

Bengal misses top 10 in best varsity list

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY AND MITA MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, April 4: No Bengal university ranks among the top 10 on the country's list of the best 100 "general" universities, released by the government today, with Calcutta University and Jadavpur University not even having applied for consideration.

The Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, tops the "general" list in India's first-ever ranking of educational institutions, while Tezpur University had outdone better-known names to rank fifth. IIT Madras and IIM Bangalore have grabbed the No. 1 spots on the lists for engineering and management institutions, respectively.

Both IIT Kharagpur and IIM Calcutta are third in their categories while the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, is 83rd among engineering institutions.

On the general list, Visva-Bharati is 11th and Presidency University has come 41st, while Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, has earned 31st spot and Kalyani University ranks 45th.

REPORT CARD			
The top 10 'general' universities in the country, ranked by a government agency			
Rank	University	Rank	University
1	IISc, Bangalore	6	Delhi University
2	Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	7	Banaras Hindu University
3	Jawaharlal Nehru University	8	Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram
4	Hyderabad Central University	9	BITS Pilani
5	Tezpur University	10	Aligarh Muslim University

Government agency National Board of Accreditation drew up the four lists, the fourth category being pharmacy institutes. Medical and dental colleges were kept out of the rankings, for which only 233 of India's 700 universities and 3,300 of its 38,000 colleges applied.

The Union human resource development ministry had written to Calcutta University and Jadavpur University last October seeking their participation in the National Institutional Ranking Framework exercise.

Authorities at both these institutions today said they could not do so because they

did not have the necessary data ready, but would participate in the assessment from next year.

"Jadavpur's performance is far superior to many other institutions' in Bengal and elsewhere. It's a shame our university has failed to figure on the list of top institutes because it didn't have the data ready," a professor at Jadavpur University said.

Universities looking to be ranked were required to fill in an online form with the data.

Jadavpur vice-chancellor Suranjan Das admitted that the university had missed an opportunity. "We should have had all the data, but the dead-

line was very short," he said.

For example, Das said, the university was asked to state the number of its graduates and postgraduates who had qualified in the National Eligibility Test (for recruitment as assistant professors) in the past three years.

"We have no mechanism to maintain this kind of data now," Das said, adding that all the departments had been asked to keep these records from now on.

Details had also been sought on placement figures of former students, the companies they worked for and the salaries they were drawing.

Calcutta University pro-vice-chancellor Swagata Sen said the institution was preparing data for the National Assessment and Accreditation Council inspections when it received the ministry letter.

"The two sets of data were different. Since the accreditation council's rating was more important, we preferred not to participate in the assessment this year," Sen said.

The council doesn't rank varsities but awards grades, which help determine the funding institutions receive.

All the institutions were judged in areas such as teach-

ing, teacher-student ratio, research publication and citation, drawing students from other states, enrolling women and economically backward students, placements and the mean salaries they brought, peer ratings, perception, etc.

The best-ranked institutions appeared to have scored well mainly in the areas of perception, student performance and research.

IITs and IIMs

Among engineering institutions, the IIT in Madras is followed by those in Bombay, Kharagpur, Delhi, Kanpur and Roorkee, in that order. Then come four younger IITs: Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, Ropar and Patna.

An unconvinced IIT Kanpur director, Indranil Manna, said: "We'll see if we failed to provide the data properly."

NIT Durgapur is 30th and the Bengal Institute of Technology, Calcutta, is 91st.

Among the IIMs, Bangalore is followed by Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Lucknow, Udaipur, and Kozhikode. The International Management Institute, Calcutta, is 12th. Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences is the top pharmacy institution.