

Newspaper Clips

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IIT employee arrested for molesting PhD student

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, AUGUST 13

THE Powai police on Monday arrested a 57-year-old employee of IIT Bombay on Monday for allegedly kidnapping, drugging and molesting a PhD student of the institute. The arrest was made after the 27-year-old woman gave a detailed statement against him on Sunday night.

The victim, however, refused to undergo medical examination to ascertain whether she was raped as she was concerned about her reputation, said the police. Powai police officers said the woman was pursuing PhD in Physics. She told the police that the accused, Saudi Rajan, after a game of badminton on Saturday morning, invited her to his quarters on the campus for coffee. "Since he insisted that she have coffee with him, she agreed," said a police officer. The woman told the police that Rajan served her snacks and cake. He later offered her a cup of coffee and kept one cup for himself, the police said. "After having the

Saudi Rajan allegedly invited the victim to his quarters after a game of badminton and later drugged her

coffee, the woman felt drowsy. She remembered calling her friend in Andhra and trying to message her boyfriend before she fell unconscious. After that, she does not remember what happened," said the officer.

Doctors confirmed the woman was under the influence of drugs when she was brought in.

"We spoke to a friend of the victim. She told us that on Saturday, the victim's friend from Andhra Pradesh called her up and asked if the victim was with her. That is when she realised that the victim was missing. The friend at IIT Bombay along with other friends then began searching for the victim but could not trace her," said the police officer.

An officer said the victim's friend knew that Rajan had been calling her for coffee, and the group informed the security staff at the campus about the same. Around 11 am on Saturday, they found Rajan and asked about the victim. "The group went to his residence and asked him to open the door. Rajan opened the door, and they found the victim lying unconscious on the sofa.

Faculty crunch hits IIM-A

One Teacher For Every 10 Students In 2012-13, Reveals Source

Ankur Jain &
Chitra Unnithan | TNN

Ahmedabad: Professors at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) help students land dream jobs. But, it seems now they themselves are landing dream jobs outside the campus.

Over the last couple of years, several senior faculty members have quit the premier business school to pursue their own interests or have taken sabbaticals to explore green pastures elsewhere.

"Students and management programmes have doubled at IIM-A in the last 10 years, but the faculty number has been almost the same. This, despite the fact that the institute recruits actively every year," said a senior faculty member. In 2000-01, there was

DWINDLING NUMBERS

Year	Faculty	Students
▶ 2000-1	83	427
▶ 2001-2	84	458
▶ 2002-3	80	464
▶ 2003-4	76	528
▶ 2004-5	79	610
▶ 2005-6	81	18
▶ 2006-7	83	609
▶ 2007-8	86	647
▶ 2008-9	94	688
▶ 2009-10	92	735
▶ 2010-11	88	834
▶ 2011-12	87	879
▶ 2012-13	92	929

one faculty member for every five students. Today, there is one faculty member for every 10 students. Between 2000-01 and 2012-13, the number of students has gone up by 117%. As against this, the faculty

strength has increased by just about 10%.

In the last three academic years, senior and visiting faculty members who bid adieu to IIM-A or took a sabbatical include Dileep Mavlankar, Devanath Tirupati, MS Sriram, Pankaj Chandra, Ramesh Bhat, Pranaya Srivastava, G Raghuram and N Ravichandran. Several other professors like Nagesh Rao, Tejas Desai, Arpita Ghosh, Smeeta Mishra, Subhashini Kaul, Sandeep Parekh and Abhishek Mishra have quit their jobs.

Former dean of alumni and external relations Atanu Ghosh, who was a visiting faculty for four years at IIM-A, went back to his parent institute IIT Bombay this year. Admitting the paucity, Ajay Pandey, dean of faculty, said, "About 8 to 10 faculty

members join the institute every year but attrition is a problem — many fresh recruits say their spouses find it difficult to get attractive jobs in Ahmedabad."

However, figures suggest that attrition is not limited to fresh recruits, as senior faculty members have taken up jobs to become directors or deans at different colleges. The institute has a minimum requirement of 120 faculty members. Pandey added that many faculty members have also retired since 2010.

At IIM-A a retiring professor can get a 5-year extension to work as visiting faculty but insiders say not many are able to get one. "Once foreign institutes start setting up shop in India, the problem will aggravate further," said a senior faculty member.

Sibal left alone on education bill

Saubhadra Chatterji

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NEW DELHI: Despite repeated steps, Union HRD minister Kabil Sibal's efforts to pass his ambitious National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for higher educational institutions bill has failed to cut ice with the Opposition, or even allies.

The Opposition has already caused many of his education-related bills to get stalled during the last few sessions.

The latest blow came at a special meeting convened by Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar on Monday to end the logjam over the bill.

Sibal seemed to be under the impression that he enjoys support of chief ministers like Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal) and Naveen Patnaik (Odisha)-only to be refuted by the respective parties within minutes.

UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT MAMATA AND NAVEEN WERE BACKING HIM, SIBAL GOT A RUDE SHOCK WHEN THEIR PARTIES BACKED OUT

When Sibal said in the meeting that he has already spoken to the CMs, Bhartruhari Mahtab, BJD's chief whip in Lok Sabha, protested and said his boss Patnaik has not given any instruction to support the bill. Trinamool's chief whip Kalyan Banerjee echoed a similar note.

"I was so taken aback that I called my chief minister. Naveenbabu told me that last time he spoke to Sibal was almost a year ago," Mahtab told Hindustan Times.

Kumar has called another meeting on August 21 to discuss the education bill.

Nine of ten, unemployable

No movement yet on quality control in higher education

The state of professional higher education in India is abysmal. Consider engineering. All told, there are 1.5 million engineering seats in the country. Almost a third of these are unfilled, so about a million engineers are produced every year. Yet, barely 10 per cent of them are readily employable. About a quarter don't know enough English to make sense of the curriculum. The tab for this monumental inefficiency is picked up by the companies that draw from this pool. Every year, they end up spending thousands of crores of rupees to retrain the fresh graduates and make them job-worthy. The situation is no better in business schools. Unlike engineering colleges, the rot has not been measured here. But it can't be vastly different. People are, naturally, disillusioned: the number of students who appear in the entrance examinations for business schools has fallen steadily for three years. There are as many as 300,000 seats on offer; about one-third of this capacity is vacant. As a result, close to a hundred business schools have shut down in the last couple of years. More are bound to follow.

All engineering colleges and stand-alone business schools are regulated by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Business schools under universities are regulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The AICTE has thus far focused exclusively on fattening the supply pipe of engineers and MBAs. The logic is that India's higher-education enrolment ratio is very low compared to other emerging countries; to improve that, the AICTE has been liberal with approvals. This strategy is turning counterproductive. The AICTE should now focus on the quality of education imparted.

Employers complain that the output of engineers and MBAs is poor because the teaching faculty is weak. Engineering colleges and business schools, in turn, say that's because the salaries are regulated by the AICTE, which keeps them from hiring good teachers. While the norms for engineering colleges are fairly stringent (not less than 2.5 acres of land, at least one acre of land for every 300 students, working capital of at least ₹1 crore and a student-teacher ratio of not more than 15), those for business schools are lax: 20,000 square feet of built-up area, seven faculty members, 20 computers, 2,000 books in the library and subscription to 30 journals. The lack of entry barriers has caused the glut and the consequent fall in quality. These are issues that the AICTE needs to address urgently.

The crucial reform this sector needs is more effective legislation. Legislative initiatives like the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011, which seeks to replace the AICTE and the UGC with a commission responsible for ensuring quality, and the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, which will make it mandatory for all institutes of higher education to be accredited by an independent agency, have not made much headway. Unfortunately, in another craven surrender to its allies, the government reportedly withdrew the latter Bill – two years after its introduction – on Tuesday, because the Trinamool Congress had objections. Surely these objections were not new? If so, why has the human resource development ministry waited for so long to review the Bill? Such lack of seriousness in reform will only worsen the sector's crisis.

UGC lists norms for tie-ups with foreign varsities

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: With the foreign educational providers Bill put on hold, University Grants Commission (UGC) has finalized regulations through which foreign institutions would be able to come to India in collaboration, partnership or in twinning arrangement with local educational institutions.

The regulations, to be notified shortly, mandate that only those foreign institutions would be allowed who are among the top 500 institutions

in the world as per Times Higher Education's world university ranking or the Academic Ranking of World Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Foreign institutions would have to ensure that courses offered by them are in conformity with the standards set by Indian regulatory bodies.

Indian partners of foreign educational institutions are mandated to have accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council with an A or an equivalent grade.

However, Indian educational institutions run by Centre, state or Union Territory administration would be free from mandatory accreditation.

Indian collaborators would require at least five years experience of offering education at post-graduate level. Again, government educational institutions have been exempted.

In case an Indian educational institution is affiliated to a university it would need its approval before collaborating with foreign institutions.

Also, the new entity borne out of collaboration is barred from teaching anything against national security and territorial integrity.

Institutions would also have to abide by regulations of Indian government and in case where foreign exchange is involved they would have to follow regulations of Reserve Bank of India. UGC's approval would be for five years, but it can review the progress and then extend or withdraw approval or even impose new conditions.



NEW PARTNERSHIP

गड़बड़ी उजागर करने की सजा भुगत रहा है प्रोफेसर

प्रतिभा ज्योति

नई दिल्ली। सरकार भ्रष्टाचार उजागर करने वालों की सुरक्षा के लिए संशोधन विधेयक पारित नहीं करा पा रही है। इसके चलते भ्रष्टाचार और गड़बड़ियां उजागर करने वालों का जीना मुहाल हो रहा है। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के प्रोफेसर राजीव कुमार सूचना के अधिकार कानून (आरटीआई) के तहत आईआईटी में दाखिले की प्रक्रिया की गड़बड़ी उजागर करने के चलते पिछले 15 महीनों से निलंबन की सजा भुगत रहे हैं जबकि उनके खुलासे के बाद ही आईआईटी में दाखिले की प्रक्रिया में सुधार को लेकर सरकार सजग हुई।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी कुमार की भूमिका और योगदान की सराहना करते हुए उन्हें हीरो बताया है। कुमार राष्ट्रपति कार्यालय, प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय तक के कई चक्कर लगा चुके हैं, बावजूद इसके उनके निलंबन पर कोई सुनवाई नहीं हो रही है। कुमार अब इस मामले

■ आईआईटी खड़गपुर के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नेंस ने किया निलंबित

को नए राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी के दरबार में ले जाने वाले हैं। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के कंप्यूटर साइंस के प्रोफेसर राजीव कुमार को आईआईटी में दाखिले के लिए ज्वाइंट इंट्रेंस एग्जाम में हो रही गड़बड़ी के खुलासा की सजा मिली है। मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक कुमार के बेटे ने 'जेईई में हिस्सा लिया लेकिन 231 अंक आने के बावजूद उसे आईआईटी में दाखिला नहीं मिला जबकि 154 अंक पाने वाले को दाखिला मिल गया।

कारण जानने के बाद कुमार ने 2006 में एक आरटीआई के जरिए आईआईटी से इसकी जानकारी मांगी। आरटीआई लगाने के बाद अपने मामले को लेकर कुमार कोलकता हाईकोर्ट से लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक चक्कर लगाते रहे। उनके प्रयासों के चलते फर्जी

संस्थान चलाने का भंडाफोड़ हो सका। कुमार की इस सक्रियता के चलते उन्हें 13 मई, 2011 को निलंबित कर दिया गया। आईआईटी ने हाल में ही उन्हें पत्र भेजकर यह कहा है कि उनका निलंबन यदि जारी नहीं रखा गया तो इससे शैक्षणिक माहौल पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा।

इस बारे में आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने इसे बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नेंस का फैसला बताते हुए इस पर कुछ भी कहने से इंकार कर दिया है। दूसरी तरफ मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों से पता चला है कि मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव अमित खरे की ओर से आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक को 26 मार्च को चिट्ठी भेजकर यह कहा है कि आईआईटी एक स्वायत्त संस्था है और किसी मामले में अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई करने का उसे अधिकार है लेकिन कुमार के मामले में यह माना जा रहा है कि उनके निलंबन की प्रक्रिया की आधिकारिक तौर पर समीक्षा नहीं की गई है। इसलिए इस मामले को बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नेंस के सामने उठाया जाए।

Stage set for new India-US partnership

CONNECT INDIA ■ 200 students to visit India under new programme

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

STARTING this year, as many as 200 American students will come to India's Central universities and the IITs as part of a novel 'Connect India' programme planned by the two countries. The University Grants Commission will also award 300 Raman Fellowships to Indian students for post-doctoral studies in the US.

The moves aim at deepening the engagement between the two countries as part of the Second Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue.

India and the US will also join hands to set up a cyber security cell, education testing services, twinning arrangements and meta-university format engagement with the US varsities.

These are among the set of 15 concrete outlines of the Second Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue starting in October this year.

Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal led a 14-member delegation of academicians for participation in talks that were held on June 12 in Washington for a formal approval for the 'Connect India' programme which will be coordinated by the UGC and the Central universities.

The Vice-Chancellor of JNU will be the key authority

handling this project from the Indian side.

Waking up to the real threats that could come from the virtual world, India will later this year set up a Cyber Security Centre with the IIT-Delhi handling it along with the Ministry of Home Affairs. A few US institutions are also expected to assist in the project.

Aiming to boost institutional-level collaboration, the HRD Ministry has already got the UGC to approve regulations to facilitate twinning arrangements between Indian and foreign educational institutions. These will enable tie-ups with foreign institutions without any need for a legislative backing. That apart, the UGC will also initiate the second round of the Manmohan Singh-Barack Obama fellowships and collaborate in education testing services along with the IIT-Kanpur and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

The HRD Ministry will identify 'Grand Challenge' areas for research and innovation related collaboration besides in the area of E-learning — a subject highlighted by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — support a US-India Higher Education web portal, host an international seminar on community colleges.

Mars rover Curiosity powers ahead after 'brain transplant'

Generator provided by US firm

Our Bureau

Mumbai, Aug 15

A 'brain transplant' has been completed on Mars rover Curiosity that will install a new version of software on both of the rover's redundant main computers. Curiosity, which spent its second weekend on Mars, has transitioned to software better suited for tasks ahead, such as driving and using its strong robotic arm.

The Mars rover Curiosity is powered by advanced nuclear power system from Hamilton Sundstrand Rocketdyne, which helped design and develop the Multi-Mission Ra-

dioisotope Thermoelectric Generator.

Hamilton Sundstrand Rocketdyne is a division of UTC Aerospace Systems, which is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange-listed entity.

In Bangalore, Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation and Infotech Enterprises have teamed up and opened an engineering centre for aircraft systems software and electronics analysis, design and development.

The new centre of excellence in India is expected to help the firm "stay competi-

tive in the global aerospace market".

Regarding Curiosity, Hamilton Sundstrand Rocketdyne said in a statement, "The entire engineering team has been anxiously waiting for the successful landing of the rover so our generator can begin to power the Mars surface operations."

After Curiosity landed on Mars, the rover successfully began its mission to see whether the red planet has ever offered environmental conditions favourable for microbial life.

The generator gives the rov-

er the power it needs to begin collecting data. It has "no moving parts so it is very robust. It is also giving Curiosity excellent mobility and scientific capability."

The generator, which has a design life of 14 years, has been built to operate in a range of harsh environments, from the vacuum of deep space to extreme planetary surface atmospheres. It was developed by Hamilton and Teledyne Energy Systems in partnership with the US Department of Energy.

The generator was used for the first time on the Curiosity

mission. It provides both heat and electrical power to the rover, and continuous electrical power that allows day and night operation. The heat is used to provide thermal stability for Curiosity without drawing on the rover's electrical power.

NASA's Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft delivered Curiosity to its target area on Mars on August 5. The landing time includes the 13.8 minutes needed for confirmation of the touchdown to be radioed to Earth at the speed of light.

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