

Newspaper Clips

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HRD panel picks 'tainted' prof as IIT Kgp director

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: In the HRD ministry,



FAUX PAS?

one hand does not know what the other is doing. How else does one explain the search-cum-selection committee zeroing in on P P Chakra-

barti as its first choice for the post of director, IIT Kharagpur, while ignoring the crucial fact that the CBI had recommended penalty against him in the coalnet scam and even the CAG had pointed out gross violations.

The search-cum-selection committee is headed by HRD minister Kapil Sibal and consists of chairpersons of UGC; AICTE; Shiv Nadar, chairperson of IIT Kharagpur, and Kris Gopalakrishnan of Infosys as members.

Sources said CBI's recommendation against Chakrabarti was not brought to the panel's notice. But that is not going to help since the ministry's vigilance department would not give its clearance to Chakrabarti in the light of CBI's recommendation. In the past, too, the vigilance department had said that there is prima facie case against Chakrabarti and others. Besides, without vigilance clearance, his name cannot be sent to the President for approval. Already, the appointment of AK Bhowmick, another IIT Kharagpur professor indicted by the CBI in the coalnet scam, as director of IIT Patna without vigilance clearance has caused embarrassment to the ministry.

In its report on the coalnet scam, CBI had stated that Bhowmick, as dean of Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy Centre, accepted the work order issued by Coal India Limited (CIL), which prohibited outsourcing without CIL's approval. "Still he outsourced the entire job to another firm and thus violated the condition of work order," the CBI report said.

15 online exams for IIT entrance test

Bhavya Dore

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MUMBAI: More subject papers of the 2013 Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), one of the largest country-wide exams for admission to masters programmes, will be held online.

An online examination will be held for 15 papers, compared to six papers last year. GATE is for entry into the MTech and PhD programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, as well as several other engineering colleges. Six papers will be examined offline. While the online papers will be held on January 20, the offline tests will be conducted on February 10.

Students will be able to give



■ The online tests will be held on January 20.

HT FILE PHOTO

IMPORTANT DATES

- Online applications open - Sept 1, 2012
- Last date for online applications - Sept 30, 2012
- Admit cards to become available online - Dec 5, 2012
- Online papers - Jan 20, 2013
- Offline papers - Feb 10, 2013
- Results to be available online - Mar 15, 2013



the exam at around 100 centres spread across the country. IIT-Bombay is the organising IIT for the examination this year. "The numbers were increasing so some of the papers will be conducted online this time," said an institute official.

This year, for the first time, there will be no application fee

for female students. The application fee for boys is Rs1,200 for the general category and Other Backward Classes and Rs600 for reserved categories (Scheduled Cast, Scheduled Tribe and physically handicapped). The human resources development ministry had decided to waive the application fee for girls last year.

Candidates use their GATE scores to apply to masters' programmes of their choice at the seven IITs, IISc Bangalore and other engineering colleges, but qualifying in the examination doesn't automatically guarantee admission. The GATE score is also used by public sector companies for recruitment.

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Dark story emerges from IIT-B

**K.A. DODHIYA and
GAUTAM S. MENGLE**
MUMBAI, AUG. 13

IIT-Bombay has stepped up on-campus vigilance against drugs after a female student pursuing research studies had to be admitted to Rajawadi Hospital in an unconscious state due to an alleged drug overdose.

The police has indicated that it is a simple case of

drug overdose and is interrogating S.V. Rajan, the storekeeper, who has been arrested for allegedly sourcing the drugs that caused the girl to become unconscious in his quarters.

According to a fourth-year student, students taking drugs on and off campus is not a new phenomenon. "Peer and academic pressure force many students to take drugs and

alcohol in small quantities, and though there is an existing vigilance cell, students manage to consume intoxicants on the campus," said the mechanical engineering department student. A senior professor confirmed the same. Another research student living on campus said the girl was on good terms with Rajan and was seen with him regularly. Rajan has been charged

with molestation, kidnapping and wrongful confinement and has been remanded in police custody till August 22. As the victim has refused to undergo a medical test to confirm or eliminate rape, Rajan is being interrogated to clear the matter, the police said. Her blood samples are being tested. The institute issued a statement saying Rajan has been handed to the police.

ARREST OF STAFF MEMBER SHOCKS IIT

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: Students at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) are in shock after the alleged molestation of a 26-year-old PhD student by a member of the non-teaching staff on the Powai campus.

"Everyone is shocked. We don't know what to believe. Things like this don't happen on this campus," said a student. Concerns about women's safety on the campus have also been raised. "This is very unsettling and disturbing," said a first-year girl student.

Jaya Joshi, public relations officer at IIT-B, said: "As immediate action, the accused has been suspended."

The police have arrested the accused, SV Rajan, 57, secretary of the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) office, and are awaiting forensic reports to ascertain the drug he allegedly used to spike the victim's coffee.

Police said the incident happened on Saturday morning, when the victim met Rajan to play badminton on the campus. The two played badminton regularly. "Rajan asked the victim to come to his house on the campus to have breakfast," said Asha Korke, assistant inspector, Powai police station.

Assuming Rajan's wife would be present at the house, the victim went along. "Once there, Rajan offered the victim snacks and coffee. We suspect the coffee was spiked with some sedative as the victim started feeling dizzy. She does not recollect what happened after that," said Korke.

Higher edu regulation bill runs into TMC hurdle

New Delhi: The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill has been withdrawn, thanks to the invocation of federal principle by Trinamool Congress.

The decision is going to be rejoiced by educational entrepreneurs who have been opposing most of the higher education reform bills proposed by the Centre as it stresses on transparency and accountability. Since 2009, not a single of the slew of reform bills have been passed by Parliament. For in-

stance, Educational Tribunal Bill, after being passed by Lok Sabha, is held up in Rajya Sabha, where opposition came from within the ruling Congress.

The Bill was also opposed on the ground that what it proposes to achieve is being done by the University Grants Commission. Even a fine of Rs 5 lakh to accreditation agencies for violating the provision and jail term of three months to individuals obstructing the work of accreditation agency is being opposed by UPA allies.

Sources said the Bill would

again be discussed by the ministry. The ministry dismissed claims that the accreditation Bill violates the principle.

“The Bill has been framed under Entry 66 of the Central list that clearly states coordination and determination of standards in higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions would vest with the Centre. Even law ministry approved the Bill,” a source said. Sources said another Bill that prohibits unfair practices by in the field is likely to get stalled similarly. TNN

Sibal to hold all-party meet to drum up support for long-pending bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee once again red flagging UPA Government's National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Education Institutions Bill and Opposition BJP also not inclined towards supporting it, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal has decided to hold consultations with leaders of all the parties on August 16 to get their support on some of his bills pending before Parliament since long.

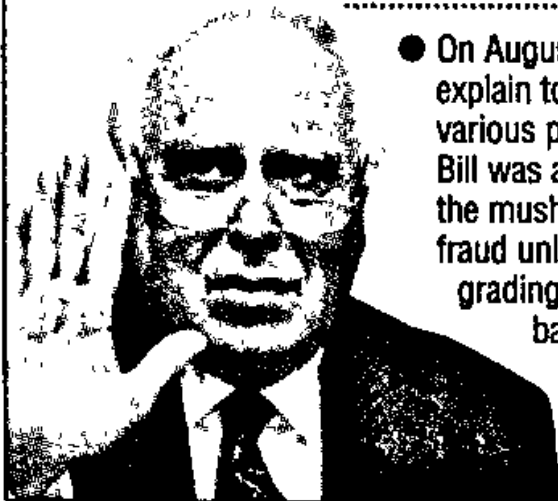
Trinamool's opposition has come as a rude shock to the Government which was planning to introduce the Bill on Monday, sources said. Sibal had earlier held consultations with Mamata about the Bill and was under impression that she has given her consent. He had also held talks with BJP leaders about it,

but at the last moment Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj joined Mamata in objecting to the Bill on the ground that it infringed on the power of the States.

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ACCREDITATION BILL OBSTACLE

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aimed to check the mushrooming of fraud universities by grading them on the basis of quality of education being imparted to students. However, the government has ruled out referring the Bill to a Select Committee as it would result in further delay.

He would also send copies of all his other Bills — whether those concern-

ing Foreign Universities, Educational Tribunals or setting up of NCHER-to MPs of various political parties so that they could study them in advance instead of coming out to oppose the Bill at the last moment, sources said.

Teachers protest "bid to privatise education"

Call for a strike; say Government trying to exclude majority from higher education

Vijetha S.N

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University Teachers' Association organised a day-long convention for teachers from across the country here on Monday to deliberate on recent policy changes in higher education and their consequences on teachers and students.

The All-India Convention of Teachers on "Higher Education in Crisis" resolved to observe a one-day strike across the country to build up an all-India struggle on the issue. The resolution said all current Education Bills be-

fore Parliament were concrete steps "by the Government to institutionalise privatisation leading to commodification of higher education. The Bills, if passed, will exclude the majority from higher education".

"Anti-people agenda"

"The consensus which emerged from this Convention is that the Government had deliberately adopted an anti-democratic approach to teachers' service conditions and academic freedom in order to overcome any kind of opposition to its designs. The participating teachers' orga-

nisations converged to give a call to all teachers to defeat the Government's anti-people agenda in higher education by fighting composite struggles against all forms of unilateral authority and bureaucratic infringement on academic issues," said DUTA president Amar Deo Sharma, adding that the convention had also noted that the Vice-Chancellor was not meeting any of the DUTA office-bearers.

He said there were 12 teachers' organisations besides DUTA that participated in the convention including the Federation of Central

University Teachers, All India Federation of College and University Teachers, Rajasthan University Teachers' Association, Panjab University Teachers' Association, Tripura University Teachers' Association, Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association JNUTA, Aligarh Muslim University Teachers' Association, IGNOU Teachers' Association, IP State University Teachers' Association, Allahabad University Teachers' Association, Jamia Teachers' Association, Jamia Hamdard Teachers' Association and the All India Forum for Right to Education.

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Arctic sea ice may vanish in 10 years

Due To Global Warming, Meltdown Is 50% Faster Than Estimates: Experts

London: Arctic sea ice could vanish within 10 years as it is melting much faster than previously believed, thanks to global warming, warn scientists, claiming that the process is 50% faster than the current estimates. Preliminary results from the European Space Agency's CryoSat-2 probe indicate that 900 cubic kilometres of summer sea ice has disappeared from the Arctic ocean over the past year.

Sea ice in the Arctic is disappearing at a far greater rate than previously expected, according to data from the first purpose-built satellite launched to study the thick-



GOING, GOING, GONE?

ness of the Earth's polar caps, the 'Guardian' reported.

This rate of loss is 50% higher than most scenarios

outlined by polar scientists and suggests that global warming is beginning to have a major impact on the region.

In a few years the Arctic ocean could be free of ice in summer, triggering a 'gold rush' to exploit its fish stocks, oil, minerals and sea routes. The new measurements indicate that this ice has been thinning dramatically at the same time.

For instance, in regions north of Canada and Greenland, where ice thickness regularly stayed at around five to six metres in summer a decade ago, levels have dropped to one to three metres.

"Preliminary analysis of our data indicates that the rate of loss of sea ice volume in summer in the Arctic may be far larger than we had pre-

viously suspected," said Dr Seymour Laxon, of the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling at University College London (UCL).

"Very soon we may experience the iconic moment when, one day in the summer, we look at satellite images and see no sea ice coverage in the Arctic, just open water," Laxon said.

The consequences of losing Arctic's ice coverage, even for only part of the year, could be profound. Ocean temperatures will rise and methane deposits on ocean floor could melt, evaporate and bubble into atmosphere. AGENCIES

AICTE to dole out funds to promote research clusters

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Aug 13: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will soon dole out ₹35 crore — an amount which would be matched by India Inc — to state governments to support an aided institute in each state to become a research park.

The academia-industry collaboration seeks to improve the quality of research in the country by enhancing the investment on research and development (R&D) to 1.5% of the GDP from the current level of 0.8% of GDP besides ensuring transfer of knowledge from universities to industry and vice versa.

“We and the industry partner will each provide seed money of ₹1 crore to each state for setting up research parks. However, these state aided institutes will be those other than the Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management,” S S Mantha, chairman, AICTE told *FE*.

The proposed scheme seeks to provide financial assistance to institutions for setting up a research park in collaboration with the industry or a group of industries.

At present, close to 0.7% of the total number of students in are enrolled for research and out of the total research

students (0.83 lakh), 86% are in the universities.

In return, the institute will have to provide 300-500 sq m built up area for setting up research facilities in the institute premises to receive funding under this scheme. While the industry will pass on their research and innovation work to the institute, the students and teaching faculties of the institute would be required to work on ideas for converting into successful technological innovations and outcome based projects.

“The industry academia collaboration in research and innovation will also help in developing cluster institutes regionally wherein the neighbouring institutes and industries can also join the activity,” he added. In another move to boost research output in the country, the council plans to place the top 100 research students at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Defence Research and Development Organisation laboratories.

The two schemes are in line with the government’s broader plan to improve the status of research in India which also includes outcome based research financing, liberal research grants, incubation centers and lab – classroom linkages, among others.

Nasa rover Curiosity gets ‘brain transplant’

Washington: Nasa’s rover Curiosity has spend its first weekend on Mars getting a ‘brain transplant’ enabling it to enhance its performance by avoiding hazards while driving and using its strong robotic arm.

The ‘brain transplant’ that the rover is going through is installing a new version of software in both of its redundant main computers in a series of steps from August 10 to August 13, Nasa said in a statement.

The software for Mars surface operations was uploaded to the rover’s memory during the Mars science laboratory spacecraft’s flight from Earth.

“We designed the mission from the start to be able to upgrade the software as needed for different phases of the mission,” said Ben Cichy of Nasa’s jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, chief software engineer for the Mars science laboratory mission.

“The flight software version Curiosity currently is using was really focused on landing the vehicle. It includes many capabilities we just don’t need any more. It gives us basic capabilities for operating the rover on the surface,” Cichy said. **PTI**

ISRO close to signing deals to launch three foreign satellites

Press Trust of India
Bangalore, Aug. 13

The Indian Space Research Organisation is close to signing contracts for launching three foreign satellites on board its home-built Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Sriharikota spaceport.

ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan said Antrix Corporation, the space agency's marketing arm, is in advanced dialogue for three launch services contracts.

"There are very serious dis-



K. Radhakrishnan

cussions taking place for both dedicated launches and for the co-passenger missions. At least three I am aware of where people are seriously interested and

discussions are taking place," Radhakrishnan, also Secretary in the Department of Space and Chairman of Space Commission, told PTI here.

"They are expecting us to indicate whether we can do (the launches). So they want us to do it when exactly they want it," he said. Radhakrishnan also said Bangalore-headquartered ISRO would establish a Research and Development (R&D) complex in Karnataka's Chitradurga district.

"There (in Chitradurga) we

are having about 540 acres of land. We are developing it into a complex for taking up R&D for the future," he said.

Noting that the proposed complex is going to be a "major asset," Radhakrishnan said ISRO is looking at the next few decades with this initiative.

"The new generation has to look at what all they have to do".

He termed NASA's Mars mission as a "fantastic achievement" and an "engineering marvel".

पांच वर्षीय एमबीए के लिए होगी अलग प्रवेश परीक्षा

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआईसीटीई) मैनेजमेंट एवं इंजीनियरिंग कम मैनेजमेंट का पांच वर्षीय कोर्स करने वाले अंडर ग्रेजुएट छात्रों के लिए अलग से प्रवेश परीक्षा करने पर विचार कर रही है। इस बारे में जल्द फैसला लिए जाने की संभावना है। एआईसीटीई ने हाल में पांच वर्षीय

मैनेजमेंट कोर्स शुरू करने की मंजूरी प्रबंधन कॉलेजों को दी है।

एआईसीटीई के चेयरमैन एस.एस. मंथा ने हिन्दुस्तान को बताया कि प्रबंधन के पांच वर्षीय कोर्स और इंजीनियरिंग और प्रबंधन के साढ़े पांच वर्षीय दोहरे डिग्री कोर्स को मंजूरी दी गई है। अगले साल से कई कॉलेज इस कोर्स को शुरू कर सकते हैं। प्रवेश परीक्षा में बैठकने के लिए छात्र को 45

पहल

- अगले साल से कई कॉलेज शुरू कर सकते हैं यह कोर्स
- इंटर पास करने के बाद भी सीमेट में बैठ सकेंगे छात्र

फीसदी अंक के साथ बारहवीं पास होना जरूरी होगा। मंथा के अनुसार एआईसीटीई दो विकल्पों पर विचार कर रहा है। एक मौजूदा कॉमन मैनेजमेंट

एडमिशन टेस्ट (सीमेट) में बारहवीं पास छात्रों को भी बैठने का मौका दिया जाए। चूंकि सीमेट को ग्रेजुएट छात्रों के हिसाब से तैयार किया गया है। इसलिए बारहवीं के छात्रों के लिए सीमेट में ही अलग प्रश्नपत्र तैयार किए जा सकते हैं। दूसरा विकल्प यह है कि एक नया टेस्ट शुरू किया जाए, जिसमें सिर्फ अंडर ग्रेजुएट छात्र बैठ सकें। एआईसीटीई की विशेषज्ञ समिति विचार

कर रही है तथा अगले कुछ महीनों में इस बाबत फैसला ले लिया जाएगा। यदि सीमेट में ही अंडरग्रेजुएट छात्रों को शामिल करने पर सहमति बनती है तो फरवरी में होने वाले सीमेट टेस्ट में उन्हें बैठने की अनुमति दी जाएगी।

पांच वर्षीय मैनेजमेंट और इंजीनियरिंग कोर्स की खासियत यह है कि तीन वर्ष बाद ग्रेजुएशन की डिग्री देने का विकल्प भी है।