

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY | www.jadavpur.edu

Part of the first batch of UPEs, Kolkata's Jadavpur University is expecting renewal of the UPE status by May.

Thrust areas: Mobile computing and nanoscience. If and when the UPE recognition is renewed, the university would like to include cognitive science and other areas to the portfolio for enhancement, says Pradip Narayan Ghosh, vice chancellor.

The leg-up: In this first phase, the university received ₹30 crore which were used for research and infrastructure development, such as in establishing new labs.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY | www.jnu.ac.in

Part of the debut batch, Jawaharlal Nehru University is Delhi's sole entry in the UPE league.

Thrust areas: Genomics, genetics and biotechnology (the funding was distributed to social science projects, too)

The leg-up: JNU received ₹30 crore over a five-year period. This brought computers for all faculty members, a campus-wide LAN "which considerably increased internet speed", and new lab resources, says Rajendra Prasad, professor, school of life sciences (then the rector of JNU). It now needs National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation for UPE phase 2.

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI | www.mu.ac.in

The University of Mumbai, which is in the second lot of UPEs, got the status in 2009.

Thrust area: Green technology

The leg-up: The university has received ₹10 crore as UPE money, so far. From that amount, it's soon going to build a Centre for Green Technology and an international hostel for students. All 14 centres in the university have started various projects aimed at enhancing their capabilities, the authorities have appointed research fellows, and ordered various kinds of equipment, says AK Srivastava, coordinator, UPE programme, University of Mumbai.

Letting off steam, surveying the sea and carrying wardrobes



Manik Vig with his portable wardrobe

The winners of the Open House I2Tech 2011, an annual feature of IIT-Delhi, came up with some useful innovations

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Last Saturday was a very long day for Manik Gaurav Vig and his team as they patiently answered questions from curious onlookers on the portable wardrobe they designed at the Open House I2Tech 2011, an exhibition fea-

turing innovations by students at IIT-Delhi. Then it was time to celebrate when the project bagged the third prize. "It came as a pleasant surprise. Considering that the first two awards were presented to MTech students, it comes as a big encouragement to us undergrad second-year students," says Vig.

The first prize winners (creators of an underwater surveillance system) have a different story to share. For them, the recognition is not just about what they have done but more about what they can do to improvise their project. Their project aims at developing a remote reconfigurable acoustic sur-

veillance platform using low power DSP (digital signal processor) hardware with built in self-test. "Our project was conceptualised approximately five years back and it took four years to formalise the hardware. Now our mission is to develop the operating system for our device so that it can deliver the best results, says Lieutenant Commander Mrinal Sinha, who is on deputation from the Indian Navy to do an MTech at the institute.

The project awarded the second prize looked at producing steam through a single axis line focusing solar concentrator. Ashish Kumar Choudhary, the brains behind

the conception and implementation of the project says, "It's all about producing steam for purposes like cooking, heating, washing with the help of solar energy. Once I am through with the final product it'll be a huge help for humankind."

The Open House held last Saturday, saw a number of schools students, technology enthusiasts and engineering students participating. On display were the best research projects in the 50-year history of the institute, which is also celebrating its Golden Jubilee. The awards were selected from these projects.

For more on winning ideas see page 6

THE PURSE FOR SCIENCE

Here's a list of 14 'performing' universities receiving financial support under Department of Science and Technology's PURSE programme, based on their research output, in 2009-2010.

Category A

- University of Delhi, H-index* (1998-2008): 56
- University of Hyderabad, 54
- University of Punjab, 50

Category B

- University of Pune, 44
- Jadavpur, 43
- Banaras Hindu University, 42

Category C

- University of Madras, 37
- University of Mumbai, 37
- JNU, 33
- Anna University, 33
- Karnataka University, 30
- Aligarh Muslim University, 30

Category D

- University of Rajasthan, 27
- Andhra University, 26

Some of the new universities identified for the PURSE in '10-'11:

Category B

- University of Calcutta, Kolkata, H-index: 42
- Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar, 41

Category C

- Bharathidasan University, Trichi, 37
- Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, 37
- University of Burdwan, 36
- Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 36
- Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, 35

What's in the 'purse'

- A category A university gets ₹10 crore per year for 3 years
- A category B university gets ₹5 crore per year for 3 years
- A category C university gets ₹3 crore per year for 3 years
- A category D university gets ₹2 crore per year for 3 years

*The H-index is meant to measure a researcher's scientific productivity and apparent scientific impact. It is based on a set of the researcher's most-cited papers and the number of citation s/he has in other's publications.

