बैठक हुई। इस बैठक में मनोज मिश्रा, जल बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष अभिनव दलित के साथ-साथ यमुना जल अभ्यास के मनोज मिश्रा, आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रो. गुंडार, इंजनर के मंत्र भतनागर भी शामिल हुए। यहां कविन्द्र मिश्रा ने जल बोर्ड के सभी अवजल शोधक संगठनों की एक महीने में प्रात सिरेंडर तैयार करने के निर्देश दिये।

इसके लिए उन्होंने चार सरायक कमेटी का गठन किया। कमेटी में मनोज मिश्रा व मंत्र भतनागर को भी शामिल किया गया। इसके अलावा जल बोर्ड के मुख्य अभिव्यक्ति रामधार भी कमेटी में होंगे। मिश्रा ने यमुना नदी में गर रहे सभी नालों का सर्वे करने का भी निर्देश दिया। इसके अलावा आईआईटी के साथ मिलकर एक संयोजन और स्तर मानेजमेंट प्लान बनाने का फैसला किया।

इन बीच जल बोर्ड ने अपने सभी अवजल शोधक संगठनों को समस्त जनाकारी एक साल के माध्यम से मामलापूर्वक जानने का निर्देश दिया। बैठक में कविन्द्र मिश्रा ने जनाकारी दी कि अवजल शोधक संगठनों में अच्छा काम करे कम्बिनेशन के लिए एक खास विकास योजना शुरू की जाएगी, इसके तहत कर्मचारियों को समन्वित किया जाएगा।

जलभराव को लेकर हाईकोर्ट गंगीर

नई दिल्ली। हाईकोर्ट ने राजस्थान में विषिले वराहाल के अवजल जलबंदी से जलाधार के माहौल को होगा साधना से लिया है। अवालम ने इस माहौल में दायर जलाधार विधिन पर धौला, दिल्ली सरकार, राजस्थानी अधिकारियों के साथ-साथ व्यापक विषय पर व्यवस्था की जानी है। इसलिए राजस्थानी एवं वि.व.मूलता में से हो जलाधार विधिन के लिए जलाधार विधिन समिति के लिए कोई विवेचना की जाएगी। कोई भी समस्या रहे होंगे तो हाईकोर्ट की जरूरत में होगा।
Chasing the IIT dream, across the Palk Bay

With foreign nationals becoming eligible to compete for the IITs, Sri Lanka's high school students are aiming high.

Earlier this year, the IITs had announced plans to hold entrance examinations abroad — in Singapore, the UAE, Ethiopia and SAARC nations. Following that, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, along with the Ministry of External Affairs, has begun its outreach.

The initiative enables, for the first time, foreign students to appear for the IIT entrance exams. Since then, the initiative has been lauded as a step forward in the education sector, both for Indian students and for those from foreign countries.

The foreign students who are interested can register for the exams through their respective embassies or consulates. The exams will be held in the IIT campuses, and the results will be released as per the usual schedule.

The initiative is expected to attract a significant number of foreign students, thereby increasing the diversity and quality of the student body in IITs. It is also expected to provide a level playing field for foreign students, who have traditionally struggled to gain admission into the IITs.

To conclude, the IITs' decision to conduct entrance exams abroad is a welcome move that will surely benefit students from around the world. The initiative will not only provide foreign students with an opportunity to pursue their dreams in India's premier institutions of higher education, but it will also contribute to the growth and development of the Indian education system.
IITs turn to core sector firms for placements after start-up fiasco

VINAY UMARU
Ahmedabad, 6 September

After blacklisting around 31 start-ups, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are now encouraging students to go for core sector companies and public sector undertakings (PSUs) this placement season. The IITs are scrutinising other start-ups closely, as they begin inviting recruiters for pre-placement talks from September.

"We are hopeful that PSUs will come a bit early this year. It will be a win-win situation for all. This time, we are requesting them to come a bit early. PSUs hire in good numbers usually and it is almost a dream job for students," said K Mohanty, placement chairperson at IIT-Guwahati.

Other IITs, too, are set to follow suit as they look to tap the core manufacturing sector along with PSUs. As many as 31 firms were blacklisted by IITs because they revoked offers and deferred joining dates, among others.

Recently, firms such as PepperTap, Portea Medical, Hopscotch, Grofers, Stayzilla, Roadrunnr and Zomato, among others, were barred from participating in placements for a year.

"The message that we are trying to bring home is that only those start-ups which are serious about recruiting should come to IIT campuses. The message that we are sending through blacklisting should be a sufficient deterrent. Moreover, companies where feedback is not good from the alumni with whom the students are in touch, automatically get moved further down in day-slotting," V Babu, advisor for training and placements at IIT-Madras, had told Business Standard earlier.

Hiring through PSUs got a boost last year after the Madras High Court ruled in favour of allowing them to pick students from campuses. Also, except for those in the computer science stream, students have shown a steady growth in interest in PSUs, especially in the oil and gas and heavy machinery sectors.

To further ensure employability of students, IITs are encouraging students to positively accept more number of pre-placement offers and not wait till final placement season.

IITs are set to meet again in October or November, closer to the final placement process that begins in December. According to placement officials, the meeting is likely to see further steps being taken in ensuring placements.
पीएसयू का आईआईटी दे रहे तवज्जो

अहमदाबाद, 6 सितंबर

महाराष्ट्र के क्षेत्र में पीएसयू के लिए फोरसेंट पर निर्माण की जा रही है। इसके पहले संस्थान द्वारा 31 कंपनियों को कार्य सूची में डाला जा चुका है। इन 31 कंपनियों में फोरसेंट की संख्या अधिक है। अब संस्थान ने केवल मूल कैंपस में अपने बाहरी फोरसेंट की शिक्षा को पूरी तरह से रखा है जबकि अन्य लोगों को भी पीएसयू को करने की जाती है।

सितंबर आते ही संस्थान ने इन कंपनियों और पीएसयू के साथ फोरसेंट प्रक्रिया पर बातचीत शुरु कर दी है।

आईआईटी गुवाहाटी के प्लेगेमेंट चैयरमैन के मोहंती ने कहा, 'हम उम्मीद है कि इस वर्ष पीएसयू कैंपस में बैठी सालों के मुकाबले जल्दी होगा।' इस बार हमें भी इन कंपनियों से जल्दी जाना जा चुका है। आपसी संख्या द्वारा पीएसयू अधिक संख्या में लोगों को चुकाने हैं जिन्हें जल्दी होना है।' गुवाहाटी के अलावा अन्य आईआईटी सभी जल्द ही इस ऑफ फ्लैट उड़ा सकते हैं। क्षेत्रों में जिसी संस्थान द्वारा पीएसयू में भिड़ते लाली शौक को भुनते जारी है।

महाराष्ट्र में आईआईटी द्वारा कपड़े कंपनियों की कार्य सूची में डाला गया है जिसमें महाराष्ट्र, हॉरिकु, ग्रीस, टेकसिकल, रोड्स, जीमेटो, नाउफोल्डस, क्विंटोलेन, जिम्बोली, बाजारियू, पीएसयू, स्मैटिक सोलर सिस्टम प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ब्रेंड ब्रेड हाइड्रो प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, रॉस होम्स टेम्पोरली प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, डेम्स्ट्रोटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, टेन्क्विया हाइड्रो आदि सहित हैं।

Aspirants' future at stake as MHRD dilly dallying on filling up thousands of vacant seats in IIT/NITs


MANGALURU: Though nearly 4,000 to 5,000 seats are lying vacant in IIT/NIT and IIITs across the country even after six rounds of counselling of the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA), the MHRD is yet to call on conducting 'Spot round' to fill up these seats with deserving students, who have cleared competitive exams.

Many candidates and parents from across the nation have demanded Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and they have alleged that minister Prakash Javadekar and officials concerned are not responding to their pleas. Non-filling thousands seats at these top technical institutes will not only affect the future of aspiring students but also will kill the hopes of many students.

Spot Round was conducted till the year 2014. In 2015 JoSAA was drafted. JoSAA rules for 2015 definitely mention that there would be no 'Spot Round'. So the MHRD instructed CSAB 2015 to find a 'feasible' way to fill up the 3000 plus vacant seats. So Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) conducted the Special Round, last year.

This year, though JoSAA website shows that vacant seats in IIT/IIT and NITs at around 2,332 across country, in reality it’s three-fold according to sources. "JoSAA hasn’t released the updated list of final vacant seats. They have just released the list of vacant seats after round six acceptances. But the admission process completed only after physical reporting. Many students didn’t go for physical reporting and have not taken admission. Also many withdrew from colleges even after taking admission once NEET results were out," says Abhinav Basu, from Kolkata. He has passed JEE (Main) as well IIT-JEE.

For example, the JoSAA official website shows that only 28 seats are vacant out of total 740 seats in NIT-K, Surathkal. "In reality, the numbers of vacant seats are around 80. We have written to MHRD to allow spot or final round to fill the
seats but not yet received any reply," reveals Kamlabh Kumar Singh, Assistant Registrar (Academic), NIT-K, Surathkal. Similarly sources claimed that in NIT Silchar where vacancy is 17, the real vacancy is 63 and in Trichy NIT the vacancy is 42 instead of 10. "This sums up that the real vacancies in NITs are almost three times the vacancies shown in the JoSAA website," sources add.

While another aspirant Priyam Shivastava from Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh says since the NEET results have been announced, students enrolled in engineering colleges including NITs are expected to leave for admission in medical colleges.

Another senior faculty from NIT on condition of anonymity added that if government does not go for spot or special round this year, some of the NITs in north part India would soon have zero admissions since most the students are migrating to IIT/IIITs.

Year wasted

Thousands of students who have toiled nearly 2-3 years to crack JEE (main/advanced) have to waste a year and also appear for competitive exams again next year. Speaking to TOI, more than hundreds of worried aspirants said that wasting a year is not option as it will affect their entire career.

Bengaluru based Shruthi NV says "It's very risky to drop one more year even though we have chances to get into institutions. We have to re-study entire things. Above everything, there are around thousands seats left and are eligible to get them."

While another aspirant Vishal Choudhary from Andaman and Nicobar Islands expressed that as there are no coaching classes, he has sit at home and prepare for the exams.

MHRD mum

When this reporter contact MHRD office, the official concerned stated that based on the recommendations from JoSAA, the ministry has decided to not go for spot or special round. When asked what the recommendations are, officials failed to respond.

IITK scientists build sensor device that spots bacterial infection faster


Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) have built a new sensor that can detect bacterial infection in food and water in just 1520 minutes, much faster than traditional laboratory tests. "Pathogenic bacterial infection is one of the biggest causes of death, and a fast response time is much needed for timely detection and subsequent cure of bacterial infection," said Saurabh Mani Tripathi, a physicist at IITK. The device, developed with collaborators from the Photonics Research Centre at the University of Quebec in Outaouais works over wide temperature range to quickly and cost effectively identify the potentially deadly Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria. Found in the environment, food, and intestines of people and animals, most strains of E. coli are harmless. But some kinds of E. coli can cause diarrhea, while others cause urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia, and other illnesses, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. "Using currently available technologies, which are mostly based on amplification of the sample, it takes several hours to days to detect the presence of bacteria. A fast and accurate detection alternative is,
therefore, preferable over the existing technology," Tripathi noted. Faster tests for the bacteria could lead to faster treatment of patients, as well as to cheaper and easier environmental monitoring, he said. The new sensor uses bacteriophages viruses that can naturally latch onto and kill bacteria. The viruses are bonded to the surface of an optical fibre and will grab E.coli bacteria from a sample and keep them attached. When a beam of light strikes the surface, the presence of E.coli shifts the wavelength in a telltale sign of bacterial contamination. One of the challenges of using optical fibres for bacteria detection is that temperature changes can alter the optical properties of the materials. Sensors are therefore often designed to work at a particular temperature and give inaccurate readings if the sample gets much hotter or colder. Tripathi and his colleagues overcame this challenge by adding an additional optical component and in effect canceling out temperature induced shifts. Their device, in the journal Optics Letters, is temperature insensitive over an approximately 20degree Celsius, starting at room temperature and going up to 40degrees Celsius. The temperature insensitivity makes the sensor more practical for outdoor applications, like onsite monitoring of water reservoirs, Tripathi said. IITK scientists build sensor device that spots bacterial infection faster reservoirs, Tripathi said. He also noted that the food industry and pathology labs are other possible users of the new sensors. The researchers said that the sensor can be modified to detect other strains of bacteria by changing the bacteriophage. The research group is currently collaborating with Security and Protection International, a Canadian company, to explore commercialisation of their device.