

Newspaper Clips

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IIT-M director set to resign, successor may come from within

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) is abuzz with talk of who will fill the shoes of director M S Ananth, who is set to quit by the end of July. Prof. Ananth says his successor is likely to come from the IIT or IISc system.

Professor Ananth, serving his second term as director, is the first director to resign before the end of his term in June 2012.

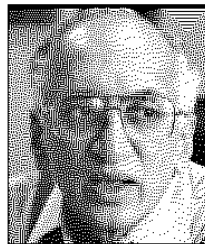
"Everything I wanted done here has been completed. Now the institute needs somebody with a different mission," he said.

He said that while he suggested some names to the board, the choice was left to the IIT council's search committee. Earlier, the search committee scanned eligible candidates in the system for a suitable candidate and senior academics were also invited to suggest names. Candidates, preferably not over 60 years, should have a Ph D with first class or equivalent in the preceding degree in the appropriate branch, possessing an outstanding academic record throughout. They should have a minimum of 10 years' experience as professor in a reputed educational institute.

This year, to invite more applications and give the search-cum-selection committee a wider choice, the ministry of human

resource development had put out advertisements in February seeking applications for the post of director of IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee. IIT sources say Ananth, who had talked of leaving even

in 2010, sent in his resignation a couple of months ago, but the MHRD had not put out advertisements for IIT Madras. According to sources, the IIT council will also consider applications of senior Indian academics settled abroad who would like to return.



M S Ananth

N R Madhava Menon, who heads the committee to evolve a comprehensive policy on autonomy for Central universities, the IITs and IIMs, said one of the recommendations made by the committee on varsity autonomy was to make the selection process of institute directors more transparent. "We have suggested that the nominations for heads of central universities could be taken after consultation with stakeholders. This can be done once central universities are granted greater autonomy."

Professor Ananth's stint as director saw the setting up of the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) and the setting up of the IIT Madras Research Park. "I plan to spend the next two years in tying up some loose ends in research," in either IIT Bombay or IISc Bangalore," he said.

: ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI
30.03.11 p-5

IITG Technothon prelims on July 17th

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 29 – Recognizing the need for technical exposure among school students, students of IIT Guwahati are organising Technothon as a part of their annual techno-management festival Techniche. Technothon has been designed as an event to expose the innovation and creativity of students. It will be conducted in two phases, prelims on July 17 and the mains September 1-4.

IITG is the only IIT to organize an event of this magni-

tude for school students. The students are divided into Junior Squad (Classes 9-10) and the Hauts Squad (Classes 11-12), who get separate question papers set by the students of IIT Guwahati.

The question paper is different from that of the JEE examination which the IITs conduct every year; being based on logic, analytical ability and practical observations. The paper is to be attempted jointly by a team of two members. The prelims thus require no initial preparation.

Those who make through to the mains will be invited to the

IITG campus during Techniche to be held from September 1 to 4, 2011, where they take part in more challenging rounds, to bag the prizes. Apart from this, they get to witness various events in the technical arena where colleges from all over the country compete, visit exhibitions, lecture series where Nobel laureates, academia and other dignitaries lecture the students on diverse topics.

To register or for more information, those interested may visit www.techniche.org or www.techniche.org/technothon.html.



Mr Kapil Sibal, Union HRD, Communications and IT Minister, and Mr Mukesh D. Ambani, Chairman, IIMB Board of Governors, arriving at the 36th Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, on Thursday. — G.R.N Somashekar

IIMs should interact with Govt, private and agri sectors: Sibal

Our Bureau
Bangalore, March 31

The Union HRD, Communications and IT Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, today said that leading educational institutions like IIMs and other like-minded institutions should start giving management solutions to complex problems facing the country.

Speaking to presspersons at the 36th annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, he said that the pressure is now on educational institutions to participate in the transformation that is taking place in society.

"Education institutions such as these (IIMs) should become multi-disciplinary and

not function as standalone institutions. They should become technology institutions, should interact with the Government, the private and the agricultural sectors and the SMEs," the Minister said.

He also called for a change in the way the boards of the IIMs are currently structured.

"Instead of a large 25-member board, IIMs can have more cohesive boards where all the members are active." The director and the chairman of the Institute should be chosen by the board, instead of being appointed by the Government, he said.

NO PRIVATISATION

Terming privatisation a dirty

word, the Minister also said that the UPA Government does not believe in 'privatising' education, although private participation is being allowed.

"Private participation is different from privatisation and should be for a societal purpose," he said, adding that the ownership of the institutions should be with all stakeholders, including civil society, faculty, leaders, students and the Government.

Citing the latest census figures that says India has achieved 74 per cent literacy, up from 64.5 per cent a decade ago, he said that the country was at the cusp of a change and would achieve full literacy in 10 years.

Sibal opposes privatisation in education

SREERUPA MITRA

Bangalore

EXPRESSING a contradictory view, Kapil Sibal, the Union minister of human resource development and communications and information technology, said that while he is not opposed to foreign universities coming to India, the government is not open to privatisation of the sector.

Speaking at the 36th annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, Sibal also said that he firmly believes that India will achieve 100 per cent literacy in a few years.

"The UPA government does not believe in privatisation of the educa-

tion sector. However, this does not mean that there should not be any private participation from international institutions. While foreign institutes should be welcome in the nation, one must ensure that they serve some useful purpose to society on the whole," Sibal said. He also did not dismiss the possibilities of private public partnerships.

According to Sibal, the government has accorded inclusive growth as its greatest priority and a key element is to provide people access to basic facilities such as health, food, education and employment as a right. "While in the short run, these essential public services may appear to be purely welfare measures, in the

longer run, I feel, they determine the empowerment of masses and hence economic opportunities for the 'bottom of the pyramid'," he pointed out.

Sibal pointed out that India has the most favourable demographic profile, with 50 per cent of the population below the median age of 25 years and this advantage is expected to remain for the next 30 years.

Speaking about the importance of management education, the HRD minister said that one needs to realise that education on the whole is becoming multi-disciplinary and that management colleges cannot function in isolation.

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Hindustan Times ND 1/04/2011

P-9

40% Indian students used 'fraud' to get UK visas

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NEW DELHI: Four out of every ten Indian applicants for UK student visas used fraudulent ways to try and enter Britain.

The massive levels of deception in student applications could represent attempts to beat the tough new rules, which include greater scrutiny and need applicants to meet conditions more stringent than the

ones they currently need to meet, the British immigration officials suggested.

The UK plans to introduce a set of new and more stringent visa rules in April this year.

As many as 40% of Indian student visa applications received by the UK in the first three months of the year carried varying elements of fraud and deception, a senior British immigration official here told HT.

THE DECEPTION COULD REPRESENT ATTEMPTS TO BEAT TOUGH NEW RULES THAT WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN APRIL

In one blatant case of attempting to cheat, a group of 200 students applying for accountancy programmes in the UK submitted documents that

suggested they met requirements.

But when the applicants were called for interviews, only six or seven of them could speak even basic English, an official recalled.

Under current visa rules, the applicants are required to have secured scores equivalent to a B1 level - 4.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or a score of 57 in the Test of English as a

Foreign Language.

This is, however, not the first time that British authorities have trained special scrutiny on the student visa applications from India amid fears of an immigration scam.

The UK temporarily suspended visa applications from north India, Bangladesh and Nepal in January 2010 after an unusual surge in application numbers.

The new rules, which Britain

is enforcing in a phased manner from April 6 - and which the spate in fraud may be aiming to avoid - include stricter scrutiny on funding availability of applicants.

Applicants also need to secure significantly higher scores in the IELTS (5.5) and TOEFL (87) to be eligible under the new rules.

These new rules are aimed at stopping illegal immigration in the garb of education.

Times of India ND 01-Apr-11 p-17

'Glitch-free Gagarin space mission a big Soviet lie'

London: The erstwhile Soviet Union officials lied about the success of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's historic 1961 flight into space, and also covered up the fact that he had landed more than 200 miles away from the expected location, a new book has claimed.

The Soviet Union held up his mission, the first manned flight into space, as a major Cold War propaganda coup, portraying it as a glitch-free triumph of Communist ideology. Now, 50 years on, the book, '108 Minutes That Changed the World', has revealed that the Soviet scientists had twice miscalculated where Gagarin would land which is why there was nobody there to meet him when he finally touched down some 500 miles south of capital Moscow, The Daily Telegraph reported.

"It turned out that nobody



e Rykov Collection/CORBIS

FLIGHT OF FANCY? Gagarin landed 200 miles away from the expected location, says a book

was waiting or looking for Yuri Gagarin. Therefore the first thing he had to do after landing was set off to look for people and communications so he could tell the leadership where he was," the book claims.

The Soviets lied too about the manner of his landing, claiming that he had touched

down inside the capsule itself when in actual fact he had landed separately via parachute, according to the book. The reason they lied, said the book, was to skirt strict rules that would have prevented them from officially registering the flight as a world record.

The book, by the Russian journalist Anton Pervushin, published a touching letter Gagarin wrote to his family before the mission, telling his wife not to "die of grief" if he never returned. "But sometimes people slip on even ground and break their neck. Something could also happen here. If it does I ask you Valyusha (affectionate name for his wife) not to die of grief. After all life is life and there is no guarantee for anybody that tomorrow a car might not end ones life," wrote the cosmonaut who died in 1968. FTI

Times of India ND 01-Apr-11 p-17

Blue petrol: Algae mixed with CO₂ fuel of future?

Experts Put On Fast Track Way To Make Fossil Fuel

Alicante (Spain): In a forest of tubes eight metres high in eastern Spain scientists hope they have found the fuel of tomorrow: bio-oil produced with algae mixed with carbon dioxide from a factory.

Almost 400 of the green tubes, filled with millions of microscopic algae, cover a plain near the city of Alicante, next to a cement works from which the CO₂ is captured and transported via a pipeline to the "blue petroleum" factory. The project, which is still experimental, has been developed over the past five years by Spanish and French researchers at the small Bio Fuel Systems (BFS) company.

At a time when companies are redoubling their efforts to find alternative energy sources, the idea is to reproduce and speed up a process which has taken millions of years and which has led to the production of fossil fuels. "We are trying to simulate the conditions which existed millions of years ago, when the phytoplankton was transformed into

GREEN DRIVE: The experts' idea is to reproduce and speed up a process which has taken millions of years and has led to the production of fossil fuels

oil," said engineer Eloy Chapuli. "In this way, we obtain oil that is the same as oil today."

The other great advantage of the system is that it is a depollutant — it absorbs the CO₂ which would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. "It's ecological oil," said founder and chairman of BFS, engineer Bernard Stroiazzo-Mougin. AFP

With new tech, H₂ is now more viable option

London: A new technology that allows hydrogen to be stored in a cheap and practical way, could make its widespread use as a carbon-free alternative to petrol a reality, according to its developers.

The technology is based on a new way of producing nano-fibres from hydrides, materials that soak up hydrogen like a sponge, and then encapsulating them in tiny plastic beads so small they behave like a liquid. The process is being developed by Cella Energy, a spin-off from Britain's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, who say that the technique allows hydrogen to be released at a much faster rate and at lower temperatures than before.

The company said hydrogen could be an economically viable alternative to fossil fuels if the gas is produced with renewable energy sources like wind or solar. It has three times more energy than petrol per unit of weight and could power cars, planes and other vehicles that currently use hydrocarbons. REUTERS

TOP SCIENTIST CALLS FOR HALT TO N-POWER

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: A top scientist on the Prime Minister's scientific advisory council Thursday demanded a nuclear moratorium following the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in quake-ravaged Japan. This is the first direct call from within the government for a temporary stop to nuclear power production.

P Balaram, director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and member of the scientific advisory council to the PM, has joined a growing group of scientists and activists seeking a review of India's nuclear strategy.

"In the light of what has happened in Japan, I believe completely transparent safety audits are required for all nuclear projects. The nuclear regulator must also be completely independent of the department of atomic energy (DAE)," Balaram told HT over the phone.

Several scientists and activists had Wednesday issued a statement seeking a review of India's nuclear policy.

But unlike others, Balaram's demand for a moratorium — stopping nuclear power production for the time being — is likely to embarrass the government because of the positions he holds.

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TOP SCIENTIST CALLS FOR HALT TO N-POWER

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Manmohan Singh and the nuclear establishment have emphatically ruled out a moratorium - though the Prime Minister Wednesday did propose greater transparency in decisions regarding nuclear plants.

India's nuclear power regulator - the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board - reports to the DAE, which is in charge of approving projects, creating a potential conflict of interest.

Though most countries have announced safety reviews of their nuclear plants following the Fukushima radiation leak, Germany is the only country to opt for a temporary moratorium. It has shut down seven aging plants.

Balaram said he agreed to be a co-signatory to a petition seeking a nuclear moratorium because many of India's proposed nuclear plants were likely to come up in populated and ecologically sensitive areas.

Hindustan Times ND
01-Apr-11 p-7

DU TEACHERS 'THROWN OUT' OF MEETING

NEW DELHI: Drama ensued at a meeting by Undergraduate Courses Committee of English Department to revise the syllabus for non-Honours courses at Delhi University. Teachers were allegedly physically removed from the meeting on Thursday. "The University's security guards were called in by HS Prasad, Dean of Arts Faculty, to throw out the teachers," said Karen Gabriel, member, Joint Action Body. Prasad, however, said he was not involved.

HTC

Hari Bhumi ND 01-Apr-11
p-10

2011 में आईटी खर्च रहेगा 3,600 अरब डालर

नई दिल्ली। इस साल वैश्विक स्तर पर सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (आईटी) पर खर्च 3,600 अरब डालर तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है, जो पिछले साल की तुलना में कहीं अधिक रहेगा। वैश्विक अनुसंधान फर्म गार्टनर ने यह अनुमान लगाया है। गार्टनर ने कहा है कि मीडिया टैबलेट मसलन आईपैड आदि के बूते, आईटी खर्च में बढ़ोतरी होगी। गार्टनर ने कहा, '2011 में वैश्विक स्तर पर आईटी खर्च 3,600 अरब डालर रहेगा, जो 2010 के 3,400 अरब डालर से 5.6 प्रतिशत अधिक है।' पहले आईटी खर्च में 5.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया गया था। गार्टनर ने कहा कि वैश्विक स्तर पर मीडिया टैबलेट पर खर्च 2011 में बढ़कर 29.4 अरब डालर पर पहुंच जाएगा।