

DAILY PT POINTERS

13 August, 2024



The Hindu-Education(GSII)-Page 1

IIT Madras retains top spot in NIRF ranking for sixth consecutive year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is the best educational institution in the country for the sixth time since 2019, shows the overall ranking based on parameters identified and defined in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

In the 2024 rankings, released by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday, IIT Madras also retained the first position in engineering for the ninth year since 2016. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is the top institution under both the universities and research categories, retaining both positions since 2016 and 2021, respectively.

The ranks were given in 16 categories this year,

Top institutions in India

The table shows the top 10 overall institutions and Central and State universities, according to India Rankings, 2024. IIT-Madras secured the top spot in overall category

Ranks	Overall	Top universities	State universities
1	IIT-Madras	IISc, Bengaluru	Anna University
2	IISc, Bengaluru	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Jadavpur University
3	IIT-Bombay	Jamia Millia Islamia	Savitribai Phule University
4	IIT-Delhi	MAHE, Manipal	Calcutta University
5	IIT-Kanpur	Banaras Hindu University	Punjab University
6	IIT-Kharagpur	University of Delhi	Osmania University
7	AIIMS, Delhi	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Andhra University
8	IIT-Roorkee	Aligarh Muslim University	Bharathiar University
9	IIT-Guwahati	Jadavpur University	Kerala University
10	JNU	Vellore Institute of Technology	CUSAT



three more than last year. Open universities, skill universities, and State public universities are the three new categories. Mr. Pradhan said the Ministry is considering “sustainability” as a criterion, probably from next year.

While the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad continued to be

the top management institute for the fifth consecutive year since 2020, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi is the best place to study medical sciences as it retained the top spot for the seventh consecutive year.

IIT Bombay is the best ‘innovational institution’ followed by IIT Madras and

IIT Delhi. IIT Roorkee retained its first position in architecture and planning for the fourth consecutive year. The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru was named the best law school for the seventh year in a row.

DU IN SIXTH PLACE
» PAGE 2

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is the best educational institution in the country for the sixth time since 2019, shows the overall ranking based on parameters identified and defined in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- In the 2024 rankings, released by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday, IIT Madras also retained the first position in engineering for the ninth year since 2016. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is the top institution under both the universities and research categories, retaining both positions since 2016 and 2021, respectively.
- The ranks were given in 16 categories this year, three more than last year. Open universities, skill universities, and State public universities are the three new categories.
- The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru was named the best law school for the seventh year in a row.

The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page-10

20 Sikhs from Afghanistan granted citizenship certificate under CAA

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Twenty Sikhs from Afghanistan, part of the first group of Afghan Sikhs who had applied for citizenship online nearly 100 days ago, have been accorded citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 in the past one week in New Delhi.

Some of the applicants came way back in 1997 but continued to live here on a long-term visa. Additionally, there are around 400 Afghan Sikhs whose applications under the Citizenship Act, 1955 have been pending since 2010, with many applicants having entered India in 1992 after the Leftist government in Afghanistan fell.

In 2009, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had significantly eased long-term visa norms for Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan enabling them to apply for citizenship under the 1955 Act as many lost their passports or the document expired in transit.



Major relief: Many Sikhs have now petitioned the Centre to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LTVs are a precursor to citizenship.

Many Sikhs have now petitioned the Union Home Ministry to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA, as, under the latter, the chances of getting citizenship are better.

Fateh Singh, general secretary of the Khalsa Diwan Welfare Society in New Delhi, said he had come to India in 1992 but continues to live here on an LTV, which is renewed every two years. Mr. Singh set up a camp at a gurdwara at Mahabir Nagar in west Delhi to help Sikh migrants file applications under the

CAA. "We opened the camp in April after the CAA Rules were notified on March 11. Over 400 Afghan Sikhs applied through this camp and within 100 days around 20 of them have got their citizenship certificates. Now they can apply for an Indian passport," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh said he continued to live as a refugee as his application under the 1955 Act is pending with the Home Ministry, which is clearing the applications under the CAA.

"Under the parent Act, multiple authorities, including the State government officials, were in-

involved. However, under the CAA, the role of the State government has been obliterated, so the applications are processed quickly," he said. Tarlok Singh, 48, who came to India in 2007, said while three members of his family are Indian citizens now under the CAA, his two minor sons, 11 and 13, will have to await a little longer.

Narrating the circumstances under which he migrated to India, he said, "I used to run a perfume shop in Afghanistan. One day someone had a fight with me over ₹100. I was dragged to the police station three times. While several Afghan Muslims stood by me, saying it was not my fault. However, I decided to come to India for the safety of my family."

Mr. Tarlok said he had previously never applied for Indian citizenship and used to assist a relative at a hosiery shop in central New Delhi's Karol Bagh market for a living. "We are very happy. I got the citizenship certificate on August 9," he said.

- In December 2019, the Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended to facilitate citizenship through registration and naturalisation to undocumented migrants belonging to six non-Muslim communities — Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian— from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, and reduced the period to qualify for citizenship from the existing requirement of continuous stay of 11 years to five years.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu –Health (GSII)

AYUSH to be included in AB PM-JAY, discussions on

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government is working on inclusion of an AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) package under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

AB PM-JAY aims to provide health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.34 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of the population.

Aspects of the AYUSH package – such as design and cost, AYUSH hospital onboarding, standard treatment guidelines, objectively defined treatment outcomes and financial implications among others – are under discussion.

Wider stakeholder con-

- The Union government is working on inclusion of an AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) package under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- AB PM-JAY aims to provide health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.34 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of the population.

Indian Express –Science and Tech (GSIII)-Page 8

Naveen urges Centre to continue support to UNESCO Kalinga Prize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, BHUBANESWAR,
BENGALURU, AUGUST 12

EXPLAINED
E Behind
the prize

THE SCIENCE and Technology Ministry has withdrawn its contribution to the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science, UNESCO's oldest award, instituted through a donation by Odisha's former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik way back in 1951.

Official sources said the decision to withdraw the Department of Science and Technology's annual contribution to the award was part of the recent decision to 'rationalise' all science awards. The government had, last year, instituted a new set of science awards, called Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, to replace all the earlier awards, including the coveted Shanti Swarup

Bhatnagar Awards. The inaugural set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars were announced last week.

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, however, has protested the government's decision and written to Science and

Technology Minister Jitendra Singh to ensure that the support is restored.

"The Kalinga Prize is not just a symbol of Odia pride but it has set a legacy for independent India in the comity of nations globally... This prize was made possible with a generous grant of 1,000 pounds to UNESCO from Kalinga Foundation Trust... of which Biju Babu was the founder president. UNESCO Kalinga Prize is the only international award from India in the field of popularisation of science. Over the years, it has been a highly coveted prize and has also become a symbol of Odia identity at the international level... Kalinga prize is not just an international award but it is a great legacy, which the people of Odisha are proud of and identify with," Patnaik wrote in his letter.

- The Science and Technology Ministry has withdrawn its contribution to the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science,
- The UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science is an international award to reward exceptional contributions made by individuals in communicating science to society and promoting the popularization of science.
- It is awarded to persons who have had a distinguished career as writer, editor, lecturer, radio, television, or web programme director, or film producer in helping interpret science, research and technology to the public.
- The Prize is funded by the Kalinga Foundation Trust, the Government of the State of Orissa, and the Government of India (Department of Science and Technology).

Indian Express—History-Page 14

THE COMET STRIKE USHERED IN A 1,200-YEAR ICE AGE AND LED TO EXTINCTION OF MANY LARGE ANIMALS

An ancient calendar found in Turkey may have documented a 13,000-yr-old disaster

CLAIRE MOSES
AUGUST 12

A RESEARCHER at the University of Edinburgh has discovered what he believes is the earliest calendar of its kind at Gobekli Tepe, an archaeological excavation site in what is now southern Turkey that used to be an ancient complex of temple-like enclosures.

The researcher, Martin Sweatman, a scientist at the University of Edinburgh, said in research published last month that V-shaped markings on the lunisolar calendar, which combines the movements of the

moon and sun, recorded a major astronomical event that had a huge impact on Earth—making the ancient pillar part of an ancient version of a memorial.

Sweatman said that the intricate carvings at Gobekli Tepe tell the story and document the date when fragments of a comet—which came from a meteor stream—hit Earth roughly 13,000 years ago. The comet strike, which the latest research has placed in the year 10,850 B.C., has long been a source of disagreement among academics and researchers.

This is not the first time that Dr. Sweatman has been able to connect the impact of the comet

to the site in Turkey, he said. In 2017, he linked the two in an academic paper in which he contended that the carvings at Gobekli Tepe were memorialized in the pillars, and that the site was used as a place to observe space.

At the time, a group of excavators at Gobekli Tepe challenged those findings. Jens Notroff, an archaeologist who wrote the post on the excavators' website, was not immediately convinced about the new findings and questioned whether the markings had a deeper meaning. He said on X that there was an "an obsession with the idea that there 'must' be a secret, a hidden code which needs



Researchers believe the calendar tracked the movements of the moon and the sun in today's Turkey. NY7

to and can be decoded—while it's really just about past humans living their lives."

Sweatman said the recent discovery that one of the pillars also depicts a lunisolar calendar—and thus marks the day of the impact—lined up with his prior research. "We can be very confident indeed that it's a date," he said.

The comet strike ushered in a 1,200-year ice age and led to the extinction of many large animals, Dr. Sweatman said. For humans, the comet probably also led to differences in lifestyle and agriculture that helped usher in the rise of civilization as we know it.

Although Dr. Sweatman has

long researched the symbols at the ancient site in Turkey, this recent breakthrough came in the form of a tip when someone emailed him that the V-shaped symbols on the pillar could be interpreted as markings of the lunar cycle. "I had not spotted that myself before," he said. "I had always wondered what these box- and V-symbols might mean."

Each V-shaped symbol could represent a single day, according to Dr. Sweatman's research. "This allowed researchers to count a solar calendar of 365 days on one of the pillars, consisting of 12 lunar months plus 11 extra days," the research states.

The final V on the pillar is "represented by a V worn around the neck of a birdlike beast though to represent the summer solstice constellation at the time," the research concluded. Other statues nearby, possibly representing deities, have been found with similar markings.

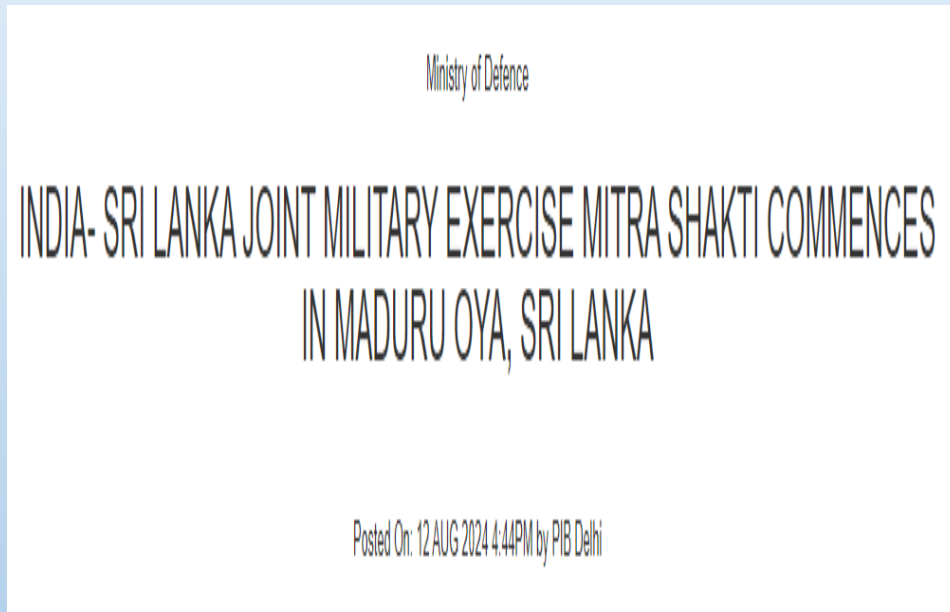
After interpreting the V-shaped symbols as such, everything fell into place, Dr. Sweatman said. The carvings suggest that "ancient people were able to record their observations of the sun moon and constellations in the form of a solar calendar, created to keep track of time and mark the change of seasons," he said. NY7

- Archaeologists have made a stunning discovery of what is being understood as the oldest calendar to have existed on Earth.
- The calendar is etched in a 12,000-year-old stone pillar which was found by archaeologists at the Gobekli Tepe site in Turkey and is likely to rewrite the timeline of human civilization.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Defense(GSIII)



- The 10th edition of India- Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI commenced today, at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 12th to 25th August 2024.
- Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban environment.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-IR(GSII)

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

India, Maldives Renew MoU to train 1,000 Civil Service Officers

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart FM Moosa Zameer Renew Capacity Building mou in Malé

National Centre for Good Governance and Civil Services Commission Partnership: MoU for training over a period of five years from 2024-2029

Posted On: 12 AUG 2024 12:05PM by PIB Delhi

Jaishankar concludes Maldives visit

External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, and his Maldivian counterpart, Moosa Zameer has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building of one thousand Maldives civil services officers during the period 2024-2029. The MoU was renewed on 9th of this month in the capital of Maldives.

- Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. The visit reaffirmed the continued commitment of both countries to strengthening their multi-dimensional bilateral relationship and deepening their close people-to-people ties,
. The Maldives' proximity to India — barely 70 nautical miles from the island of Minicoy in Lakshadweep, and 300 nautical miles from the mainland's western coast — at the intersection of commercial sea-lanes running through the Indian Ocean, makes it strategically important for India, particularly in the light of China's growing aggression in the region.