

## Newspaper Clips August 25, 2012

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# Another IIT Student Commits Suicide

**Express News Service**

**Hyderabad:** Close on the heels of a Karimnagar student committing suicide at IIT Madras two days ago, another belonging to IIT Kanpur killed himself by consuming poison in Hayatnagar here on Thursday. He had reportedly been rusticated from the institute.

According to the police, 20-year-old Vadithya Nehru was studying for his B.Tech (electronics) degree at IIT Kanpur. He was a native of



**Vadithya Nehru**

Nalgonda and his father Ramana is a farmer. Nehru reportedly took the extreme step after the IIT-Kanpur management turned him out of campus because he had failed in all his subjects. The matter had also come to the

notice of his parents.

At around 3.30 p.m. Thursday, Nehru had a conversation with his family and his brother on the mobile phone and went to a under-construction apartment at Abdullahpurmet within Hayatnagar police station limits. There he drank poison. Workers at the site noticed him lying unconscious and alerted the police. He was shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

“Nehru obtained admis-

sion in B.Tech (electronics) at IIT-Kanpur campus two years ago. However, he failed in all subjects in both first and second year, following which, the IIT-Kanpur management asked him to leave the institute,” said G Srinivas Kumar, inspector at the Hayatnagar police station.

The inspector said Nehru returned to Hyderabad and stayed in a friend's room. He used to call his parents and lie that he was in Kanpur. But his father had found out and asked him to come home.

Amar Ujala, ND 25/08/2012

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## आईआईटी के स्टूडेंट ने जान दी आंध्र प्रदेश के एक हॉस्टल में जहर खाया

कानपुर (ब्यूरो)। प्रोग्राम से टर्मिनेट आईआईटी कानपुर के बीटेक फर्स्ट ईयर के स्टूडेंट वी. नेहरू (20) ने आंध्र प्रदेश के कुकटपल्ली शहर के एक हॉस्टल में बृहस्पतिवार देर रात जहर खाकर जान दे दी। पिछले 8 साल में आईआईटी स्टूडेंट के आत्महत्या की यह 10वीं घटना है।

आंध्र प्रदेश के नालगोंडा जिले के निवासी वी. नेहरू ने सत्र 2010-11 में आईआईटी कानपुर में दाखिला लिया था। पहले और दूसरे सेमेस्टर का रिजल्ट अच्छा न होने के कारण उन्हें मई 2012 में प्रोग्राम से टर्मिनेट कर दिया गया था। इससे

रिजल्ट अच्छा न होने पर टर्मिनेट कर दिया गया था

निराश वी. नेहरू ने पढ़ाई छोड़ दी और आंध्र प्रदेश लौट गया। वहां कुकटपल्ली शहर में एक हॉस्टल में कमरा लेकर रहने लगा, जिसकी जानकारी उनके पिता रमन्ना को भी नहीं थी।

पिता का कहना है कि बेटे की मौत की खबर उन्हें टेलीफोन से मिली। उन्हें पता था कि बेटा आईआईटी कानपुर के हॉस्टल में रहकर पढ़ाई कर रहा है। प्रोग्राम से टर्मिनेट होने और पढ़ाई

छोड़ने की बात का उन्हें पता नहीं था। घटना की पुष्टि करते हुए आईआईटी कानपुर के डीन डॉ. एके श्रोष ने कहा कि प्रोग्राम से टर्मिनेट होने वाले सभी स्टूडेंट के पास मर्सी अपील का मौका रहता है। मर्सी अपील पर एंकेडमिक सीनेट सुनवाई करती है। जो स्टूडेंट नंबर कम होने का सही कारण और आगे अच्छा करने का भरोसा दिलाते हैं, उन्हें दोबारा पढ़ाई का मौका दिया जाता है। उन्होंने बताया कि वी. नेहरू से भी मर्सी अपील करने को कहा गया था, पर ऐसा करने से उसने मना कर दिया था। इसकी सूचना वी. नेहरू के परिजनों को दे दी गई थी।

HT, Mumbai

# STUDENT PROJECTS ON DISPLAY AT IIT-B

**MUMBAI:** Robots controlled by graphic interface and voice modulation will be among a host of student projects on display at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) over the weekend. Miniature planes, submarines and even a solar telescope will also be showcased.

The Students' Technical Activities Body will be showcasing the technical summer projects of first year students across departments for the first time. This year, 120 teams stayed in the institute through the summer, completing 80 projects in all. Of these, 60 projects will be showcased. Some of the institute's other projects will also be showcased, including a Formula One car and a miniature self-propelling submarine. **HTC**

HT, Chandigarh

# NIT dismisses prof for beating up colleagues

**Jasdeep Singh Malhotra**

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**JALANDHAR:** For the first time in its history, the Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) here has terminated the services of an associate professor for misconduct on the campus.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, NIT registrar Ajit Singh said an inquiry conducted by HP Handa, a retired district and sessions judge, had established the charges against associate professor Rajiv Kumar of the

industrial and production engineering department.

“Based on the inquiry report, the board of governors decided to terminate Kumar’s services during its meeting held earlier this month. Subsequently, he was relieved recently,” he added.

Kumar had allegedly hurled abuses at a colleague, A Sachdeva, and later beat him up (as well as another colleague, A Bhardwaj) in the presence of fellow teachers on December 8, 2010. Kumar was placed under suspension on January 6, 2011, after the preliminary inquiry

found him prima facie guilty of misconduct and recommended strict action against him. Immediately after the incident, director-in-charge SBS Mishra had constituted a panel of deans to conduct the preliminary inquiry after receiving a report from department head RK Garg.

In his report, Garg had said that a meeting was held to distribute semester workload among teachers. “The faculty were apprised of the workload, while RK Garg, A Bhardwaj, RV Sharma, Rajiv Kumar and Sarabjit Singh (in order of

seniority) had named courses of their choice. Then, Rajiv asked Sarabjit that he should be given the chance to select his course first, considering the new seniority list. Garg offered to restart the process, while Sachdeva endorsed the same,” the report said.

“Then, Rajiv started hurling abuses at Sachdeva, questioning why the latter was endorsing it now. Rajiv started kicking Sachdeva despite being stopped by colleagues. Rajiv also beat up Bhardwaj, who was saved by others,” the report said.

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# SC: Courts can't round off marks for eligibility

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that the judiciary cannot round off a candidate's marks to make her eligible for admission to higher studies.

Frowning upon a 0.29% upward rounding off done by Karnataka high court to allow a student to get admitted to a PG course, a bench of Justices A K Patnaik and Ranjana P Desai on Thursday said, "The division bench of the HC erred in holding that the single judge was right in rounding off 54.71% to 55% so as to make the student eligible for admission to

**When eligibility criteria is prescribed in a qualifying exam, it must be strictly adhered to. Any tampering with it will do injustice to other candidates**  
Supreme Court

PG course. Such rounding off is impermissible."

It added, "When eligibility criteria is prescribed in a qualifying exam-

ination, it must be strictly adhered to. Any dilution or tampering with it will work injustice on other candidates."

The eligibility criteria prescribed for securing admission to the PG course was 55% aggregate marks. The student, who secured 54.71%, approached the Indian Nursing Council requesting issuance of a certificate of eligibility to her by rounding off her aggregate marks to 55%.

The council said 0.50% would normally be rounded off to the next digit and suggested her to request

the institute to which she wanted to get admitted to in a PG course. But the institute refused to admit her on the ground that she did not have 55% aggregate marks.

Without disturbing her career as she has been admitted into the institute on the basis of the HC order, the SC bench said, "No provision of any statute or any rule framed thereunder has been shown to us which permits rounding off of eligibility criteria prescribed for qualifying exam for admission to PG course in MSc (Nursing)." **TNN**

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*Kapil Sibal questions opposition to foreign investment in education*



## The way to raise standards

Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal's frustration over opposition to the Foreign Educational Institutions Bill is understandable. Questioning the hostility of some opposition parties to foreign investment in the key sector at a recent education conclave, he pointed out that if foreign universities were allowed to set up campuses in India, they would teach Indian students, not foreigners. Given the massive demand for quality higher education, inviting foreign universities to set up bases here is critical to addressing the supply-side shortfall. Consider that India needs another 800 universities by 2020 to address the educational needs of 45 million students. This demand simply cannot be met by indigenous varsities alone.

Foreign universities would provide a much-needed boost to educational standards in India. It's alarming that not a single Indian university features among the top 100 in global rankings. If India is to emerge as a knowledge and innovation hub, it must reform its higher education system. Students today have limited choices in terms of quality academic institutions and are

forced to seek greener pastures abroad. However, if foreign universities are allowed to come in, this brain drain could be reversed, saving the country massive outflows of talent and resources.

■ **TIMES VIEW** ■

The fear that foreign varsities would supplant domestic curricula and academic traditions is unfounded. Such insular tendencies have no place in an increasingly globalised world, characterised by free flow of knowledge and collaborative academic endeavours. The main factor motivating opposition to foreign universities is reluctance on the part of domestic varsities to pull up their socks and compete for students and faculty. This is directly linked to the unspoken policy of using educational institutions to disburse political patronage. It's, therefore, high time we had a shake-up



## Education is not for profit

When it comes to matters of government policy vis-a-vis the Indian market, one of the few constants is the reaction of our urban elites to the word 'liberalisation'. All one needs to do is mention it and a Pavlovian

■ **COUNTERVIEW** ■

Anil Thakkar

reaction sets in: a vociferous defence of allowing foreign investment in just about every sector and a contemptuous dismissal of any objections as baseless obstructionism. Regulations to safeguard the Indian people and local industries? Perish the thought. Bring on the social and economic Darwinism; those who suffer only have themselves to blame.

"I don't see why there is opposition to foreign investment (in education)," says chief FDI cheerleader and HRD minister Kapil Sibal plaintively. Well, let's see now. Perhaps there is opposition to it because education, of all sectors, is not about profit. Given that the gross

enrolment ratio in higher education in India is 12.4% compared to an international average of 23% - it shoots up to 55% in developed nations - what we need right now is a focus on expanding supply to meet growing demand. The only way to address that in a sustainable fashion is government investment - supplemented by public-private partnerships perhaps - aimed at providing affordable education on underwritten by the national exchequer.

Foreign investors, however, will be looking solely at the bottom line, not at what is best for the country's development. Given their resources and the unequal playing field that will create, what is likely to happen is that a small percentage of elite institutions will corner the market on educationists - already a huge problem here - further making it difficult for the vast majority of students to gain a quality education. And what of other social objectives? Will foreign investors, for instance, be willing to institute the quotas that we still need so badly, or will the lure of their cash lead the government to make exceptions for them? No, education in India is a problem that is best handled the Indian way.

HT, Indore

# IISER director among national level science awardees

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**BHOPAL:** Director of Bhopal-based Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Vinod Singh has been selected for the national level Jawaharlal Nehru Award for outstanding contribution in field of science for the year 2010. The award for the year 2009 would be given to Tushar Kanti Chakraborty, Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

The state government on Friday announced the nominees for the national and state level awards for outstanding contributions in science, engineering & technology and social sciences.

The National Award in the field of Engineering & Technology for the year 2009 award would be given to Vijay Kumar Saraswat, secretary, department of defence research and development and for the year 2010 to ML Munjal, profes-

## State-level awards

### KN KATJU STATE LEVEL SCIENCE AWARD:

**2009** - PS Bisen, professor, Jiwaji University, Gwalior

**2010** - Meenakshi Banerjee, head of department, Bioscience, Barkatullah University

### LAJJA SHANKAR JHA ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY AWARD

**2009** - Navin Chandra, AMPRI, Bhopal

### HARI SINGH GOUR SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARD

**2009** - Rajiv Dubey, Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur

**2010** - Parul Rishi, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal

sor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

National award in the field of social science for the year 2009 would go to Girishwar Misra of Delhi University and for the year 2010 to Dr Anjula Gurtoo of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.