

## Newspaper Clips

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### **IITs & IISc to drive IMPRINT initiative; govt assures total support**

<http://www.enaindia.in/news/newsdetails/area/centre/iits-govt-assures-total-support>



IITs & IISc to drive IMPRINT initiative; govt assures total support

As many as 25 Ministries and Departments of the Government of India including Ministry of HRD have signed a MoU to promote research innovation and technology, a project that will be steered by all IITs and IISc.

The MoU was signed here on Thursday with a view to promoting research in premier technical institutions through the IMPRINT programme, as per an official release.

The Union HRD Minister, Smriti Irani presided over the function. Speaking on the occasion, she said that earlier research work was done in piecemeal and there was no sustainability in the technology related work as it was totally dependent on the funds released by Ministry of HRD.

She said that it was for the first time in the history of the country that all IITs have come together as a family and have undertaken this unique initiative of IMPRINT wherein they have taken upon themselves to carry the technological innovations at the door steps of the common man and also use it for the welfare of mankind.

On their part, all Ministers assured their full cooperation and support in taking forward the research work under 10 technology domains as envisaged under IMPRINT to achieve overall development of the country.

Among dignitaries present were Minister of Communications and IT - Ravi Shankar Prasad; Minister of State for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy - Piyush Goyal; Minister of State for Finance - Jayant Sinha; Minister of State for Steel and Mines - Vishnu Deo Sai, and Minister of State for Rural Development - Sudarshan Bhagat.

IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT), is a flagship national initiative of the Government which was launched on November 5, 2014. It is a multi-disciplinary, multi-partner and

multi-goal oriented national programme aimed at technology development covering all engineering disciplines, steered by all IITs and IISc.

The programme aims to synergize with all the major initiatives of the Government of India such as Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Namami Gange, Skill India, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Swachch Bharat Mission etc; while other Ministries of the Government of India are engaged in research covering these domains. There is certainly a need to converge the efforts to avoid duplication of efforts.

Towards achieving this synergy, in a meeting held on 14th December 2015 on implementation of IMPRINT, it was decided to sign a formal MoU among all participating Ministries/Departments for achieving coordination, prioritization and synergy among all the schemes/projects/programs to ensure alignment between the programs and avoid overlapping, leading to successful, effective and efficient implementation of such development programs of Government of India.

Notably, Ministry of Human Resource Development would be responsible for the following: Laying down the Policy for implementation; coordination with the other departments; resolving the difficulties in implementation; and meeting 50 per cent cost of the project cost.

Meanwhile, the other departments and Ministries would be responsible for defining the requirements of research for inclusion in the IMPRINT programme; participating in the Apex Committee meetings for selection of the projects ; and to review the progress of the projects from time to time as a part of the Apex Committee.

### **Achyuta Samanta is new president of Indian Science Congress**

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR. I AM THE SECOND PERSON FROM ODISHA WHO HAS BEEN ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF ISCA. EARLIER, PK PARIJA WAS ELECTED AS THE PRESIDENT IN 1947 DR ACHYUTA SAMANTA EDUCATIONIST

KOLKATA: Eminent educationist Dr Achyuta Samanta, the founder of Odishabased Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), has been elected as the president of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). It has been a great journey for Dr Achyuta Samanta. He will take charge of ISCA for the year 2017-18. At a press meet in Kolkata on Friday, Samanta said that he is the second Odiya who has been elected as the president of ISCA. Notably Sir Asutosh Mookherjee was the president of the inaugural session of ISCA in 1914. PP Mathur, the vice-chancellor of KIIT University, was elected as general secretary of ISCA for the year 2016-19. "It is a great honour for me. I am the second person from Odisha who has been elected as the president of ISCA. PK Parija from Odisha was also elected as the president in 1947," Samanta said on Friday. "More than 25,000 unprivileged tribal students are studying free from KG to PG. We receive 50,000 admission applications yearly. I have a dream to set up such an institution in Bengal like other states across the country. I have talked to the Bengal chief minister," Samanta said. According to him, 40% of KIIT university students are from Bengal. Samanta started his career as a teacher. He was also in the UGC .

### **Science & tech research: IIT-Kharagpur in top 3**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Science-tech-research-IIT-Kharagpur-in-top-3/articleshow/51628782.cms>

MUMBAI: IIT-Kharagpur has been ranked among top three science and technology research institutions in India, second only to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The institute with close to 15,800 publications during 2002-2014, made to the second position in the report published by Department of Science and Technology.

The publications from the institute have featured in the list of top 10 publications with at least one author affiliated with an Indian institution, 2009-2014 in the areas of biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology, chemistry, chemical engineering, immunology and microbiology, materials science, physics and astronomy.

Several faculty members from the institute have been named as the country's top researchers in the report in the fields of computer science, electrical engineering and rubber technology.

Apart from engineering, which features as the top the subject area, the other areas under focus in the institute are materials science, physics and computer science.

### **IIT Delhi and AIIMS Invent a Low-Cost Vest That Reduces Hyperactivity in Autistic Children**

<http://www.thebetterindia.com/50871/vest-reduce-hyperactivity-autistic-kids/>

Researchers at AIIMS and the engineering division of IIT-Delhi have invented a vest that can reduce hyperactivity in a child. This is especially important for autistic children, as they are prone to fits of hyperactivity.

The vest, made of fabric with sewn-in weights, is likely to cost as less as Rs 1000, while the same vest of companies that manufacture it abroad costs Rs 6000 onwards, up to as much as Rs 19000.

The researchers are now testing the vest on 30 six- to nine-year-old autistic children. "If the results are positive, steps will be taken to transfer the technology for commercial production of the weighted vests," said Dr Shefalli Gulati to The Times of India. She is the professor and chief, division of child neurology at AIIMS.

## **New DIY kit could make medical testing easier, more affordable**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/new-diy-kit-could-make-medical-testing-easier-more-affordable/article8420074.ece>

*Innovation lies in downscaling complicated testing equipment to fit a handheld device*

A team from the Indian Institute of Science is developing a handheld medical device, which can measure eight biometric parameters related to blood and urine ( see info box ). It is expected to make testing costs “very affordable” and make monitoring of health statistics more convenient for patients, said the scientists.



This and other developments in the field such as continuous glucose monitoring systems and insulin pumps are changing how doctors and patients are managing diabetes.

“A handheld device to test multiple parameters will definitely help patients as it will reduce the time to obtain results,” said Rakesh Kumar, emergency physician at Apollo Hospitals, Bannerghatta Road.

PathShodh Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., a R&D company incubated at IISc., has developed the device, which is in the prototype stage. The innovation lies in downscaling complicated testing equipment into a handheld device.

Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer Vinay Kumar, who developed the concept as part of his Ph.D. research, told The Hindu , “The motivation behind the product is to transform science for a social mission.”

“Compared to traditional techniques, which are based on optical spectroscopy, we have adopted an electro-chemical technology similar to what is used in glucometers (a device to measure blood sugar levels),” said Navakanta Bhat, professor at IISc., Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, and another founding member of the company.

Apart from glucose, parameters such as HbA1c, haemoglobin and serum albumin cannot be tested by patients at home. The team hopes to change this.

The technology has not been exploited for other medical parameters owing to difficulties in implementation, Prof. Bhat added. "We are trying to make testing very affordable, compared to what is currently available in hospitals," said Gautam Sharma, vice-president (Business) at PathShodh.

The team expects that the product will become as common as glucometers are today. "We are conducting trials to make sure the accuracy of tests is on par with laboratory tests," said Mr. Sharma.

### **IIT alumni to help solve farm problems**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/IIT-alumni-to-help-solve-farm-problems/articleshow/51654814.cms>

Nagpur: Over 7000 farmers in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa have found a new saviour in the form of 'Farms n Farmers' or FnF, an organization of IIT alumni dedicated to solving their problems. These farmers can look forward to the technocrats and scientists in the organization for solutions of all kinds of problems from selection of crops in a particular soil type to particular varieties that suit the weather conditions to marketing of their produce at good price. FnF plans to reach out to 1.5 lakh farmers in next five years across the country.

Launched by Shashank Kumar and Manish Kumar, alumni of IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur respectively, in 2010 it provides 360 degrees end to end solutions to all problems of farmers. The organization is using technology, especially Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to give a fillip to agriculture, the backbone of economy in Bihar. "Though farmers in Bihar do not use smartphones as yet, but gradually we are preparing them to do so to connect to us and seek instant guidance," Adarsh, processing manager of FnF, told TOI.

Adarsh is in city to attend the three-day Renaissance, a 'social entrepreneurship' conference organized by Prayas, a students' forum at the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT).

Bihar and most northern states are known for their good soil yet farmers there have also been experiencing yield stagnation, crop failures and other farming problems like rest of the country. Farmers here are also struggling to survive.

FnF has developed a model called 'DeHaat' which means village as well as extending a hand. There is a mobile app too with the name DeHaat and a centre that provides real time solutions to farmers including technical advisory and field supervisory. "We have a soil testing lab, scientists and experts at the centre who conduct assessments for farmers and give them market driven solutions. We also run a honey processing facility and buy honey from farmers of Vaishali district in Bihar at Rs120 per kg as against the Rs90/kg that other companies give," said Adarsh.

Farmers in Bihar have just 0.75 acre average land holding. To make agriculture sustainable for them, we buy their produce at good rate and sell it further with very little profit. We also provide them facilities like cold chain transport for fruits like leechi. Last year, the price of Leechi crashed to Rs15 per kg but we bought it at Rs35. DeHaat has even helped farmers connect to bulk corporate buyers. FnF is teaching farmers to take risk and adopt new technology, new varieties and new ICT methods like use of mobile apps. In near future, farmers would sell their produce through e-commerce sites like Flipkart.

## **India's science community faces gender challenge**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/Indias-science-community-faces-gender-challenge/articleshow/51649432.cms>

Reasons for fewer women in science range from disparity to social responsibilities that women take on, and from harassment to lack of encouragement. The same issues have become concerns globally. The US last week passed a Bill aimed at encouraging women in science but it did not go without some opposition

BENGALURU: On Saturday, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is attempting to celebrate women in science and engineering research within its campus for the first time in its 107 years of existence, even as the number of its women faculty is just 35 compared to nearly 400 men faculty.

India's best research institute on global records, IISc doesn't look good on the gender front with not a single woman on any of its Faculty Association Committees. There isn't a single officer bearer either. It isn't surprising that researchers think that the matter must at least be discussed.

The situation in IISc is just a reflection of the gender gap in Indian Science, which has fewer women researchers than global average and fares poorly even when compared to the African region, as per a November 2015 Unesco report.

According to the Unesco report, women constituted 30% of all researchers in the world and according to statistics from the Ministry of Science and Technology there are only 14.33% in India. The African region has about 40%.

. Although the Bill was passed, agencies reported that four conservative lawmakers opposed it. While the UN has acknowledged several countries for trying to introduce laws and schemes to get more women into science, it has concluded that there is a lot to be achieved.

In Australia, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was quoted by the Sunday Morning Herald on March 29, as saying: "The bright light shining on this new innovation age is not illuminating many women."

A Guardian report last week points to how even the internet does not have enough representation of women in science. It also discussed in detail how a University student was being attacked via mails for her contribution of profiles of women scientists for Wikipedia.

While discussing this issue, Indian Women Scientists' Association President Devaki Ramanathan had told TOI that earlier that the challenges women face are mostly akin to those of other working women, except that research careers are more demanding, more exacting and more competitive than those of their male counterparts.

By the time a woman enters her post-doctoral career, Devaki says, she is keen on settling down. "A break in career is very difficult to make up."

Physicist Rohini Godbole, who will also take part in the IISc discussions on Saturday has been one of the vocal women scientists in the country. She believes that the problems have been spoken about for a long time and that it is time India looks at solutions.

"Among things that need to be put in place are good creches on campuses, priority to young couples while providing accommodation on campus, and proactive hiring policies to help couples manage their careers. Women should be rewarded," Godbole had told TOI, while pointing out that work climate and harassment issues need to be addressed.

A range of topics including gender parity, harassment, bias in workplace, women leadership, work life balance and support structures, career aspects and mentoring, and women's health and security will be discussed in a round table at IISc on Saturday.

"However, I think that unless the male colleagues start taking up the issue and decide to do something, these problems will continue," a women researcher at IISc said, pointing at how other institutes are yet to talk of such issues.

### **Ganga width shrinking, oxygen level falling: Study**

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

VARANASI: The dissolved oxygen level in the Ganga in Varanasi has dipped in the last two years and the river's width has shrunk considerably in 25 years, reveals a study.

A team of scientists led by PK Mishra, head of the department of chemical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Banaras Hindu University (IITBHU), carried out the study recently. The study revealed that the oxygen level in the Ganga water, once famed for its high purifying quality, fell to 4 mg per litre from 6mg per litre. The cities that have thrived on the riverbank are responsible for the plight of the Ganga, the study further says.

"We collected samples of Ganga water from certain stretches in the last two years to examine the oxygen level in the water. Tests revealed depleted dissolved oxygen (DO) level in the Gangajal stood at 5 mg/ preliter around nine months ago," Mishra said. Dissolved oxygen level of 8 mg per litre in a river was considered healthy, he added.

“Examination of the samples collected around two months ago revealed that DO level in certain stretches of the river dropped to 4 mg per litre which is alarming. It clearly shows that the river struggles to maintain its oxygen level,” Mishra said. “

“Over exploitation of the Ganga, discharge of sewage and industrial effluents have caused a serious threat to the health of the river. All three factors are an open secret. However, serious steps to check the flow of industrial wastewater and sewage into the river are yet to take shape,” he added. “The dissolved level in a few stretches of the river along Varanasi is below 4 mg per litre. Complete ban is needed to check the flow of industrial wastewater and drain water into the Ganga. is already too late. Everyone needs to come forward to save the river,” Prof Mishra said.

**Virat Vaibhav ND**  
**02/04/2016**

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## **तीन दिवसीय स्पोर्ट्स संग्राम का शुभारंभ**

रूड़की । रूड़की आइआइटी में आज शुक्रवार को तीन दिवसीय स्पोर्ट्स फेस्ट संग्राम का शुभारंभ हुआ। जिस में देश भर से विभिन्न शिक्षण संस्थानों के भारी संख्या में छात्र प्रतिभाग कर रहे है। समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि पर्वतारोही प्रेम कुमार सिंह रहे। स्पोर्ट्स फेस्ट संग्राम के चेयरमैन प्रो. ब्रिजेश यादव के अनुसार इस फेस्ट में जहां लगभग 1500 छात्र प्रतिभाग कर रहे है, वहां आइआइटी रूड़की के 300 छात्र हिस्सा ले रहे है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस साल दिव्यांगों के लिए भी खेल प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित की जा रही हैं।



## Business Line ND 02/04/2016

P-06

# Accelerator at IIIT-H to support 'deep tech' firms

### OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, April 1

As India sees the sprouting of accelerators to help start-ups build their firms professionally, the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-Hyderabad) has teamed up with incubator T-Hub and 50K Ventures to establish Avishkar.

Avishkar is a niche accelerator that exclusively focuses on 'deeper technologies' such as artificial intelligence and machine learning. Backed by the research strengths of IIIT-H, Avishkar is planning to pick 10 start-ups in the first year, five each in two six-month batches. To start with, in the next few days, it will call for applications from early stage start-ups (with a basic prototype in hand).

"We will run them through a customised curriculum to suit the specific requirements of each of the start-ups. One side doesn't fit all. They will be given focussed handholding," said IIIT-H Dean Vasudev Varma, who is also the Chairman of the Board of IIIT-H Foundation. Addressing a press con-

Avishkar is a niche accelerator that focuses on technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning.

ference here on Friday, he said the accelerator will invest ₹10 lakh as seed money, giving an option to start-ups to allow it to convert it into equity.

The start-ups will be working on issues like speech-recognition technologies for local languages and self-driving solutions for road conditions in the country, he added.

"We will help them present their products to venture capital funds and other investors at the end of the programme, giving them an opportunity to raise further funding," said Sanjay Enishetty, founding partner of 50K Ventures.

"We are confident at least 50 per cent of the start-ups will be able to raise Series-A funding," said Ramesh Loganathan, President of Hyderabad Software Exporters' Association, who is also on the board of the foundation.

पार्टियों में चुने गए पेशेवर खुद को एक दूसरे से बेहतर साबित करने में जुटे

## आई.आई.टी. पासआउट बने 'चुनावी चाणक्य'

नई दिल्ली, 1 अप्रैल (विशेष) एक-दूसरे को कड़ी टक्कर दे रहे भाजपा और कांग्रेस दोनों ने ही महौल की नब्ब पकड़ने के लिए तकनीक के धुरंधरों का सहारा लिया है। दोनों ही दलों ने आई.आई.टी. के पेशेवर युवकों की टीम तैयार की है जो जनसमर्थन जुटाने और उसे वोट में तबदील करने की बारीकी से रणनीति तैयार कर रहे हैं।

भाजपा ने इसके लिए रजत सेठी की सेवाएं ली हैं। अर्थशास्त्र फाउंडेशन के संस्थापक और अध्यक्ष सेठी की टीम में 4 मुख्य सिपाहसालार भी हैं। इनमें से आशीष सोगनी, महेंद्र और आशीष मिश्रा भी आई.आई.टी. खड़गपुर से हैं। इसके अलावा भाजपा के लिए बिहार चुनाव में

■ कांग्रेस व बीजेपी दोनों ने तैयार की पेशेवर युवकों की टीम  
■ सामाजिक, आर्थिक मुद्दों का कर रहे हैं बारीकी से अध्ययन

अहम भूमिका निभाने वाला एक युवा कार्यकर्ता भी इनमें शामिल है। सूत्रों के अनुसार भाजपा महासचिव राम माधव को जीत का भरोसा दिलाने वाली यह टीम पिछले साल सितम्बर से काम कर रही है। सामाजिक, आर्थिक परिस्थितियों का जायजा लेने के साथ-



साथ ये लोगों से मिलकर जमीनी मुद्दे का बारीकी से अध्ययन करके चुनावी रणनीति तैयार करते हैं। इसके लिए सूचना का अधिकार एक्ट का भी सहारा लिया जा रहा है। यह टीम असम के आम लोगों को ही पार्टी के चुनाव अभियान के लिए इस्तेमाल करने की रणनीति पर काम कर

रही है। यही वजह है कि प्रचार सामग्री लगाने के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों की नजर में आने वाली पान की दुकानों और ऑटो रिक्शा को खासतौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।

मुद्दों में तबदील करने के लिए सोशल मीडिया का जमकर इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। पिछले कुछ महीनों में जुटाए गए आंकड़ों के आधार पर चुनावी गीत, मोबाइल कॉल और एस.एम.एस. लोगों को भेजे जा रहे हैं। सोशल मीडिया के जरिए प्रदेश की बदहली के लिए मौजूदा सरकार पर लगातार वार केंद्र की एन.डी.ए. सरकार द्वारा किए गए कामों का भी हवाला दिया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा सीमा पार से अवैध घुसपैट और चाय बागानों के कामगारों

के मुद्दे उठाए जा रहे हैं। कांग्रेस ने भी आई.आई.टी. के पासआउट युवाओं की सेवाएं ली हैं। पार्टी उपाध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी ने आई.आई.टी. के करीब 15 दिग्गजों की टीम को कमान राहुल परमार के हाथों में दी है। महज 27 साल के परमार पिछले एक साल से अपनी टीम के साथ बूथ स्तर तक की चुनावी रणनीति बनाने में कांग्रेस की मदद कर रहे हैं। वह सीधे पार्टी के असम महासचिव सी.पी. जोशी से संपर्क में रहते हैं। बूथ स्तर पर मजबूत पकड़ बनाने के लिए इन्होंने हर 100 मतदाताओं पर एक युवा, एक बुजुर्ग और एक महिला कार्यकर्ता को तैनात करने की रणनीतिक तहत प्रदेश भर में करीब साढ़े 4 लाख कार्यकर्ताओं की फौज खड़ी की है।

# जेईई मेन ऑफलाइन कल

## इंजीनियरिंग दाखिला परीक्षा में 12 लाख छात्र पंजीकृत

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। इंजीनियरिंग में दाखिले के लिए सीबीएसई की ओर से आयोजित होने वाली जेईई मेन (संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा) की ऑफलाइन परीक्षा रविवार को होने जा रही है। देशभर से जेईई मेन के लिए लगभग 12.07 लाख छात्र पंजीकृत हुए हैं। हालांकि यह संख्या बीते साल से कम है। परीक्षा हॉल में पूर्णतः तलाशी के बाद ही प्रवेश दिया जाएगा, ऐसे में सीबीएसई ने परीक्षार्थियों को समय से सेंटर्स पर पहुंचने की सलाह दी है।

जेईई मेन की ऑनलाइन परीक्षा दो दिन 9 व 10 अप्रैल को आयोजित होगी। अलग-अलग तिथियों पर प्रश्नपत्र का सेट अलग आएगा। दोनों ही परीक्षाएं सुबह 9:30 बजे शुरू हो जाएंगी। इस परीक्षा का रिजल्ट मई में जारी होगा।



परीक्षा केंद्रों पर समय से पहले पहुंचने की सलाह

9, 10 अप्रैल को आयोजित होंगे ऑनलाइन एग्जाम

सीबीएसई ने उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी है कि वह अपने प्रवेश पत्र के साथ-साथ जेईई मेन के लिए अनिवार्य किए गए दस्तावेज की कॉपी जरूर लेकर आएंगे। बीते साल एआईपीएमटी की परीक्षा में हुई गड़बड़ी के कारण बोर्ड ने

इसे रोकने के लिए पूरे इंतजाम किए हैं। परीक्षार्थियों की फूलप्रूफ चेकिंग होगी, ऐसे में बोर्ड ने सलाह दी है कि 9:30 बजे की परीक्षा के लिए सुबह 7 बजे ही पहुंचने का प्रयास करें जबकि दो बजे की परीक्षा के लिए एक बजे पहुंचने का प्रयास करना होगा।

जेईई मेन में शामिल होने वाले छात्रों में से (सभी वर्गों से) उच्चतम अंक पाने वाले दो लाख छात्रों को जेईई एडवांस में बैठने की अनुमति दी जाएगी। जेईई एडवांस 22 मई को आईआईटी की ओर से आयोजित होगी। जिसके लिए आगामी 29 अप्रैल से चार मई तक ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया चलेगी।

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## IIT to assist govt. committee on probe

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

**KOLKATA:** The West Bengal government on Friday set up a committee, headed by Chief Secretary Basudeb Banerjee and experts from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, to probe the flyover collapse in north Kolkata, and suspended two officials of the Kolkata Metropolitan Development

Agency (KMDA). "The concerned Chief Engineer and the concerned executive engineer of KMDA have been placed under suspension pending completion of the probe," a press release issued by the State government said. The KMDA, the city's apex urban development agency, had awarded the construction of the flyover to IVRCL. In the wake of the tragedy

which has claimed 24 lives so far, all engineering departments of the State government have been instructed to take necessary action for structural diagnosis and testing to assess structural stability of flyovers constructed by them.

Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay courted a fresh controversy on Friday when he

said during the day by saying that the flyover should have been "remodelled" but was not done considering the investment already made into the project.

BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi demanded a CBI probe while a PIL petition, filed before the Calcutta High Court, demanded a court monitored probe into the accident.

### Norms violated: Experts

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

**KOLKATA:** The experts at IIT Kharagpur are shocked at the way road safety norms were violated during the construction of the fateful flyover at Burrabazar. Bhargav Maitra, a Professor of civil engineer at IIT Kgp, who specialises in road transport and traffic systems, said, "The loss of lives could have been avoided if the road safety rules were followed. In this case, the national road safety guidelines were flouted," said Maitra.

Prof. Maitra does road safety audit for the National Highways Authority of India. "During road

construction on highways proper measures are taken to divert the traffic so that accidents do not occur. In this case, heavy construction work was on and I don't know why proper traffic diversion measures were not taken," Prof Maitra said. Also, the audit was not done.

According to the IIT experts, it is the job of the construction company to take proper traffic diversion measures after planning out the construction in phases and inform the same to the government concerned so that they are implemented.