

# Newspaper Clips

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## IIT-B to award ₹40 lakh, US trip

**K.A. DODHIYA**  
MUMBAI, AUG. 30

Breaking all previous records, the entrepreneur cell (E-Cell) of IIT-B will kickstart its business plan competition Eureka on September 2, with an overall prize money of ₹40 lakh, the largest amount doled out by any institute in the country for a competition.

A new feature of the competition is that the winners will be given an all-expense paid trip to Silicon Valley in the US, where they would be able to pitch their winning ideas to IT companies out there.

Speaking about the additions to the competition, Vivek Saraswat, manager, Eureka, said, "While there is little change in the format of the competition, its popularity has seen many corporates coming forward to sponsor some of the events. As a result, we have been able to increase the prize money and introduce new prizes in some other segments," Mr Saraswat said.

While the competition is being organised by the technological institute, entries are open to outsiders too. "There are different segments wherein outsiders can also take part in the competition and

**The prize money is the most doled out by any institute in the country for a competition**

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pitch their ideas to the panelists. If the panelists approve of the idea, the team will be provided training and mentoring by experts from the institute and industry, before reaching the final stage of the competition," Mr Saraswat said, adding, "The idea is to get participants to come up with fresh ideas that will help simplify the process, which is otherwise cumbersome."

The finals will be judged by well-known industrialists and heads of corporates. According to the organisers, the winning team will take home a package of ₹5 lakh and tickets to Silicon Valley. At Silicon Valley, they will participate in international entrepreneurship workshops and also get an opportunity to pitch their winning ideas to the IT industry there. "The competition commences on September 2," added Mr Saraswat.

# IIM-C all set to showcase teacher talent on YouTube

**HT Correspondent**

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**KOLKATA:** If your heart is set on becoming a corporate bigwig, but you failed to make it to any of the IIMs on your first try, here is your chance to learn what the city's premier management institute has to offer by way of classes and lectures.

IIM-Calcutta has come up with a new initiative called Insight, under which a series of video interviews of faculty members will be uploaded on YouTube, giving aspirants to the institute a chance to see what awaits them.

Each interview will last eight to 10 minutes and feature a faculty member speaking on a topic from his/her domain of expertise. Five such episodes are being



planned this year.

The interviews will be broadcast through IIM-C's official YouTube channel. The institute's external relations cell will coordinate the initiative.

The first episode features Prof. Anup Sinha of IIM-C's Department of Economics speaking on the Indian economy. Sinha offers his views on the causes of the country's economic slowdown and the pos-

sible solutions to the problem.

IIM-Calcutta's students feel that the videos will help those aiming to study at institute and ignite their passion for the courses on offer. "Aspirants will be able to see for themselves how some of our best professors speak in class and what their views are. This will certainly inspire them to crack the Common Admission Test," Aswin Murali, IIM-Calcutta's external relations secretary told *HT*.

Links to the interviews will also be available through IIM-Calcutta's website. "This is a commendable effort. It'll showcase the thinking of our faculty on contemporary issues. I hope we'll be able to produce an episode every month," Prof. Ashok Banerjee, Dean (New Initiatives and External Relations), said.

# Students continue stir, NIT suspends classes

HT Correspondent

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**KURUKSHETRA:** Failing to convince students to end their agitation, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) on Thursday suspended all classes of third year for an indefinite period.

Following the recovery of the body of Tejasvi Arora, third-year student of BTech (civil engineering), from Bhakra canal on Tuesday morning the students have boycotted classes.

Students alleged that NIT director Anand Mohan did not make sufficient efforts to rescue the boy.

Arora had allegedly consumed liquor with his NIT friends before entering the canal waters on Monday evening.

While three boys were rescued by the irrigation department employees, Arora drowned and his body was recovered the next day.

As rumors spread that Arora had died early Tuesday morning, students turned violent and ransacked the director's office.

However, members of the faculty at the institute, who did not wish to



■ Students of National Institute of Technology protesting in Kurukshetra on Thursday.

HT PHOTO

be identified, said various outside elements were trying to infiltrate into the NIT's issues for different reasons.

Organisations such as the Indian National Students' Organisation, the students' body of Indian National Lok Dal and a few teachers from Kurukshetra University were openly offering "support" to the protesting students.

"These elements are misleading

students. The director has officially confirmed that Arora and his friends were consuming liquor at the canal and he died of drowning thereafter. But, the outsiders are visiting the protesting students to incite them," a teacher said.

Meanwhile, officiating director VK Arora told HT on Thursday evening that he had another round of meeting with the student representatives. "We are trying to convince them to end their agitation," he said.

The officiating director confirmed that classes of all streams of third year had been suspended till further orders. He clarified that no student was suspended; only the classes were. "We have asked the third year students to vacate hostels. We are aiming at defusing the situation and no police complaint has been filed about the Tuesday's violent incidents on the campus," he said.

Deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Nirmal Singh said viscera of the deceased had been sent for chemical examination at forensic science laboratory at Madhuban, Karnal.

# Teachers give biometric attendance thumbs down

**Mallica Joshi**

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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court may have asked the Delhi University (DU) and the University Grants Commission's (UGC) on their view on the introductions of a biometric attendance system for teachers, but most teachers are vehemently protesting against it.

The teachers argue that they spend time on preparing lectures, correcting assignments and pursuing research work.

All this, they feel cannot always be done in college. So, it'd be unfair to not account for these and calculate the teaching hours in isolation, they say.

"So much of our work is invisible, largely because colleges do not have the space or the facilities required to correct assignments, meet students, or engage in research work. Having a cubicle is also a far cry," said Sanam Khanna, a teacher at Kamla Nehru College.

The DU had planned to put a biometric attendance system in place in 2009 but had to withdraw in the wake of fierce

protests from the teaching community. A principal of an off-campus college had conducted an analysis of the patterns of attendance and teaching hours. According to his analysis, teachers tend to spend an average of only 3 hours in college per day. "Despite the UGC guideline, very few teachers spend the requisite amount of time in college. Children, especially those in off-campus colleges keep complaining about classes not being conducted regularly," said the principal on condition of anonymity.

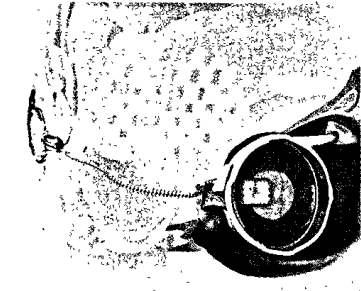
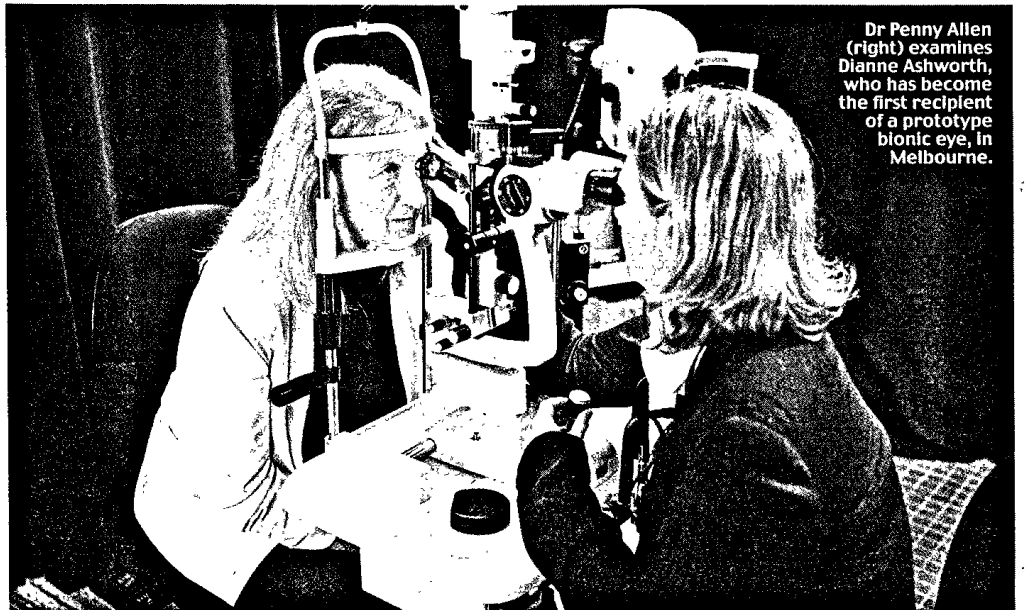
Teachers, however, rubbish these claims. "Teachers work much more than just 5 hours per day. Enforcing a system that is essentially going to be used as a tool of harassment for the teachers is a bad idea. A teacher fulfils many duties outside the confines of the college. I hope the High Court acknowledges this," said a teacher who did not want to be named.

The Delhi University Teachers' Association, meanwhile, has called for a meeting to discuss the issue on September 4.

# Melbourne woman gets world's first bionic eye

REUTERS

Dr Penny Allen (right) examines Dianne Ashworth, who has become the first recipient of a prototype bionic eye, in Melbourne.



**BREAKTHROUGH:** A prototype of the bionic eye created by Bionic Vision Australia.

A BIONIC eye has given an Australian woman partial sight and researchers say it is an important step towards eventually helping visually impaired people get around independently.

Dianne Ashworth, who has severe vision loss due to the inherited condition retinitis pigmentosa, was fitted with a prototype bionic eye in May at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

It was switched on a month later, and on Thursday researchers revealed the results.

"It was really funny when it switched on I was waiting, waiting," she said.

"I had these goggles on and I didn't know what to expect, and I don't know if anyone did know what I was going to see.

"Then all of a sudden I went 'yep' I could see a little flash and it was like a little, I suppose, a splinter.

"There were different shapes and dark black, lines of dark black and white lines together.

## Key step towards helping the blind achieve independent mobility

"Then that turned into splotches of black with white around them and cloud-like images.

"I can remember when the first bigger image came I just went 'wow', because I just did not expect it at all but it was amazing."

The bionic eye, designed, built and tested by the Bionic Vision Australia, a consortium of researchers partially funded by the Australian government, is equipped with 24 electrodes with a small wire that extends from the back of the eye to a receptor attached behind the ear.

It is inserted into the choroidal space, the space next to the retina within the eye.

"The device electrically stimulates the retina," said Dr Penny Allen, a specialist surgeon who implanted the prototype.

"Electrical impulses are passed through the device, which then stimulate the retina. Those impulses then pass back to the brain, creating the image."

The device restores mild vision, where patients are able to pick up major contrasts and edges such as light and

dark objects.

Researchers hope to develop it so blind patients can achieve independent mobility.

"Di is the first patient of three with this prototype device, the next step is analysing the visual information that we are getting from the stimulation," Allen said.

The operation itself was made simple so it can be readily taught

to eye surgeons worldwide.

"We didn't want to have a device that was too complex

## WHO says there are 39 million blind people

in a surgical approach that was very difficult to learn," Allen added.

Similar research has been conducted at Cornell University in New York by researchers who have deciphered the neural code, which are the pulses that transfer information to the brain, in mice.

"There, researchers have developed a prosthetic device that has succeeded in restoring near-normal sight to blind mice.

According to the World Health

**“I had these goggles on and I didn't know what to expect... Then all of a sudden I could see a little flash... There were shapes and black and white lines... I can remember when the first bigger image came... I just went 'wow'... it was amazing”**

— Dianne Ashworth

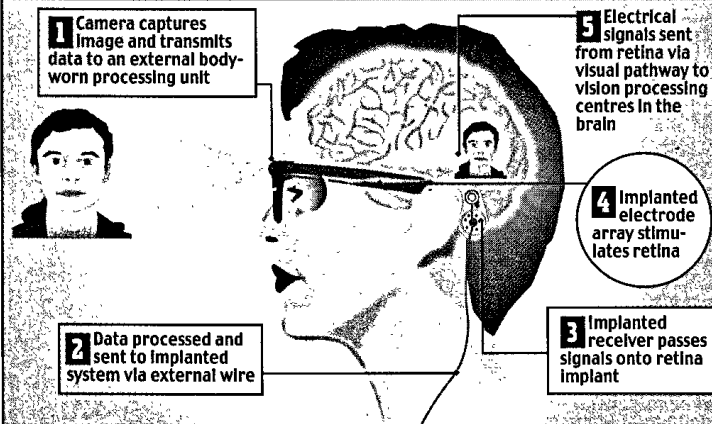
Organization, 39 million people around the world are blind and 246 million have low vision.

"What we're going to be doing is restoring a type of vision which is probably going to be black and white, but what we're hoping to do for these patients who are severely visually impaired is to give them mobility," Allen said.

Daily Mail

## HOW IT WORKS

Eye Implant uses special glasses to send data to implant in brain



# IIT Indore wants to set up library at Silver Springs

## AUTHORITIES DIFFER Say the move would cause inconvenience to neighbours

Amrita U Kadam

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**INDORE:** While students of Indian Institute of Technology, Indore have all the recreational facilities at their residential set up at Silver Springs township, there is only one thing that these techie miss here - a good library.

The residents and the authorities at the Silver Springs aren't keen on letting the college set up a library in the residential area of the township. "We cannot permit them to set up a library in the residential area as the library would be frequented by many students and residents of the area which would cause inconvenience to the immediate neighbours," said an official of Silver Springs who did not wish to be named.

Silver Spring authorities have suggested that the second floor of the club area, which is the common area, should be used for the same. However, the college is not too keen on setting up a library at a place which would have frequent visitors.

When HT spoke to deputy librarian of IIT-I, Anjali



■ Silver Springs, where nearly 600 students of IIT-I reside. ARUN MONDHE/HT

### OPERATING FROM IET, PACL CAMPUS FOR LAST 3 YEARS

IIT Indore was one of the seven new IITs that were set up during the 11th Five Year Plan period (2007-12) and for the last three years, since its inception in 2009, it has been operating from IET campus of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya and one building at PACL campus - both at a distance of nearly 20 kilometers. The hostel facility has been provided by the college at Silver Springs Township on the bypass road where the students are staying in shared accommodation flats and houses.

Bandiwadekar, she said, "The second floor isn't an ideal place to have a library. We would also prefer an area which is quiet and peaceful."

At present, the students have access to the central library on the DAVV campus at Khandwa

road. Another library has been set up at Pithampur Auto Cluster Limited (PACL) campus near Mhow where the academic classes are held.

"We realised that as the students are residing in the area that has been provided by the

college, they should also have access to the library there," said Bandiwadekar.

While talking to HT, the official of Silver Springs said that the college can wait for some time till the dedicated common facility is developed in the second phase which can then be used for library.

According to a source, the high rent quoted running into lakhs of rupees has been another hurdle for the college to provide a reading area to the students. "When we were looking for a residential facility, Silver Springs was the only township that had come forward to our rescue. They have provided our students with gym and sports complex and designate mess. As the library is not a commercial set up, we hope that having a library on the premises should not be a problem," said IIT-I director Pradeep Mathur while talking to HT. Silver Springs owner Abhishek Jhaveri said, "I am not aware of any such issue and we think that a library would be an additional facility in our township. So, we would always welcome it."