

Newspaper Clips

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IIT-K don accused of sexual harassment

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

With the country yet to overcome the shock of cases of sexual harassment against female interns, employees and disciples, yet another incident of outraging the modesty of a woman has been reported - this time from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur.

And it is the former high profile Head of the Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship, Prof Dhrubues Biswas, who has been accused of sexual harassment by one of the project students in his department.

The institute has instituted a probe and the don has reportedly been put under "suspension".

"Taking a serious view, the institute has immediately constituted a Committee to examine the same. Several persons including Prof. Dhrubues Biswas

have been asked to appear before the Committee. Prof. Dhrubues Biswas citing medical reasons has gone on medical leave and has not appeared before the Committee as yet. The Institute has asked Prof. Biswas to intimate his position regarding rejoining the Institute. The Institute is taking all appropriate steps to deal with the case," IIT Kharagpur Registrar Dr T K Ghosal said through his official email to *The Pioneer*.

According to sources, the institute has received a complaint from a girl student, who has in her complaint to the IIT-KGP Registrar office alleged that Prof Biswas made sexual advances against her and made some objectionable overtures.

While HRD Ministry sources said a stern view on the matter has been taken and the institute has reportedly suspended the professor, the administration denied having taken any immediate action

ANOTHER SHAME

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against the don.

Sources informed that on several occasions in the past too Biswas was cautioned about his overtures to the female project students.

Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship was set up as

an unique experiment by IIT Kharagpur to groom future entrepreneurs who would become more attentive to the needs of the society under the mentorship of renowned and experienced industrialists as well as the researchers.

As per Biswas' own official

profile, he is Professor of Electronics & Electrical Communication Engineering and Professor of Entrepreneurship & Management at IIT Kharagpur. "He is an internationally recognized expert in radio frequency integrated circuits (RFIC) and in technology ventures in Wireless Electronics, Cellular Phone Systems, and communication related RFICs. He is permanently based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, while currently operating out of Kolkata, India."

Biswas, who is a PhD from Illinois, USA, joined IIT-KGP in 2007. Biswas is also associated with some of the important projects like Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE), Technology Refinement & Marketing Programme (TREMAPP) and few assignment of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

New IITs Face a Rough Placement Ride This Year

Recruitments Across New IITs

IIT Rohtak

➕ Average salary up by 21% to ₹11.13 lakh; 3 top offers of \$105,000 from Epic Systems, compared with 2 last year

➖ PSUs not coming; Microsoft and Google not there during final placements; mechanical and engineering students may face problems

IIT Mandi

➕ Top offer at ₹20 lakh, compared with ₹17 lakh-₹18 lakh last year; 70% placed because of early placement week in Oct

➖ Not getting auto firms to come and hire; IOC, BPCL, HPCL not coming this year

IIT Jodhpur

➕ Morgan Stanley (4), Cosco (5), Cognizant (6-7), Amadeus (2) and TCS (1) are some recruiters. DRDO is expected too

➖ Microsoft, IOC, HPCL, Flipkart, which came last year, not coming; slowdown-hit manufacturing companies look iffy; highest salary lower than last year's

IIT Gandhinagar

➕ Average salary at ₹7.81 lakh v/s ₹7.2 lakh last year. Largest recruiter eClerx has hired 12 students

➖ Companies from auto sector have not visited as yet



PSUs stay away even as the going gets tough for students in certain streams

SREERADHA D BASU & DEVINA SENGUPTA
KOLKATA | MUMBAI

Placements at the new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are headed for a bumpy ride. Behind the excitement of the big companies and bigger offers on campus lurk serious concerns: companies staying away, students in certain streams facing a struggle to get placed and the challenge of placing bigger batches at a time when recruiters are hiring in lower numbers.

Most of these IITs are apprehensive about how placements will pan out given that a number of recruiters – particularly among public sector undertakings (PSUs) – are staying away. IOC, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC, Power Grid Corporation of India are among those that have hired in good numbers in the past, but have not sent out feelers this time round. New IITs are hoping they will reach out in January, but some placement sources admit it may not happen.

In February 2012, an interim order passed by the Madras High Court had restrained PSUs from recruiting in leading colleges including the IITs. The stay was later vacated by the court in September 2012 but the final order is pending. In such a situation, according to an IIT placement official, PSUs can come to campuses under the condition that the decision on whoever is hired will be subject to the High Court's final directive. A negative decision thus, could leave students hired but jobless.

"We haven't invited any PSUs and they haven't contacted us either. As of now, none of them are coming," says IIT Ropar training and placement officer

Prabh Sharan Singh. Last year, PSUs had hired 24 to 25 students of IIT Ropar's 106 students. It's a similar situation at IIT Jodhpur and IIT Mandi as well. "IOC, BPCL and HPCL, which came last year, are not coming this year," says Arti Kashyap, faculty advisor at IIT Mandi.

If PSUs in most cases are a no-show, some of the big names which came last year have either not come to certain campuses this time or in certain cases, are not recruiting. At IIT Hyderabad, Works

Applications, which hired students for Rs 35 lakh for international placements last year, did not recruit any this time round. At IIT Ropar, Microsoft which offered four pre-placement offers last year has offered only one, and not made it to the final on-campus placements. Google too could not come to IIT Ropar because of date issues.

"Companies like Microsoft, HPCL and Flipkart, which came last year will not come this year, stating changes in hiring policy," says Gaurav Harit, acting placement chairperson, IIT Jodhpur. In 2013, the institute placed only 73% of its BTech and 60% of its MTech batch. This year, 38 students have been recruited so far from among the 90 sitting for placements. The highest offer so far has been Rs 13 lakh from Morgan Stanley compared with Microsoft's Rs 16 lakh last year.

"Conditions are moderate and we expect placements to be similar to 2013 but not surpassing it," says an IIT Hyderabad placement team member. Last year, 40

companies came to hire 150 students. This year, while the number of students has risen to 200, the number of companies are expected to remain the same.

With bigger batches to place this time, the new IITs are reaching out to a larger number of companies so that placements are not hit. But hurdles remain. At IIT Jodhpur, authorities are worried because the manufacturing sector has been hit by the downturn.

Even IIT Mandi – among the few new IITs to achieve 100% placements last year – which got a headstart this year by opening a placement window in October, is concerned. "Companies which hire mechanical and electrical engineering students are likely to be cutting down on numbers because of the downturn," says Prabh Sharan Singh of IIT Ropar.

Amidst all this, there is good news. IIT Rohtak has seen three top offers of \$105,000 from US healthcare software company Epic Systems, compared with two last year. The average salary so far is Rs 11.13 lakh, up 21% from last year's Rs 9.17 lakh, and 18 students have bagged Rs 15 lakh-plus salaries. At IIT Mandi, Amazon has hired six students for Rs 20 lakh, compared with top offers of around Rs 17 lakh-Rs 18 lakh from Microsoft and Amazon last year.

At IIT Gandhinagar, average salary has grown by 8% to Rs 7.81 lakh while IIT Patna has seen the top salary soaring from Rs 16 lakh-plus last year to over Rs 18 lakh. At IIT Varanasi, Microsoft is making an international offer – the first this placement season – likely to be at around Rs 60 lakh.

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IE Mumbai

More students opting for change of branch at IIT Bombay

Mihika Basu Posted online: Thu Dec 12 2013, 03:19 hrs

Mumbai : The number of first year students opting for a change of branch at IIT Bombay has doubled since 2010, indicating that performance in the institute is a better indicator of academic capabilities than their rank at the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). According to data provided by the institute, the numbers were 32 in 2010 and went up to 68 this year.

The reason, according to Prof P C Pandey, associate dean of academic programmes at IIT Bombay, may be due to flexibility in the eligibility criterion.

As per changes introduced in 2011, a student with a cumulative performance index (CPI) above nine is now permitted to change from branch 'A' to 'B', strictly in CPI order, provided that the strength in branch B, to which the change is being sought, does not exceed its sanctioned strength by more than 10 per cent.

"Earlier, a student who scored a CPI of nine may not have been able to change their branch because the rules said the numbers in branch A could not go below its sanctioned strength. As per the modified rules, there is no restriction on the strength of branch A, which may go well below its sanctioned strength, during the application of this rule," said Pandey.

The branches, where the maximum number of students have been able to get a change this year, are BTech in mechanical engineering (13), BTech in chemical engineering (12), BTech in computer science and engineering (10), dual degree in electrical engineering (nine), BTech in electrical engineering (seven) and dual degree in mechanical engineering (seven). In 2012, the top three popular choices were BTech in mechanical engineering (11), dual degree in electrical engineering (10) and BTech in computer science and engineering (nine).

In a major shift in another rule, for students to be admitted from 2014 onward, those wanting to opt for change of branch may be allowed to do so solely based on their performance at IIT Bombay and not on the basis of branches to which they were eligible at the time of admission through JEE, which is one of the possibilities at present.

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IIT-Guwahati to give Delhi new platform

NEW DELHI: Students of Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, will organise prelims of 'Technothon – The International School Championship' in the Capital on July 13 next year.

The mains of technothon – a platform to explore creativity of students – is scheduled to be held in September, 2014, at Guwahati. The international school championship is part of the annual techno-management festival "Techniche".

Online registrations begin on December 15.

Millennium Post ND 12/13/2013 P-11

NASA says ISS cooling system shut down, but no emergency

SAN FRANCISCO: NASA is assessing a problem with one of two cooling systems aboard the International Space Station, a potentially serious but not life-threatening situation, officials said on Wednesday.

The system automatically shut itself down after detecting abnormal temperatures, said NASA spokesman Josh Byerly at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The problem appears to be a faulty valve inside a pump located outside the station, a \$100 billion research complex that flies about 250 miles (about 400 km) above Earth.

Repairs may require a



International Space Station

spacewalk, Byerly said.

'If it's a software problem, they could just do a software update or do a patch. If it's a hardware issue, that's something else,' Byerly said. 'We'll know more in the next day or so.'

The six astronauts aboard the station are not in any danger and would not need to evacuate, he added.

'Some of the news reports that I've seen out there have been like 'catastrophic shutdown.' That's

not at all what this is,' Byerly said.

Equipment aboard the station affected by the shutdown has either been powered off or switched over to the station's second cooling loop, including three freezers that hold science samples for return to Earth.

The station has three spare pumps located outside the station if engineers determine the valve cannot be repaired and managers authorize a spacewalk, Byerly said.

US spacewalks have been suspended since July after Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano's spacesuit started leaking, causing his helmet to fill with water. **AGENCIES**

ISB to help 1,000 students establish tech start-ups

Biz school readies curriculum for entrepreneurship

K.V. Kurmanath

Hyderabad, Dec. 12

Indian School of Business, which charges a premium for its courses, is going to do something different. It is going to help 1,000 engineering students establish start-ups, realising their entrepreneurial dreams.

Those who want to become entrepreneurs can opt for an elective on entrepreneurship in the first semester of their third year.

In association with the IT Ministry of Andhra Pradesh Government, ISB will select 50 students each from 10 top engineering colleges. ISB is in the process of preparing a curriculum for the elective, which will be introduced from the second half of next calendar year.

"We will pick them in the third year. And for the next four semesters, they will undergo training on various aspects of starting an enterprise. Right from turning a business idea into a business project to execute it," Aruna Reddy of ISB's Entrepreneurship Centre, directing the initiative, told *Business Line*.

▶ *In association with the Andhra Pradesh Government, ISB will select 50 students each from 10 top engineering colleges.*

At the end of the course, short-listed students would be invited present their project ideas to a gathering of PEs and angel investors at the ISB.

From the Government side, Jawahar Knowledge Centres is funding and coordinating the programme. IIIT (Hyderabad), BITS (Hyderabad), NIT (Warangal) and Srinidhi institute would act as hub centres. Faculty from these centres would get training from the business school. They, in turn, would train the faculty of the other colleges that will join the course.

The State Government would collect Rs 2,000 from

each student taking up the entrepreneurship course. "Instead of ending up as job seekers, they can employ people. We will connect them with the seed funding agencies and private equity players," Sanjay Jaju, Principal Secretary (IT and Communication, Govt of AP), said.

Amarnath Reddy Atmakuri, Chief Executive Officer of JKC, said only a fraction of the two lakh employees found jobs, leaving a large number of students jobless. "But if you help them turn entrepreneurs, they can provide jobs instead," he said.

Though they are tying up with only 10 engineering colleges in the initiative, the Government is planning to bring in more colleges under the purview of the programme.

"The students will have both theoretical and practical classes. They will get to listen to experts once in six months. We need to improve product ecosystem in order to create more jobs," Ponnala Lakshmaiah, State Minister for IT, said.

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‘ड्रग कोडिंग’ से होगी असली नकली दवाओं की पहचान

ज्ञानप्रकाश/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। रोगियों के साथ ही आम लोगों के लिए राहत की खबर है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की पहल पर अब उन्हें विभिन्न दवा दुकानों से मिलने वाली दवाओं की गुणवत्ता को लेकर कम से कम संशय की स्थिति से राहत मिलेगी। फार्मास्यूटिकल एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन काउंसिल (फार्मेक्सिल) की देखरेख में औषध नियंत्रक विभाग ने दवाओं की गुणवत्ता की पहचान करने के लिए नई तकनीक तैयार की है। इसके तहत दवाओं की पैकिंग पर ‘बार कोडिंग’ की जाएगी। इस कार्य को अंजाम देने के लिए सूचना एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) एवं विप्रो नामक एक एमएनसी कंपनी द्वारा सॉफ्टवेयर तैयार कराया गया है।

‘बार कोडिंग’ तीन चरणों में दवा व उसके पैकिटों के ऊपरी भाग में की जाएगी। इसमें विशेष किस्म का एक रंगीन चमकदार स्टॉप लगाई जाएगी जिसमें फ्लोरोसेंट पदार्थ होगा और उसमें उस कंपनी का नाम, लाईसेंस संख्या और कई अन्य जानकारियां दर्ज होंगी। इसकी पहचान करने के लिए मास्टर कार्ड यंत्र का प्रयोग किया जाएगा। कम्प्यूटर के माउस आकार के ये मास्टर कार्ड यंत्र सभी दवा दुकानों और फार्मास्यूटिकल कंपनियों के पास होंगे। इसे जारी करने के लिए औषध नियंत्रक विभाग एक कोड देगा। इसमें उस फार्मास्यूटिकल फर्म का कोड फीड होगा। उपभोक्ताओं की मांग पर दवाई विक्रेता इस कार्ड के माध्यम से उसकी गुणवत्ता

■ अप्रैल महीने से दवाओं पर लागू होगी यह प्रणाली

■ उपभोक्ताओं की मांग पर दवाई विक्रेता कोडिंग के माध्यम से दवा की गुणवत्ता की जांच मौके पर ही कर देगा

■ दवा सब-स्टैंडर्ड, नकली रैपर व गुणवत्ताहीन होगी तो जांच यंत्र में लाल बत्ती जलने लगेगी



नकली दवाओं पर लगेगा अंकुश

नई दिल्ली। देशभर में बीते साल 63 हजार करोड़ रुपए का व्यापार हुआ था। दिल्ली में इस समय 8 हजार खुदरा दवा की दुकानें हैं। अखिल भारतीय के मिस्ट एसोसिएशन के राष्ट्रीय महासचिव कैलाश गुप्ता ने कहा कि यह एक जटिल प्रक्रिया जरूर है लेकिन इस बदलाव के बाद नकली, गुणवत्ता हीन दवाओं पर कुछ हद तक अंकुश लगेगा।

की पहचान मौके पर ही करेगा। यदि दवा सब-स्टैंडर्ड, नकली रैपर व गुणवत्ताहीन होगी तो इस कार्ड में लाल बत्ती जलने लगेगी। इस आशय की जानकारी सभी फर्मों व दवा विक्रेता, डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स को औषध नियंत्रक विभाग ने भेज दी है। विभाग के अनुसार इस व्यवस्था को लागू करने के लिए फार्मास्यूटिकल एजेंसियों ने अप्रैल, 2014 महीने तक का समय मांगा है। उम्मीद है इसके बाद वे अपने उत्पादों में रैपरिंग बार कोडिंग करना प्रारंभ कर देंगे। यह व्यवस्था उन दवाओं पर नहीं लागू होगी जो अप्रैल-2013 से पहले बाजार में बिकने के लिए उतारी जा चुकी हैं।

फार्मेक्सिल के महानिदेशक डा.पीवी अम्पाजी ने कहा कि औषधि क्षेत्र की गुणवत्ता में सुधार होगा। ऐसा होने से ड्रग कोडिंग करने के मामले में दुनिया में दिल्ली समेत भारत का स्थान पहला होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस सिस्टम से दवाओं की पैकेजिंग अलग से होगी। दवाओं की लागत पर वर्तमान की अपेक्षा दस से 15 फीसद अधिक आने का अनुमान है।

उन्होंने कहा कि देश में 10 हजार फार्मा कंपनियां हैं जो दुनिया के 200 देशों में दवाओं की आपूर्ति करती हैं, इस समय गुणवत्ता में कमी को लेकर अक्सर दवाएं जब्त कर ली जाती हैं। ड्रग कोडिंग प्रणाली से यह कनफ्यूजन दूर होगा, दरअसल ड्रग कोडिंग का स्वरूप औषधि नियंत्रक, एफडीआई ने ही तैयार किया है। दोनों ही अन्तरराष्ट्रीय एजेंसियां हैं।

...अब और बड़ी सैलरी के पैकेज मिलेंगे!

**आईआईटी मद्रास
सहित राज्य के सभी
इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों की
उम्मीदें और बढ़ी**

चेन्नई. चालू वर्ष के अंतिम माह में यदि किसी आईआईटीयन या इंजीनियरिंग छात्र को अच्छा ऑफर न मिला हो तो उसे निराश होने की कतई जरूरत नहीं है और न ही उसे उम्मीद छोड़नी चाहिए, क्योंकि उन जैसे छात्रों के लिए यह किसी बड़ी खुशखबरी से कम नहीं है कि नए वर्ष में एक बार बड़ी कंपनियों के ऑफरों की बाढ़ फिर से आ सकती है।

यह बात कोई आईआईटी संस्थान या कोई इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज द्वारा नहीं कही गई है बल्कि देश-विदेश की जानी-मानी लगभग पांच हजार बड़ी कंपनियों की राय है। इससे कम से कम उन छात्रों को राहत मिलेगी जिन्हें चालू वर्ष के अंतिम माह दिसंबर में किसी कंपनी का ऑफर उनकी योग्यता के अनुसार पसंद नहीं आया था। अब वे नए सिरे से नए ऑफर के संबंध में सोच-विचार कर सकते हैं क्योंकि ये ऑफर आगामी जनवरी से आने शुरू हो जाएंगे। सर्वे के बाद मद्रास आईआईटी और राज्य के सभी बड़े इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में एक बार फिर से प्लेसमेंट में तेजी की उम्मीद

बढ़ी है। यहां से पास आउट छात्र अभी इस उम्मीद में हैं कि उनको और अच्छा ऑफर मिलेगा। तभी तो आईआईटी मद्रास के पासआउट कम से कम एक दर्जन छात्रों ने अभी आए ऑफर ठुकरा दिए थे। उन्हें उम्मीद है कि जनवरी में और बड़े ऑफर आ सकते हैं। साथ ही कई और बड़ी कंपनियां आकर छात्रों को आकर्षक ऑफर दे सकती हैं। आईआईटी मद्रास के छात्र कुलश नारंग का कहना था कि नए वर्ष में और बड़ी कंपनियां आएंगी जो और अधिक आकर्षक ऑफर छात्रों को देंगी।

उल्लेखनीय है कि यहां के छात्रों में यह उम्मीद एक सर्वे के बाद जागी है। इस सर्वे के मुताबिक अगले साल जनवरी से लेकर मार्च तक के दौरान लगभग सभी बड़ी कंपनियों ने नई भर्ती के संकेत दिए हैं। यह सर्वे मैनपावर एम्प्लॉयमेंट आउटलुक सर्वे में कही गई है। सर्वे की मानें तो 30 फीसदी कंपनियों ने स्टाफ बढ़ाने की बात कही है। इससे यह निश्चित हो जाता है कि आगामी माह में छात्रों के पास और आकर्षक प्रस्ताव आ सकते हैं। इसके अलावा 49 फीसदी कंपनियों ने अपने संस्थानों में बदलाव के भी संकेत दिए हैं। सर्वे में 2014 की पहली तिमाही में कंपनियों के भर्ती अभियान में तेजी की उम्मीद जताई गई है।

Meet on precision engineering at NIT-C

Staff Reporter

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NIT-C), is organising an international conference on Precision, Meso, Micro and Nano Engineering (COPEN-8) from December 13 to 15 on the NIT-C campus.

C.G. Krishandas Nair, former chairman, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) Bangalore, will inaugurate the conference at the Aryabhata Hall of the Institute on Friday morning. M.D. Sreekumar, Managing Director, HMT Bangalore, will preside over the function.

The conference aims to emphasise on the partnership, connection, and synergy between applications and analytic foundations of meso, micro, and nano engineering, said the organisers in a release here.

In view of the convergence of areas covered in the conference, a harmonious fusion of technical sessions was planned. This year, the organisers received about 300 technical papers that were peer reviewed by two experts and 260 papers were selected from the list to be presented during the conference. "We have seven keynote speakers, from the country and outside," said the organisers.

There would be 25 parallel technical sessions during the conference. Delegates from almost all IITs, NITs, and reputed institutions in India were attending the event. An industrial exhibition and a book fair would also be part of COPEN-8. The conference schedule was posted on COPEN-8 [website](#). The valedictory function is scheduled at 11 a.m. on December 15. This was the eighth edition of a bi-annual conference started in IIT Madras in 2000, the organisers said.

Keywords: [NIT Calicut](#), [COPEN-8](#), [precision engineering](#), [nano engineering](#), [meso and micro engineering](#)

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HT Lucknow

New DNA method by Indian-origin prof at Cambridge

Prasun Sonwalkar

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LONDON: A group founded by an Indian-origin professor at the University of Cambridge has developed a new DNA sequencing technology that could greatly improve understanding of cancer, embryo formation, stem cells and brain function.

The mechanisms which cause certain genes to be switched on or off, and are thought to play a role in cancer development and stem cell differentiation, can now be accurately detected and studied through the new DNA sequencing method.

The technology developed by Cambridge Epigenetix founded by the Chennai-born Professor Shankar Balasubramanian enables researchers to understand modifications to DNA, by detecting 'extra' DNA bases, which until now could not be definitively identified, a university release said.

Balasubramanian said: "What our research group and Cambridge Epigenetix are doing is bringing this capability to go beyond the standard four letters of the genetic alphabet in a way that benefits from all the general innovation brought from 'next generation' sequencing technology, such as the Solexa/Illumina approach."

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Interim VC for IP University

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Anup Singh Beniwal, dean, University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, will be the officiating vice-chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. Beniwal, by virtue of being the longest serving dean, took over charges from Prof D K Bandyopadhyay, whose term as VC came to an end on Wednesday.

Delhi government could not complete the process of appointment of the VC before the term of Bandyopadhyay got over. As per rules, the longest serving dean takes over as an interim VC. But Beniwal's term could be a longer one which might also include the admission session as Delhi is witnessing political uncertainty after the assembly election. Beniwal is a scholar of English literature and has written several research papers and books.