

## Newspaper Clips

April 14, 2011

**Times of India ND P-15**  
**14-Apr-11**

# Probe into complaint of copying during IIT-JEE

**Akshaya Mukul | TNN**

**New Delhi:** IIT-Kanpur, this year's organizer of the Joint Entrance Examination, has taken serious note of allegation of copying at the Bhatinda centre last Sunday.

Sanjay Dhande, director of IIT, Kanpur, has written to the Delhi Zone of the Joint Admission Board asking it to conduct a detailed inquiry into the complaint. Dhande said, "It [the complaint] is of a serious nature and we will investigate the matter completely." However, it needs to be pointed out that the Bhatinda cen-

tre falls under IIT, Roorkee, and not IIT, Delhi, as Dhande has written.

The complaint was made by a candidate Vipin Gupta who alleged that at his centre, Giani Zail Singh College of Engineering & Technology, there was a clear case of copying. He said one candidate — daughter of a college staff — was helped by an invigilator. Gupta alleged that the invigilator went out and brought some sheets of paper and started dictating answers to the girl. Gupta also alleged that the invigilator later helped other candidates.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Apr 14, 2011;Section: Times Business;Page: 20;

## Patent suits: Companies move courts

Ahmedabad: Mumbai-based drugmaker Lupin filed a second suit last week in the US against Ranbaxy Laboratories to prevent the Gurgaon-based drugmaker from launching fenofibrate, a generic version of Lupin's cholesterol-lowering drug Antara in the US. Last August, Lupin sued Ranbaxy, now owned by Japan's Daiichi Sankyo, after it sought marketing approval from the American drug regulator to sell fenofibrate capsules in 43 mg and 130 mg in the US.

Over a century back, disputes about electric bulb, the telephone and automobiles were resolved in US courts. Indian courts never had as many patent litigation as the US and UK courts had. In the last decade, things have changed, says a IIM, Ahmedabad study. Indian firms are taking more disputes to courts, thanks to better laws, registration facilities. **TNN**

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# 'Higher education checklist soon'

Mathang Seshagiri &  
Hemali Chhapia | TNN

**Bangalore/Mumbai:** The exam-based educational system needs a systemic change, argues the Prime Minister's scientific adviser C N R Rao. Students who groan under the pressure of multiple entrance exams will cheer Rao's advice to Manmohan Singh. Citing the example of Joint Entrance Examination conducted by IIT, the head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SACPM) said: "IIT entrance exams have the reputation of being difficult and purposeful, but they have also had a negative effect on

young minds."

The lakhs who don't make it across the IIT gates, Rao told the PM, get exhausted and can't perform as well as young people with fresh minds. Talking about the agony that the Indian higher education sector is in, the SACPM, in a brief document sent to the PM recently — accessed by TOI — noted, "Today, there is not a single educational institution in India which is equal to the best institution in the advanced countries."

In view of the growing number of aspirants for higher education, the council has readied a 10-point checklist of key problems and challenges. It has asked the human re-

sources development ministry to set up a taskforce to come up with an action-oriented document within a year.

Rao's checklist for higher education includes:  
**Raising the bar:** Provide all required support to 10 educational institutions to enable them to compete with the best in advanced countries

**Look ahead:** There's a manpower mismatch with too many professionals in some subjects. Prepare a document which foresees the problems 20 years hence

**Inclusivity:** Increase the number of fully residential schools up to higher secondary level in rural India to nurture rural talent.

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# Too many exams, adviser tells PM

## Wants One National Test Like GRE

Mathang Seshagiri & Hemali Chhapia | TNN

**Bangalore/Mumbai:** In the thick of the entrance exam season, a furious dispatch to the Prime Minister from his own scientific adviser has termed such tests as one big menace.

Strongly recommending an immediate halt to the system of sitting for a pile of exams, C N R Rao, who heads the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, wrote in a letter last week that the American method of holding one national exam before joining university is the way.

Rao told the PM that India is said

“INDIA IS SAID TO HAVE AN EXAMINATION SYSTEM BUT NOT AN EDUCATION SYSTEM... WHEN WILL YOUNG PEOPLE STOP TAKING EXAMS AND DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE?”

**C N R RAO** | HEAD, SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PRIME MINISTER



to "have an examination system but not an education system... When will young people stop taking exams and do something worthwhile?"

► **'Higher edu checklist soon', P 15**

Referring to the exam overdrive, Rao briefed Manmohan Singh on the various flavours of examinations that

dot a student's life: "It is important to relook the entire examination system including the system of final examinations, entrance examinations, qualifying examinations, selection examinations, and so on. Now one hears of a proposal to have a qualifying or accreditation examination for medical graduates and post-graduates."

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# Space, Above And Beyond

*The euphoria of the 1960s has dimmed somewhat, but mankind will return to the stars*

Saswato R Das

Fifty years ago this week, at the height of the Cold War, a Soviet air force test pilot named Yuri Gagarin made history when he became the first human being to escape the shackles of Earth's gravity and enter space. Only four years earlier, the Soviet Union had stunned the world, particularly the United States, by launching Sputnik 1, the first man-made satellite. Nasa, the American space agency, was created by US President Dwight Eisenhower in response. By the time Gagarin went into orbit, the race to prove supremacy in space had begun in earnest. It would culminate eight years later with the moon-landing, when Nasa astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would proclaim American superiority to terrestrial millions watching the historic feat live on television.

Fifty years after the first human spaceflight, the intoxication of those first heady days of space travel has worn off. Many pundits believe that the Space Age has fizzled out. We haven't been back to the moon in more than 40 years. Nasa's missions have grown modest – and robotic. The US Space Shuttle fleet is being retired this year and there are no plans for manned space travel in the near future. The Russian space programme is in dire straits.

So what is the reality – and the promise – of space exploration half a century after Gagarin's history-making flight? If you had asked space enthusiasts back in the 1970s what we would achieve by

2011, they would have predicted that humans would have journeyed to some of the other planets in the solar system. Where are the moon bases, the hotels in orbit, and spaceports catering to regular spaceflights?

Yet the lack of those markers shouldn't be cause for too much pessimism. If one looks back at human history and examines the path of technological progress, we see that things don't always advance linearly at a constant rate. There are periods of accelerated growth, when some major invention spurs rapid development. Then come relative lulls, characterised by incremental progress, followed by big spurts again. Such

**Prior to 1961, space travel would have seemed science fiction. Yuri Gagarin's voyage changed all that. We have reached for the stars. There can be no turning back**

was the case with the first iron tools, with the printing press, and the steam engine.

To those who think the promise of space has dimmed, I would draw a parallel between the first human spaceflight and the design of the first practical steam engine by James Watt in 1769. Both were momentous events in human history.

Gagarin showed us it was possible to escape our earthly shackle, even if for only a short period.



On its 50th anniversary, Gagarin's ascent still burnt bright

The steam engine allowed human machinery to finally escape the limitations of power drawn from a team of horses.

Fifty years into the Industrial Revolution, an observer would probably have felt that the initial momentum had slowed down. It wasn't until 1819 – 50 years after Watt filed his patent for the steam engine – that the first steamship, the Savannah, crossed the Atlantic.

It is hard to predict what the next 50 years will bring. Will human beings finally reach Mars? Will the two Voyager spacecraft, now having exited the solar system, on their way to the stars – the farthest any human machine has ever journeyed – discover something incredible? Now that so many planets are being discovered around other stars, will we lay to rest the question of alien life?

access to the orbital realm – and then, to the moon and beyond."

Already, some of his predictions seem to be coming true: Virgin Galactic is offering fee-paying passengers a chance to go to low-earth orbit in the near future, with first flights supposed to start in a couple of years. Last June, another private company, Space-X, successfully launched a rocket capable of carrying humans into space.

New nations, India and China among them, are also making bold new forays into space, in some cases doing what the US and Soviet Union did in the 1960s.

However, there seems to be the sober realisation that inter-planetary space travel is expensive – and may be too expensive for one nation to undertake. If we are to go to Mars, it may require a global compact to underwrite the cost of the trip. Besides, big technological challenges remain. We don't know how to get humans to Mars and back yet. The payloads involved will be too large for present-day rockets. The radiation exposure enroute to Mars might be too deadly for astronauts. Yet, if there is a lesson in human history it is that, time and again, human ingenuity has trumped what seemed impossible.

Prior to 1961, space travel would have seemed what it has seemed for most of human history: science fiction. Yuri Gagarin's voyage changed all that. We have reached for the stars. There can be no turning back.

*The writer is a commentator on science and technology.*

One thing is undeniable: Space is now part of our destiny.

Science writer and visionary Arthur C Clarke has said that later civilisations will remember the 20th century as the time when human beings made the first tentative journeys into space. More than anyone else in the 20th century, Clarke had a track record of being proven right when it came to forecasting technological progress.

I remember speaking to him shortly before he died in 2008. "Before the current decade is out," he had predicted, "fee-paying passengers will be experiencing suborbital flights aboard privately funded passenger vehicles, built by a new generation of engineer-entrepreneurs with an unstoppable passion for space. And over the next 50 years, thousands of people will gain

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# Atomising Risk

*India can learn lessons from Fukushima*

The equating of Japan's Fukushima calamity to Chernobyl by upgrading the former to level 7, the highest threat level in a nuclear crisis, should trigger a wholesale re-evaluation of how Indian reactors are planned and maintained. Even in risk averse, industrially advanced Japan, a series of unwarranted events and human failure resulted in radiation leaks. Commendably the reactor withstood a 9.2 magnitude earthquake just 130 km away, but the resulting tsunami was 2.5 metres higher than planned for. This unimaginable barrage of water shorted the generators used to cool the reactor core. Despite everything, the release of radioactive material wasn't inevitable. The final straw was callousness. The Tokyo Electric Power Company delayed cooling the core with seawater because it would irreparably damage expensive equipment.

If anything, this chain of events demonstrates why we must plan on the basis of 'Murphy's law': if things can go wrong they will, and simultaneously. Contingency planning would benefit from informed public scrutiny of what's currently a closed governmental loop. A start would be reassessing risk for reactors, but there isn't any reason why every step of reactor design and building shouldn't be made transparent. Furthermore, safety demands breaking up coalitions of interests for the greater good. Most galling is that the nuclear watchdog, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, is part of the very entity that builds reactors - the Department of Atomic Energy. With proper scrutiny, the risks inherent to nuclear energy could be made irrelevant. They must because in terms of per capita power usage, India is ranked 150<sup>th</sup> in the world. Development requires power and while renewables can't be ignored, nor can nuclear energy be removed from our energy mix. What can be controlled are the risks.

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# Phone app will help you avoid traffic jams

**San Francisco:** IBM is testing smartphone software designed to predict traffic jams and warn motorists before they even take to the roads.

IBM said late on Tuesday that its employees in the San Francisco and Silicon Valley areas of Northern California have been testing technology that "will ultimately help drivers around the world" avoid fouled traffic.

Those involved in the pilot project agree to have location-sensing capabilities in their smartphones automatically track where they drive and when, according to IBM Smarter Traveler program manager John Day.

The information is fed through the Internet to computers that identify patterns such as commutes to and from work. Meanwhile, data collected from roadway sensors commonly used for online traffic maps is analyzed to determine conditions that usually lead to trouble.

For example, congestion at a certain off-ramp or bridge entrance may consistently lead to traffic backing up in another area. The results are combined to form personalized pre-

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**FOR A SMOOTH RIDE:** Smartphone software is designed to predict traffic snarls and warn motorists even before they take to the roads

dictions of when a motorist is apt to run into highway headaches. "We wanted to take advantage of analytic tools to provide predictive capabilities; to get correlations with minor slowdowns and major ones that happen after that," Day said. "So you can run a query at any point for a journey and predict 35 or 40 minutes in advance what it will look like, then couple that with a personal approach for the individual traveler." AFP

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## **4 apples a day & cholesterol dips by 25%**

**London:** It's said an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Now, scientists say there is some truth in the old adage as they found the fruit helps cut cholesterol levels and lose weight significantly.

Researchers at the Florida State University in the US found that women who ate 75 grams of dried apple a day for six months saw levels of LDL cholesterol — the harmful form blamed for clogging arteries — fall by almost a quarter.

Levels of other compounds linked to heart disease and strokes also dropped, and amounts of HDL or “good” cholesterol that wards off the hardening of blood vessels rose by about 4%, the Daily Mail reported.

The women also lost an average weight of just over three pounds, despite taking on an additional 240 calories a day from snacking on the fruit. PTI

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# Anyone out there? Life may exist inside black holes

**London:** It sounds very far-fetched, but there is possibility that colonies of aliens may be living on planets within certain black holes, a Russian scientist has claimed.

According to Professor Vyacheslav Dokuchaev from the Russian Academy of Sciences, some black holes have a complex internal structure that allows photons, particles and planets to orbit a central singularity — the region in a black hole where space and time become infinite, the Daily Mail reported.

However, at the centre of certain black holes, and under the right conditions, there is an area where the fabric of space and time exists once more, Prof Dokuchaev said. If a charged and rotating black hole is large enough, he claimed, it can weaken the tidal forces that are beyond the event horizon — the point where nothing, not even light, can escape a black hole's gravity.

**Advanced civilizations may live safely inside the supermassive black holes in the galactic nuclei without being visible from the outside, says a Russian scientist**

Scientists have long known that photons can survive in stable periodic orbits inside such charged black holes.

However, Professor Dokuchaev said that a black hole's inner Cauchy horizon — the area where dimensions switch back again — can also accommodate particles and even planets.

These manage to exist without ever getting sucked all the way into the black hole and would derive light and heat from the orbiting protons and from the energy of

the central singularity, he said. And these conditions could prove self-sufficient for alien life, he speculated.

He said: "This internal black hole domain, hidden by two horizons from the whole external universe, is indeed a suitable place.

"Advanced civilisations may live safely inside the supermassive black holes in the galactic nuclei without being visible from the outside." Earlier this year scientists discovered that the black hole M87 is almost twice as big as it had previously been thought.

The black hole at the centre of the Milky Way is 1,000 times smaller than M87, which was observed in the largest and most distant galaxy some 50 million light years away.

Scientists believe that it may have formed as a result of hundreds of smaller black holes merging into one at some point in the past. PTI



# IT, manufacturing in talent tug-of-war

■ Back in demand: The slowdown is in the past and when it comes to attracting the best of engineering graduates, the scales are tipped in IT's favour again

Goutam Das & Jaishankar Jayaramiah  
Bangalore, Apr 13

IF the slowdown meant the information technology sector's loss and the manufacturing sector's gain in terms of acquiring engineering talent, its status quo once again. The software field has always attracted the best of talent on the back of higher wages, lucrative on-site assignments and a five-day week, but when hiring slowed down over the past couple of years, engineering graduates gravitated toward manufacturing.

However, this trend has been short-lived and the scales have tipped in IT's favour again. Consider this: India will probably witness 4,50,000 to 4,75,000 engineers graduating this year, of which

almost half are expected to be hired by the IT industry.

"Around 2 lakh engineers and 20,000 MBAs and other graduates are likely to be hired by IT. Other industries will have a tough time finding good talent," says TV Mohandas Pai, director and HR chief, Infosys Technologies.

The pressure on supply will lead to salary inflation in manufacturing. Companies see wages increasing any-

where between 20% and 30% this year. P Balendran, vice-president of carmaker General Motors India, says last year the average salary hike in manufacturing was 12-15%, but this year it is expected to go up to 20-21%. As students from tier-I colleges opt for IT firms, GM has been forced to recruit from diploma and industrial training institutes.

S Vishwanathan, managing director of John Fowler, a

manufacturer of filters and filtration systems, says the manufacturing industry primarily hires mechanical engineers, but the IT industry is interested in them too. "It is difficult to get good engineering design engineers," he notes, adding that salary levels in manufacturing have gone up about 20% since the slowdown. Here, CS Kumar, professor of mechanical engineering at IIT Kharagpur,

points out that since mechanical engineering students have strong analytical skills, they are a natural fit in the IT industry.

Murildhar S, co-founder and COO of MeritTrac, a skills assessment company, also estimates the wage bill inflation for the manufacturing sector at the entry level at 25-30%. "The IT sector itself will have to pay 15-18% more due to the competition. Big IT companies currently start with salaries between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 2.7 lakh. Manufacturing pays 30% less at the fresher level. They would have to match up," he says.

Raja Radhakrishnan, senior vice-president (human resources), ABB India, foresees a supply shortage for the manufacturing sector this year.

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## IT, manufacturing ...

"Although India has ample engineering talent, we find qualitative talent hard to come by. Engineers today need to be trained even after they pass out. When it comes to companies like ABB, there is a higher incubation time for retooling and imbibing skills," says Radhakrishnan. Sanjay Shelvankar, CEO of talent acquisition solutions company ScaleneWorks, says IT firms now hire functional people, even at the fresher level, to service verticals such as manufacturing. The trend will only accelerate as firms focus more on specialisation. Market watchers advise manufacturing companies to have better campus initiatives. While many multinational manufacturing companies do have campus programmes in tier-I engineering colleges, they can hardly match up to the well-oiled recruitment engine of the IT industry. Kumar of IIT Kharagpur notes that manufacturing firms have to increase their presence in tier-I campuses by sponsoring programmes and chairs, just like the IT industry, by setting up labs with state-of-the-art equipment named after them and by offering scholarships. "Manufacturing has to build good connections with colleges, invest in relationships, pay more, offer good careers and internships to become attractive employers. Today bright talent has many more opportunities," sums up Mohandas Pai of Infosys.

Around two lakh engineers and 20,000 MBAs and other graduates are likely to be hired by IT. Other industries will have a tough time finding good talent

TV Mohandas Pai,  
Infosys Technologies director & HR chief



# UGC lifts cap on PG scholarships for single girl child

Charu Sudan Kasturi  
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**NEW DELHI:** Single girl children now have a reason to smile even though census figures suggest they continue to be killed at childbirth.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to lift its cap on the number of the post-graduate scholarships offered to single girl chil-

dren, opening up the scholarship programme to all girls who meet eligibility criteria. The decision was taken in a recent commission meeting, sources said.

Earlier, the Indira Gandhi Scholarship Scheme was awarded only to 1,200 single girl children in a year.

The decision comes close on the heels of the release of the provisional 2011 census statis-

**DECISION COMES AT A TIME WHEN CENSUS STATISTICS INDICATE A WORSENING CHILD SEX RATIO**

tics, which showed up a worsening child sex ratio - the number of girls for every 1,000 boys under the age of six. The child

sex ratio dropped from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011.

"We've taken the decision to remove the cap because the number of eligible applicants is increasing each year. The aim of the scholarship scheme is to increase women's enrolment in higher education and the cap was acting as a deterrent," a senior UGC official said.

The scheme is open to those girls who are the only child of

their parents. Applicants must also be under the age of 30 to be eligible, and must have secured post graduate admission at a recognised university or higher education institution.

The removal of the cap means that all girls who meet these basic conditions are eligible for the postgraduate scholarship.

UGC source said the decision was also aimed at building on gains in women's enrolment in

India over the past decade.

As reported by HT on January 10, the total number of women enrolled in higher education at the start of the 2009-10 academic session — 5, 649, 102 — was 70% higher than the corresponding number — 3,325,927 — in 2000-01, according to UGC figures. The number of women enrolled in engineering courses has doubled over this period.

# Economic Times

## ND 14/04/2011 P14



### **Benchmarking with the Best**

This refers to the edit 'Quality Check' (ET, Apr 11). Nass-com's observation that only a quarter of engineering grads are employable is pertinent. Most of our educational institutions are behind time. Higher education institutions without on-campus centres for technological innovation, entrepreneurship development, patent & IPR, hi-tech start-ups and venture capital are incomplete, irrelevant and non-viable in the modern sense. Quality does not come through classroom teaching and that too, by lowly-qualified teachers. It depends more on enterprising activities on campus, which many western schools of learning are doing. In this regard, AICTE and UGC should have to do benchmarking with the best in the world and make gap analyses to give new vector direction to universities and colleges. This is urgent because our universities and colleges follow what these apex bodies prescribe.

Business Standard ND 14/04/2011 P-10

# MINISTRY IN SYNC WITH IIMS ON TAX WAIVER FOR DONATIONS

Proposal aimed at making IIMs financially independent

KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai

If the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has its way, individuals and corporations donating to educational institutions may soon be eligible for tax exemptions.

In a bid to allow the Indian Institutes of Management to (IIMs) to be financially independent, the MHRD will soon propose this to the Ministry of Finance.

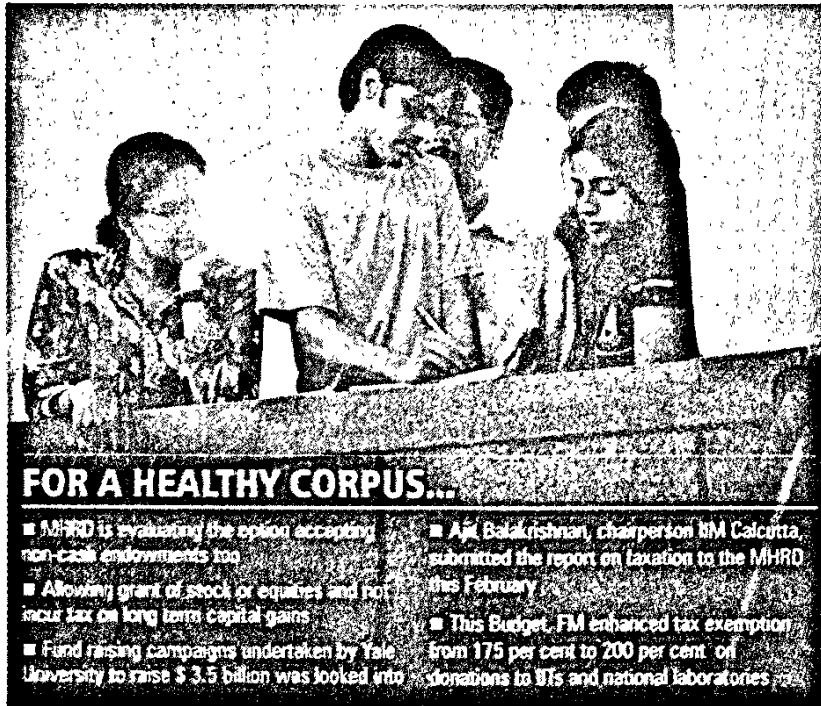
If accepted, this may be extended to other education institutes too.

"We are evaluating various options which may allow the IIMs to build a corpus. Thus, the donor may be able to avail tax exemption on their donations to institutes. We are also evaluating the option of non-cash endowments. For instance, also allow grant of stock or equities and not incur tax on long term capital gains. The entire value of the gift could be exempted from IT as a charitable gift, thereby making it of double benefit to the donor," a senior MHRD official told Business Standard.

For endowments in cash or in kind (property), the principal amount remains intact and expenditure would be from the interest accrued.

Securities donated may have the dual advantages of no capital gains tax and tax exemption as charitable donation.

The MHRD had last year asked IIM Calcutta Chairperson Ajit Balakrishnan to study



the system, especially in the context of the education sector and make suggestions, with reference to tax breaks and tax provisions.

Balakrishnan told Business Standard that the report was submitted to the MHRD this February.

Last year, Hari S. Bhartia, presented the recommendations of the committee on fund raising by IIMs. His recommendations included setting up of a development office and campaign committees in each IIM. He enumerated possible ways of Fund Raising like Solicitation of Mass Alumni, Campaign Committees, Academic Seminars, lunches and dinners, formation of Board of Counselors, Board of visitors etc.

Bhartia committee used case studies from the fund rais-

ing campaigns undertaken by Yale University in its \$ 3.5 billion campaign.

MHRD says it is seeking such exemptions on the lines of what the Finance Ministry approved in this Budget.

"In the Budget, the Finance Minister enhanced the tax exemption on payments for scientific research to national lab-

oratories, universities and the IITs—from 175 per cent to 200 per cent. Encouraged by this, we would be seeking exemptions on the same lines," added the MHRD official.

Indian companies have been seeking tax break from the government to increase donations in terms of endowments to higher education institutions.



**LAST YEAR MHRD HAD ASKED IIM CALCUTTA CHAIRPERSON AJIT BALAKRISHNAN TO STUDY THE TAX SYSTEM, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR TAX BREAKS**

**AJIT BALAKRISHNAN**  
Founder, Rediff.com

"Corporations have to give endowments and we support a tax break of over 100 per cent towards the same. If you want more research to take place, more donations are required and the government needs to encourage this through tax breaks," Rajan Mittal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Bharati Enterprises had earlier told Business Standard.

At present, donations by companies to higher education institutions overseas is tax exempted as these institutions are run by trusts.

However, many of the trusts running education institutions in India are exempt from tax only if they are registered under the charities commissioner or as a section 25 company under the Income Tax Act.

Also, many companies donate to international institutions abroad as mostly the Indian Income Tax department does not recognise these donations as legitimate ones but as a tax evading exercise.

Also, these business houses say they prefer transparency with regard to the use of funds donated by them.

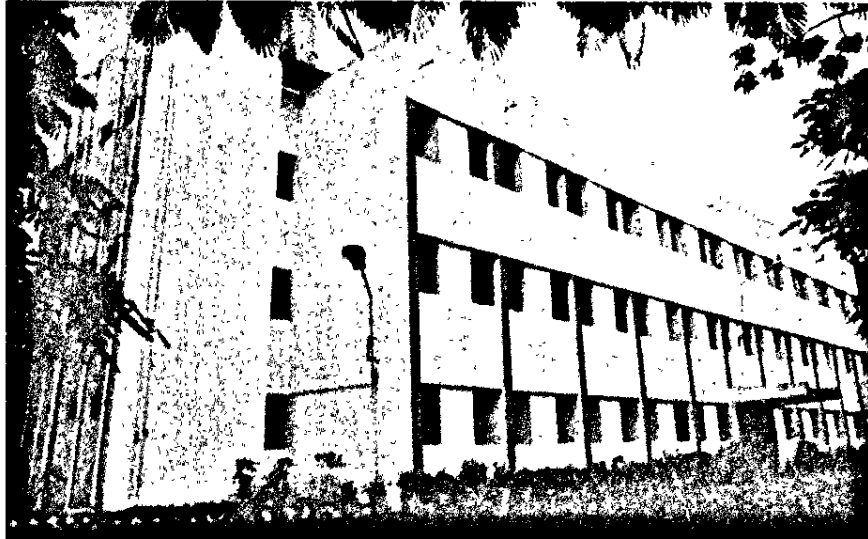
In October 2010, Harvard Business School received a \$50 million donation from the Tata Group.

This has been the largest gift the school received from an international donor in its 102-year history. The funds will be used to build a new academic and residential building on the school's campus in Boston.

Harvard said it hopes to break ground for the building, which will be named Tata Hall, next spring.

Prior to this, Anand Mahindra, head of Mahindra Group, gave \$10 million to Harvard where he earned his undergraduate and master's degrees.

## Business Standard ND 14/04/2011 P-10



# New IIMs do well with placements

SWATI GARG  
Kolkata

**T**he new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) appear to be well on their way to a good start, thanks to the mentoring by their established predecessors.

"The mentorship programmes have meant that the students at new IIMs get the chance to interact with the best in the country. This has meant not just better exposure but also more credibility for students," said a professor from the management information system (MIS) department at IIM-Calcutta.

IIM Calcutta is mentoring IIM-Ranchi and this means IIM Ranchi students are taught by the country's best finance faculty.

"We have been able to ride the IIM-Calcutta mentorship programme which along with my marketing contacts has helped students get the best of both marketing and finance worlds. Our average summer internship salaries have gone up to ₹22,500, at times better than the older of the new IIMs," said M J Xavier, director, IIM-Ranchi.

Aditya Somani, student, IIM-Ranchi says, "While it is correct to state that we are at a disadvantage because 50 per cent of our teachers are visiting faculty, what has worked to our advantage is that the technology has made the faculty members available even at a distance," said

For Somani, the decision to choose IIM-Ranchi was difficult because of the fact that besides its IIM pedigree, the institute really had nothing more to offer, not even a director that was available full time in June 2010. In fact a small library, a couple of classrooms, albeit well maintained, and a mess in a borrowed building is the available infrastructure at IIM-Ranchi.

Summer placements have surpassed expectations for the institute's 44 students. Everyone has found paid internship positions, with recruiters from companies like Nokia and ICICI having visited the makeshift campus.

IIM-Raipur tenth in the IIM system, is looking at establishing not just its presence as an A-list B-school, but has also taken it upon itself to improve the overall Chhattisgarh ecology,

given especially the fact that the state's development has been hindered by Naxalism.

"The students have scored in summer placements despite the fact that operations started almost 6 months late from the scheduled date of initiation. The students will increasingly be interacting with the top brass of the Chhattisgarh government aiding involvement of management formulas to the state," said B S Sahay, director, IIM-Raipur.

IIM-Raipur is being mentored by faculty at IIM-Indore.

The story is replicated at IIM-Rohtak where during student were able to secure offers from Ernst&Young and Reliance among other big corporate names for paid summer positions.

IIM-Rohtak is looking at increasing the size of its faculty from the current four to 20 over the next three months.

The three institutes along with IIM-Tiruchirapalli have come up with the concept of the smart classroom. Technologically heightened classrooms, each one built at a cost of ₹50-60 lakh will connect students across the four institutes giving students the IIMs advantage.

Times of India Jaipur 13.04.11

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## IITians to sit on indefinite fast against corruption in state

Rachna Singh | TNN

**Jaipur:** Following the footsteps of Anna Hazare, the IIT and IIM alumni and the CEOs from India and abroad are going to hold an indefinite fast at the Jantar Mantar beginning Wednesday (Baisakhi) against rampant corruption in Rajasthan.

“There has been an overwhelming response to the proposed indefinite fast and we also have the support of prominent citizens of the country including Sri Sri Ravi Shankar,” said Varun Arya, president, Marwar Education Foundation, Jodhpur.

A 1981 IIT-Delhi alumnus, Arya recounts how he was cheated of his dream of returning to a clean and corruption-free India.

“Some of us, alumni of IIT Delhi, met the governor and the chief minister of Rajasthan in 1999. They asked us to do something significant for the state. I decided to quit my cushy job at an American multinational, and returned to Rajasthan, after being away

for twenty-four years.”

In 2005, Arya and few of his friends purchased 236 bighas (94.4 acres) of barren wasteland in Kaparda, Bilara tehsil, Jodhpur to set up a top quality educational institute. The institute, 40 km from Jodhpur, is proposed to be on a par with IITs & IIMs.

“But owing to harassment and victimisation by politicians and officers at every level, we have not been able to move a brick in the past six years,” alleged Arya.

Reacting to the indefinite fast, Jodhpur collector Siddharth Mahajan said, “I have no idea of the time schedule. The land referred here for the institute was over the prescribed ceiling. A proposal has been sent to the principal secretary revenue. We will issue them a letter for 135 bigas on Wednesday as Tuesday happens to be a government holiday.”

Arya however, remains defiant, and said, “Now, they are asking me not to proceed to Delhi, but I can’t trust their intentions.”

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# Students taken for a ride by dubious institutes

## Tech this: Babus patronise fraud education biz

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur/Alwar:** Students going for vocational studies in the state continue to face the risk of being duped by dubious institutions that are thriving apparently under the patronage of politicians and government babus.

The matter has been brought to the fore after the failure of students enrolled with such six institutes in Alwar hangs in a balance.

A group of higher educational institutes in the district admitted students and conducted the full academic session in 2010-11 without having the mandatory approval from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

AICTE has not approved the 2010-11 session conducted by Chachan Educational & Welfare Society, Chikani, which runs five technical institutes, and Marut Nandan Educational Society Khairthal, which operates one engineering institute, in Alwar district, details obtained under the RTI Act revealed.

In fact, the two educational societies had not even applied for extension of approval till March 18, 2011.

In response to a query made by one Rajendra Gautam of Jaipur under the RTI Act, the AICTE's north-western regional office in Chandigarh stated that it had not received any extension of approval letter (issued by AICTE headquarters in Delhi) for any of the two educational societies of Alwar till March 18 this year.

When contacted, Manoj Kumar Chachan, chairperson of the institutions run by the two educational societies told TOI,

"Process for getting the approval (from AICTE) is on. The (semester) exams have already been conducted but people are spreading rumours about us."

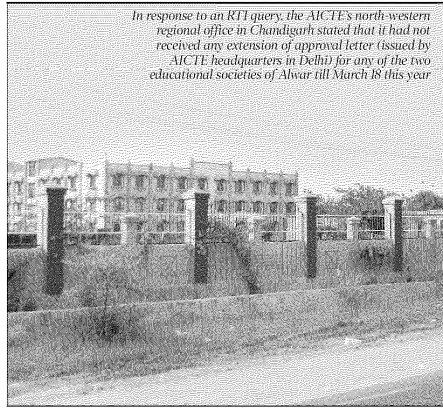
Principal Secretary (technical education) Vipin Chandra Sharma, meanwhile, said, "We are confirming with the AICTE if the institutions have the approval or not. If they have conducted the academic session without the necessary approval, strict action will be taken against them." At the same time, Sharma said the students enrolled with the six institutes for 2010-11 would be transferred to the approved technical institutes in the state.

The Chachan Educational & Welfare Society, Chikani, runs the Lord's International College of Pharmacy, Lord's International College of Management, Lord's Institute of Engineering & Technology for Women, Lord's Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology and the Chachan Educational and Welfare Society "Group of Institutions" along the the Tjara-Delhi highway at Chikani.

The Marut Nandan Educational Society runs the Laxmi Devi Institute of Engineering & Technology, also at Chikani.

The AICTE had published notices in newspapers around August-September last year for all the educational institutes concerned to apply for the necessary approval from it.

Even though the two educational societies lacked the AICTE approval, the state higher education department seemingly turned a blind eye to admissions made to the institutes through the Rajasthan pre-engineering test (RPET) 2010.



**BEDROCK OF MALPRACTISES:** One of the dubious colleges in Alwar

*In response to an RTI query, the AICTE's north-western regional office in Chandigarh stated that it had not received any extension of approval letter (issued by AICTE headquarters in Delhi) for any of the two educational societies of Alwar till March 18 this year*

## AICTE men accused of back door deals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan anti-corruption bureau (ACB) has named several designated members of All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) inspection teams as accused in about 25 FIRs lodged in connection with irregularities at Industrial Training Institutes (ITI).

The ACB is likely to arrest these members, apart from the institute authorities, and file chargesheets after the probe.

In December last year the ACB had raided about 35 ITIs in the state following complaints of large-scale irregularities.

"It was negligence on the part of not only the institute authorities, but also the AICTE inspection teams which granted them affiliation despite irregularities," a senior ACB officer told TOI.

Besides AICTE officials from Delhi, most members of the inspection team are designated temporarily by the state government's Directorate of Technical Education, he said. "These members are usually principals of government-run ITIs. They take bribes from these institutes and grant recognition," said the officer.

He added during investigation the ACB has found that these members connived with the institutes

and thus cheated the students.

Several instances of cheating of students were found, said officials. In some cases, the colleges were found closed, though they were reportedly running courses. According to IG, ACB, Umesh Mishra, the agency had been getting complaints about irregularities in ITIs for a long time. "The ACB organised raids in 30 districts. Thirty-five teams raided the same number of institutes simultaneously," said the officer.

"In many institutes there were lesser number of students than what they had stated in the records. The number of teachers was also not found adequate and those who were taking classes didn't have appropriate qualification. The principals of most of the institutes were also not qualified," said Mishra.

The laboratories were also not properly equipped. "Most of the institutes didn't even have laboratories. Staffrooms, classrooms and other facilities were not up to the standard," said the officer.

The IG said that raids were being conducted at Prabhudayal ITI centre in Behror, Savitri Devi ITI centre in Alwar's Ramgarh, Runthala ITI centre in Jhunjhunu's Navalgarh, Agrasen ITI centre and Shri Krishna Institute in Dausa and Asha Niketan and Vedant in Sikar.

## 'BED-ridden' RU announces results

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan University administration has given in to the demands of BEd students, who went on a hunger strike a day ago, by declaring their awaited results on Tuesday evening. The university had deliberately delayed declaration of their results because their college—Laxmi Bai in Jamwaramgarh—had failed in the inspection resulting in losing its affiliation from the university.

The university administration had slapped a huge penalty in order to conduct exams of the 2009-10 batch. The situation took an ugly turn, when the college administration refused to pay and dragged the matter to court. In return the university decided not to release the results of 2009-10 batch till they got the money from the college.

Though university had accepted the students were not at fault as they were allotted this college by it during counselling. But they were kept running from pillar to post to get the results in vain. During this eight months they were never allowed to meet the vice-chancellor despite hours of agitation



The university finally gave in to the demands of the students and declared the results on Tuesday

outside the V-C's secretariat.

After losing all hope, they challenged the university order in high court which directed the university to announce their results immediately. Despite the court order, the university turned a blind eye on the fate

of these students.

They were left with no choice and 90 girls went on a hunger strike since Monday afternoon outside the university's main gate sweating in the sun. Throughout the night they sat outside the gate determined to get their results. A few were accompanied by their families.

It is only after police commissioner B L Soni wrote to higher education department principal secretary Madhukarshyam Gupta to intervene in the matter, the dean committee met on Tuesday afternoon in the absence of vice-chancellor B L Sharma and declared the result. Finally, the struggle against "an uncaring and incompetent university authorities" ended on a happy note on Tuesday.

"I am happy that they have declared our results," said Sunita Singh, who was accompanied by her husband and a year-old son while she was on hunger strike. Most of the students of this college are from rural background. Many of them took loans to pay the annual fees of Rs 22,500 besides expenses of hostel and other facilities.

## College cheats 20 B Tech students, FIR lodged

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur:** At least 20 students could not appear in B Tech examinations held on April 6 due to alleged cheating by authorities of their college located in the Mansarovar area here.

Police said they were investigating the matter after the students approached them and filed an FIR against the college authorities.

According to Shakti Dan, investigation officer of the case, the FIR under sections 430 (fraud) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the IPC was registered against Apex College situated at VT Road in Mansarovar. He said the students alleged that they had enrolled in the college last year responding advertisements for 60 seats in the B Tech course. "However, the college had permission to give admission to only 40 students for the same course," the officer said.

All 60 students had deposited the requisite fee and attended classes regularly throughout the academic year. "Of the 60 students, 40 of them appeared in the exam while the remaining 20 did not receive their examination letters from the Rajasthan University," Dan said. He added that "14 of the 20 students approached us" following which the case was registered.