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Passage No 78

Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Paragraph 1: The “who’s who” of universities and research institutions published by the Human Resource Development Ministry, as the National Institutional Ranking Framework, 2018, should be viewed mainly as a proposition that data makes it possible to assign objective credentials to some aspects of education. Its assessment of some of the top institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, the IITs and the IIMs is unsurprising, given their record of research, peer-reviewed publications and outcomes for graduates.

Paragraph 2: Even among the 3,954 institutions that participated, there is a clear skew towards southern, southeastern and western India. Participation levels are inadequate: there were 40,026 colleges and 11,669 standalone institutions according to the HRD Ministry’s All India Survey on Higher Education for 2016-17.

Paragraph 3: To the faculty and students in many colleges, what matters is the vision of the administrative leaders and a commitment to excellence. The governing bodies should make available adequate financial and academic resources to colleges, particularly the younger ones, to help them improve performance. These are measured by the NIRF in terms of the percentage of faculty with doctoral degrees, papers published in credentialed journals, inclusivity and diversity of students, and median salaries for the graduates.

Questions:

1. As per paragraph 1, what does the author mean when he refers to the universities and institutions as “Who’s who”?

- A. He is trying to understand ‘who’ the list prepared by NIRF consists of.
- B. He is referring to the top institutions among all institutions mentioned in the list prepared by NIRF.
- C. He is asking the reader to fathom ‘who’ developed the list and the reasons behind it.
- D. Both A and C
- E. None of the above

2. As per paragraph 2, there is a skew towards which region/regions in terms of participation?

- I. North
- II. North-East
- III. Western
- IV. South – Eastern

- A. Only III and IV
- B. Only I, III and IV
- C. Only I, II and IV
- D. Only I, II and III
- E. Only II, III and IV

3. As per paragraph 3, which of the following parameter/s matter/s to faculty and students when determining the worth of an institution?

- I. Vision of its leaders
- II. Frequency of pay hikes
- III. Availability of adequate academic resources

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Only I and II
- D. Only I and III
- E. Only II and III

4. As per the passage, which of the following parameters is/are used by NIRF to judge institutions for ranking them?

I. Papers published in reputed journals

II. Number of highly qualified faculty

III. Diversity in terms of students

A. Only II

B. Only III

C. Only I and II

D. Only I and III

E. All of the above

5. Which of the following is/are true as per the passage?

I. There was a huge amount of participation seen in NIRF 2018.

II. The ranking approach has been critiqued for failing to capture the crucial metric of learning outcomes.

III. NIRF's assessment of the top notch institutions was expected.

A. Only III

B. Only I and II

C. Only II and III

D. Only I and III

E. All of the above

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Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5
B	A	D	E	A

Explanations:

1.

Who's who is basically used to refer to people/entities who/ which are important in a particular group. In this case, NIRF ranks all institutions and the topmost here have been referred to as **who's who**.

Only Option B fits in as per the explanation above.

Hence, option B is correct.

2.

Refer to: 'Even among the 3,954 institutions that participated, there is a clear skew towards southern, southeastern and western India.'

As per the fragment highlighted, only III and IV are correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

3.

Refer to: 'To the faculty and students in many colleges, what matters is the vision of the administrative leaders and a commitment to excellence. The governing bodies should make available adequate financial and academic resources to colleges, particularly the younger ones, to help them improve performance.'

As per the highlighted fragments, only I and III are correct while II has not been mentioned.

Hence, option D is correct.

4.

Refer to: 'These are measured by the NIRF in terms of the percentage of faculty with doctoral degrees, papers published in credentialed journals, inclusivity and diversity of students, and median salaries for the graduates.'

All of the statements above are correct as per the highlighted fragment.

Hence, option E is correct.

5.

Refer to:

'Participation levels are inadequate: there were 40,026 colleges and 11,669 standalone institutions according to the HRD Ministry's All India Survey on Higher Education for 2016-17.'

I is incorrect.

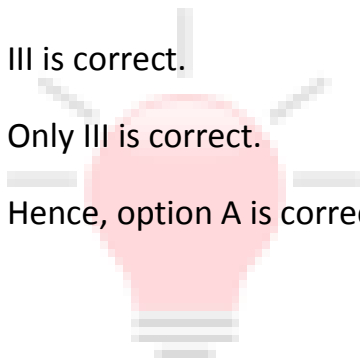
II is not mentioned anywhere in the passage and is incorrect.

'Its assessment of some of the top institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, the IITs and the IIMs is unsurprising, given their record of research, peer-reviewed publications and outcomes for graduates.'

III is correct.

Only III is correct.

Hence, option A is correct.



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