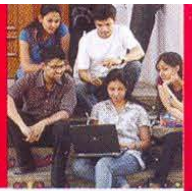


Exclusive Survey

INDIA'S TOP 50 UNIVERSITIES



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INDIA TODAY



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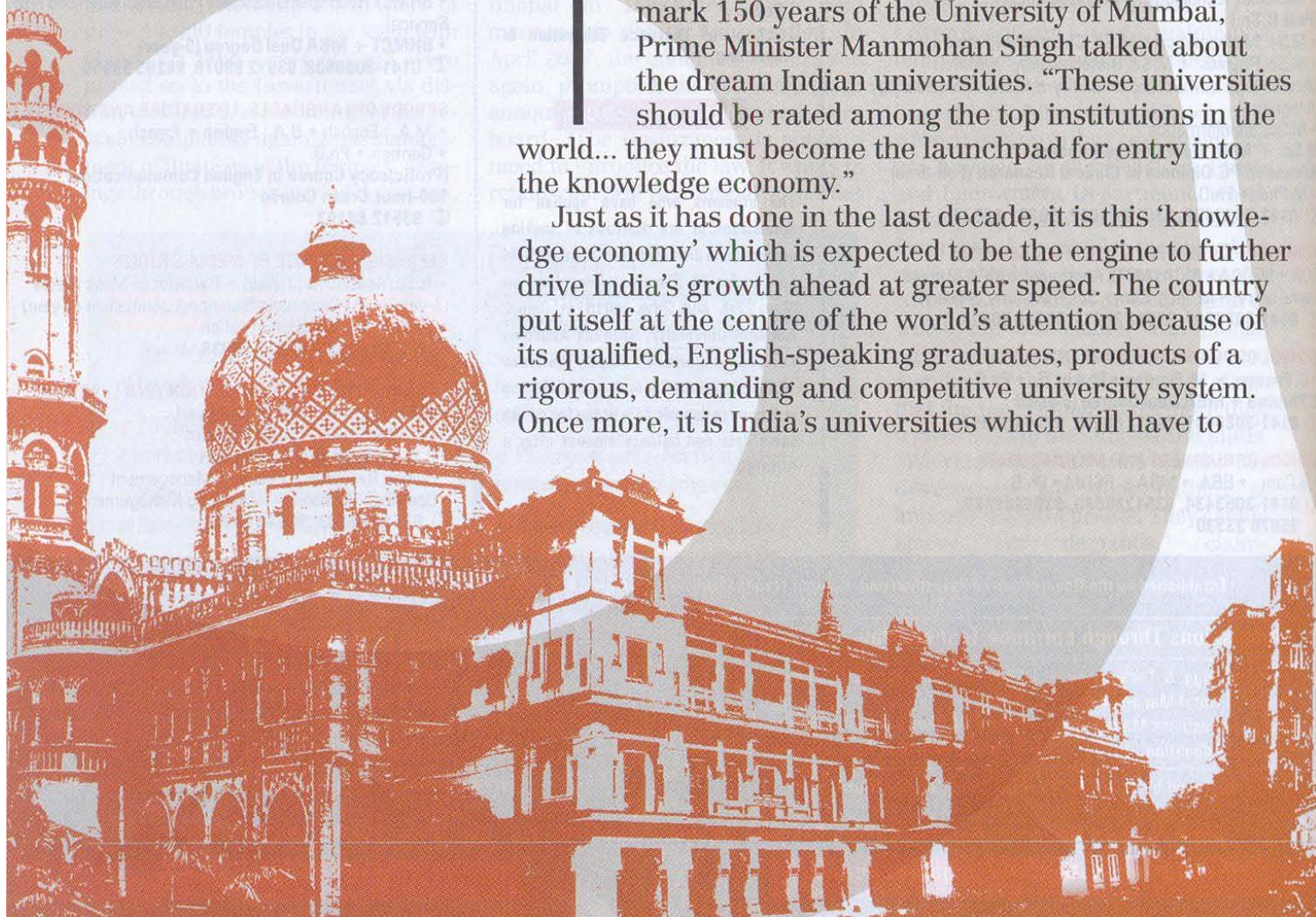
Citadels of LEARNING

The first INDIA TODAY-Nielsen Survey on the country's leading higher educational institutions identifies centres of excellence at a time when university education is at the centre of national controversy and in need of radical legislative reforms

By Sharda Ugra

Three years ago in June 2007, at a function to mark 150 years of the University of Mumbai, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh talked about the dream Indian universities. "These universities should be rated among the top institutions in the world... they must become the launchpad for entry into the knowledge economy."

Just as it has done in the last decade, it is this 'knowledge economy' which is expected to be the engine to further drive India's growth ahead at greater speed. The country put itself at the centre of the world's attention because of its qualified, English-speaking graduates, products of a rigorous, demanding and competitive university system. Once more, it is India's universities which will have to



THE BEST 10

NAME	RANKING
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY	1
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY	2
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI	3
UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA	4
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS	5
UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI	6
UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD	7
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE	8
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY	9
OSMANIA UNIVERSITY	10



METHODOLOGY

How the Ranking IS DONE

The INDIA TODAY-Nielsen first-ever survey to rank 50 universities is thoroughly researched and based on the perceptual and factual scores

A team of The Nielsen Company partnered with INDIA TODAY conducted the first-ever survey to determine the top universities in India in humanities, science and commerce streams.

Only those universities which offer post-graduate courses in humanities, science (only pure science) and commerce were included in this survey. Institutions of national importance which specialise only in one area were excluded. To determine the ranks, a formula based on perceptual scores (from an in-depth interview conducted among academic experts) and objective scores (factual data furnished by the universities) was evolved. It was a multi-stage process as detailed below.

Step 1: In-depth interviews were conducted with a few experts across humanities, commerce and science streams to ratify the attributes on which the universities were to be judged in the later stages of the study. The parameters on which the universities were evaluated are reputation of the university, quality of academic input, quality of faculty, research publications/reports/projects, infrastructure, placement opportunities and enrolment for higher education.

Step 2: Desk research was conducted to generate the list of universities for the survey and secondary data sources such as the published reports, the Association for India Universities Handbook and the Internet were used. Suggestions from experts were also included.

A comprehensive list of more than 140 universities was then drawn up using this research.

Step 3: After the initial research, 342 experts—deans, registrars, readers and professors—from different streams across the country were shown the list of 140 universities. They were then asked to rate the universities on identified attributes on the basis of their perceptions. These experts, however, were not

allowed to rate their own university. They were then asked to distribute 100 points across six vital parameters. Each parameter was assigned a weightage based on the average importance given by the experts. Hence the most important parameter got the maximum weightage and the least, the minimum. Each expert was asked to rate universities on the above key parameters for his/her field only, except his own university.

The overall perceptual score of a university was calculated on the basis of the ratings given by the experts on the six key parameters, based on their importance. The universities were then ranked on the basis of their overall perceptual scores. Thus at the end of this exercise, a list of top 50 universities was generated.

Step 4: Factual information from

342 EXPERTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY RANKED 50 UNIVERSITIES ON SIX PARAMETERS



these universities was collected on the six parameters. The universities that did not provide the factual data were not considered in the final ranking process. All factual information was rescaled and then aggregated to get an overall factual score.

Step 5: The weightage of perceptual and factual information based on the opinions of the experts after Step 3 was then calculated. To get the overall score for the universities, a weightage of 40 per cent was applied to the overall perceptual score and 60 per cent to overall factual scores.

After assigning this weightage, the overall score was indexed to 100. Thus the methodology of ranking, based on both perceptual and factual data, provides a comprehensive picture of each university rated.

VIKRAM SHARMA/www.indiatodayimages.com



supply the manpower needed to make the country's contributions to the knowledge economy sought-after, meaningful and profitable.

For this to happen, though the Government states that India's gross enrolment ratio in higher education will have to rise from 12.4 per cent (12.4 students from every 100 pursuing higher education) to 30 per cent. The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, Kapil Sibal, was quoted as saying, "An additional 600 universities and 35,000 colleges will be required over the coming 12 years." These are staggering, daunting numbers, but for India to stay competitive, this is the pace at which it must operate. Higher education is a key focus area and over the next year, the subject will be pushed forward by the HRD Ministry, causing controversy and stirring debate.

India's university education is meant to give our soft-power economy even more of a cutting-edge over the next decade. This is why INDIA TODAY decided to find out where our leading higher education institutions stand today. To identify India's top 50 universities, its centres of excellence in the knowledge business, we worked towards introducing INDIA TODAY's Top University rankings, in partnership with The Nielsen Company. Just like our India's Best Colleges Survey has become widely accepted as the country's most comprehensive database of under-graduate studies, the University rankings intend to become the benchmark for our post-graduate education.

The idea was to identify institutions which broad-base post-graduate studies through a multi-stream approach, in arts, science and commerce. Institutions which offer courses in a range of streams, not merely one branch of knowledge, were part of the survey. The methodology explains how in all 140 universities, a mix of Central, state and a few deemed universities were included.

Rankings, it is known, please only very few, except those that find their way at the top. Or in this case, at the very top. Like the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), which has emerged at the top of the INDIA TODAY-Nielsen rank-

504

universities and 25,951 colleges, including 2,565 women colleges, in India.

136.42

lakh students get enrolled in various universities and colleges.

56.49

lakh is the total enrolment of women students in the country and the highest is 8 lakh in Uttar Pradesh.

5.89

lakh is the regular faculty strength—0.90 lakh in universities and 4.99 lakh in colleges.

Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development Report, 2009-10

ings of India's top 50 universities. The difference between BHU and the other leading post-graduate institutions is reflected in the difference in their rankings, both perceptual and factual, against the rest. This indicates both BHU's status amongst academicians and educationists as well facilities available for the students. For example, the BHU offers 1,703 post-graduate courses, as opposed to 987 in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), which does not offer post-graduate commerce courses,

THE TOP 50

RANKS	UNIVERSITY NAME	ATTRIBUTES-WISE RANKING						PERCEPTUAL	FACTUAL	PERCEPTUAL + FACTUAL
		Reputation of the University	Quality of Academic Input	Quality of Faculty	Research Publications/ Reports/ Projects	Infrastructure	Placement Opportunities	Perceptual Ranking	Factual Ranking	Indexed to 100
1	Banaras Hindu University	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100.0
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	93.29
3	University of Delhi	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	89.57
4	University of Calcutta	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	74.16
5	University of Madras	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	8	68.11
6	University of Mumbai	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	23	58.48
7	University of Hyderabad	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	10	51.47
8	Indian Institute of Science	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	5	48.26
9	Jadavpur University	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	4	42.25
10	Osmania University	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	12	38.14
11	Andhra University	12	12	13	11	13	12	12	9	36.75
12	Panjab University	11	11	11	12	11	11	11	17	36.74
13	Bangalore University	13	13	12	13	12	13	13	31	35.22
14	S.N.D.T. Women's University	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	30	30.49
15	Jamia Millia Islamia	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	29.88
16	Aligarh Muslim University	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	19	27.12
17	University of Mysore	17	17	17	18	17	18	17	26	26.31
18	Madurai Kamaraj University	18	18	18	17	18	17	18	33	25.96
19	M.S. University of Baroda	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	13	25.45
20	Guru Nanak Dev University	20	20	20	20	20	21	20	16	23.77
21	Birla Institute of Technology & Science-Pilani	21	21	21	22	21	20	21	22	23.12
22	Pondicherry University	22	22	22	21	22	22	22	27	22.51
23	University of Allahabad	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	6	21.92
24	University of Lucknow	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	18	20.05
25	North Eastern Hill University	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	28	16.88
26	Gauhati University	30	31	29	31	28	30	31	14	15.80
27	University of Kerala	27	27	27	27	29	27	27	36	15.56
28	Bharati Vidyapeeth	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	45	15.43
29	Kurukshetra University	29	29	29	28	30	31	28	24	15.41
30	Sri Venkateswara University	31	30	28	29	27	28	30	21	15.41
31	Himachal Pradesh University	27	28	31	29	31	28	29	41	14.72
32	Karnatak University	32	33	32	33	33	37	33	38	13.76
33	Anna University	36	39	39	39	38	40	39	11	13.62
34	Bharathiar University	37	35	35	35	35	34	35	20	13.59
35	Goa University	34	32	33	32	32	33	32	39	13.55
36	Sardar Patel University	33	34	34	35	34	36	34	49	12.51
37	Awadhesh Pratap University	35	36	36	34	36	32	36	50	12.26
38	Kakatiya University	39	37	38	35	37	34	37	48	12.00
39	Cochin University of Science and Technology	40	41	41	43	41	41	41	32	11.93
40	Rabindra Bharti University	38	38	36	38	39	38	38	47	11.88
41	Bharthidasan University	42	40	42	40	40	39	40	40	11.66
42	Rashtrantant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	43	44	44	44	44	44	44	29	11.32
43	University of Rajasthan	44	43	42	41	42	42	43	37	11.30
44	Utkal University	41	42	39	41	43	43	42	44	11.05
45	Mohanlal Sukhadia University	45	46	46	45	45	46	45	42	9.87
46	Patna University	46	45	45	46	47	47	46	43	9.71
47	Amravati University	47	51	50	50	50	49	49	25	9.62
48	Assam University	50	49	48	48	49	48	48	35	9.58
49	Jiwaji University	49	47	49	47	46	44	47	46	9.29
50	Nagarjuna University	51	50	50	50	51	50	50	34	9.19

Note: The final rankings are based on the same six attributes for both perceptual and factual scores. The overall rank is based on the overall score, comprising perceptual and factual scores; not on perceptual and factual ranks. Therefore, the overall rank of a university may be different from its individual perceptual and factual ranks.

and the University of Delhi (DU) offers 1,462 while the University of Calcutta, also in the top five, has 1,996 post-graduate courses.

What is reassuring is that the leading universities are adapting to a constantly changing India and a newer generation entering its classrooms. JNU is about to open a media research centre and offer post-graduate programmes in North-east studies; BHU is developing a 'South Campus' 80 km from Varanasi; the DU has created a placement cell for interaction of students and industry; the University of Calcutta has opened two new research centres in the last two years; the University of Madras is in active research partnerships with foreign universities and industry organisations.

These are impressive achievements but as the demands of the knowledge economy grow, so will the challenges in India's higher education system. These require attention, both to scale as well as detail. Detail means updating syllabi and introducing courses that make the universities contemporary training grounds for the next generation of scholar and scientist alike. Scale involves in dealing with the demands being made on quality educations. India's universities can often be far too sprawling, making it difficult to administer. There is a dispute within the DU, for instance, over introducing a semester system of several examinations in a single year. The DU has 79 colleges, Pune University 269 affiliated colleges and 129 recognised research institutions and the University of Madras has 72 departments of post-graduate learning and 152 affiliated colleges. What certainly needs to be evaluated are these numbers in relation to the structure that makes up a single, efficient, prosperous university.

India's university education is on a razor's edge. Educational reforms need to be pushed through Parliament with not only speed but also clarity and foresight.

As Deepak Pental, vice-chancellor of DU, says, "The need is to bring in more comprehensive universities and not to set up different universities for different educational needs... We need to function the way the rest of the world is operating; otherwise the education system will suffer impediments." India's knowledge economy can produce the best; naturally, it demands the same. ■