

# Newspaper Clips

December 8, 2010

Hindu ND 08-Dec-10 P-6

## NET or SLET mandatory for appointment of lecturers

Exemption for those candidates who obtain Ph.D. degree in compliance with UGC Regulations-2009

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** Observing that "the courts should not venture into academic arena which is best suited for academicians and experts", the Delhi High Court has upheld the mandatory requirement of clearing the National Eligibility Test (NET) or the State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) for appointment to the post of lecturer.

The University Grants Commission had framed this rule called Regulations-2009

in July last year.

However, those who have secured a Ph.D. degree in compliance with the UGC Regulations-2009 (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of Ph.D.) are exempted from this rule.

The judgment by a Division Bench of the Court comprising Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Manmohan came on a petition by the All India Researchers' Co-ordination Committee challenging the Constitutional validity of fixing the minimum eligibility

• **Delhi High Court upholds UGC Regulations-2009 that make clearing of exams necessary**

• **Judgment comes in response to plea challenging Constitutional validity of fixing criteria for post**

requirement for appointment as a lecturer.

Counsel for the petitioner, Amit Kumar, had challenged the rule mainly on the ground that the UGC had framed it on a direction by the Union Government which is against the express provisions in the

UGC Act, 1956, for framing regulations.

He further submitted that the Act empowers the UGC to frame rules for regulating teaching, research and examinations in universities across the country independent of any external pressure

from the Government.

Another submission by him was that it had been the consistent policy of the UGC and the Government to grant exemption to those who had obtained M.Phil. or Ph.D. degree before the cut-off date.

A similar exemption was also provided by Regulations-2006 which had given rise to a legitimate expectation that a person having an M.Phil. or a Ph.D. degree would be eligible for the post of lecturer, he further submitted, adding that an im-

pression was created that they would not have to pass the NET.

Counsel for the Centre Neeraj Chaudhury defended the Government's directive to the UGC to frame the rule as the Act empowers it to issue directions to the regulatory body on questions of policy relating to national interest.

UGC counsel Amitesh Kumar submitted that under Section 20 of the Act the Centre is empowered to issue directions to the UGC on

questions of policy relating to national purposes and such directions are binding on the UGC.

In pursuance of the direction issued by the Government, the UGC in exercise of its power conferred by Section 26(1)(e) and (g) read with Section 14 of the Act had framed the Regulations, 2009, he added.

The Bench dismissed the petition saying that it is bereft of merit. Also, it has not been implemented retrospectively.

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## New appointments at Delhi University

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi University Executive Council on Tuesday announced the names of the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Colleges, Director, South Campus, and Proctor.

These appointments were made by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the V-C. The names were an-

nounced at an EC meeting.

Prof. Vivek Suneja is the new Pro-V-C and replaces Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri. The Pro-V-C performs duties and exercises as specified by the V-C and assists the V-C on all academic and administrative matters. When the V-C is on leave or is away, the Pro-V-C is also expected to perform the function of the V-C. The Pro-V-C's term is usually co-

terminus with the V-C's.

Prof. Sudhish Pachauri is the Dean of Colleges while his predecessor was also Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri. The Dean of Colleges helps the V-C in academic and administrative matters while also performing other duties which may be specified by the V-C and the duration of the post is also co terminus with the V-C's.

The new Proctor is Prof

H.P. Singh and succeeds Prof. Gurmeet Singh. The Proctor's term is for two years and the appointee is responsible for maintaining discipline among students.

Prof. Umesh Rai, the new South Campus Director, replaces Prof. Malashri Lal and will take care of administrative and academic matters in Departments and Colleges specified by the V-C.

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# Centre for privatisation of higher education

'Allow schools to function as profit-making bodies with regulatory mechanism'

Aarti Dhar

**NEW DELHI:** Suggesting increased private partnership as a viable financial model to enhance investments in the education sector, the government has recommended raising fees in higher education institutions and allowing schools to function as profit-making bodies with a regulatory mechanism in place.

For students belonging to the weaker sections, there could be provision for financing grants for pursuing higher education, repayable after the students start earning so as to ensure sustainability of the system, the Mid-Year Analysis for 2010-11 tabled in

the Lok Sabha recommended on Tuesday.

While appreciating the creation of new institutions and various reforms proposed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, including establishing a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) as an overarching regulatory body for higher education, the analysis, nevertheless, says adequacy of teachers – both in numbers and quality – remains a cause for concern. Universities need to be reoriented to the changing situation and demands in the job market. Many universities are simply out of touch with the modern

systems. Quality of education and demand-supply mismatch are other issues, it points out.

## Note of caution

While a select number of institutions in the country do offer world class education, in most institutions the quality is quite unsatisfactory without a continuous effort to upgrade standards, teaching methods, content of learning and quality of teachers, it says.

Sounding a note of caution on the proposal to allow foreign educational institutions to function in India, the Mid-Year Analysis says there is a need to see that these institu-

tions, as permitted under the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010, do not misuse the system. This is possible if they have low stakes in the overall system and make minimum investment in infrastructure and faculty. They should be encouraged to fund their Indian campuses for sensitive, cutting-edge research.

On the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 – which came into force this year – the report recommends involving big corporate houses in education philanthropy as part of their corporate social responsibility. Virtually disagreeing

with the government's stated position that schools could be run only as non-profit trusts, the report points out that private schools are already making huge profits. It is, therefore, advisable to discontinue with the non-profit trust requirement and allow schools to make profit.

At the same time, a regulatory structure can ensure that a certain number of students from the weaker sections are also enrolled. Such a system, if strictly regulated and enforced, would encourage competition, be transparent and inclusive and ensure the flow of much-needed supplementary capital in this field.

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# Training university administrators: should management schools do it?

Efforts to educate academic leaders and university administrators on their jobs must take into account the nuances and values of academic life and institutions.

Philip G. Altbach

It has recently been announced that Yale University will work with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Kozhikode to train university leaders. It is, of course, a good idea to provide professional education to university administrators and there are no established programmes in India to provide this kind of training at present. But one might raise the question as to whether management and technology institutions are the best partners to do such training. Yale University has an excellent school of management but no school of education. And neither has the IIMs nor the IITs developed any expertise on higher education management. Yale and the IITs and IIMs are outstanding institutions, but not in the field of higher education.

## Not unique

This new initiative to provide training to higher education by schools of management is not unique. The universities of Bath and Southampton in the U.K. both offer MBA programmes that specialise in higher education. In each case, there are higher education experts on the faculty and programmes were orga-

nised by faculty members who are higher education specialists.

Some might argue that leadership and management are generic topics and that managing a university is the same as managing a business. This is a fallacious argument. Universities have their own cultures, practices, and organisation arrangements. These differ significantly from companies and even government bureaucracies. Their operational objectives are much more difficult to measure or quantify, and the "outcomes" are even tougher to discern. The university is a collegial institution where the professoriate has traditionally had considerable input into the governance and management of their institution. University leaders and managers tend to come from the scholarly ranks of the academic profession. Universities are for the most part not-for-profit institutions.

It is certainly the case that universities are large complex organisations and that managing them requires specialised knowledge and skill. Contemporary business models may be useful in managing academic institutions to a point. Those responsible for university management and leadership would benefit from understanding how complex organisations work and from acquiring skills in finance and accounting, but the fact

remains that academic institutions are in many ways unique.

American university management has been professionalised for a long time. Higher education programmes at the masters and doctoral levels exist at perhaps 100 American universities, and a large number of middle-level administrators and even some senior leaders hold degrees in higher education administration. Typically, these programmes combine courses that address the specific realities of academic institutions along with study of management issues. Most are housed in schools of education and a few have links with business or management schools. These programmes are able to link expertise on administration, management, and leadership to the specific realities of higher education.

Top academic leaders still come from the ranks of professors, and this is likely to continue to be the case. Indeed, as Amanda Goodall has pointed out in her book, *Socrates in the Boardroom: Why Research Universities Should be Led by Top Scholars* (Princeton, 2009), the best academic leadership comes from people who understand universities and have been successful academics. University vice-chancellors, rectors, and presidents could certainly benefit from some professional management training. Some

countries and institutions offer short seminars for incoming top academic leadership – focusing in most cases on the nuances of the modern university rather than the techniques of management. Such programmes are seldom conducted by management schools.

If Indian academic leaders are to be encouraged to develop broader perspective on university management and leadership skills, it should probably not be done exclusively by institutions without expertise in higher education. One of the problems of higher education these days is that individuals often think they are experts on universities if they have attended one – this is certainly not the case. Universities are complex and unique organisations. University leaders must understand and respect this if they are to be successful. Efforts to educate academic leaders and university administrators on their jobs must take into account the nuances and values of academic life and institutions. Exposure to business practices is not enough – and may even be subversive of academic goals and success.

(Philip G. Altbach is Monan professor of higher education and director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College, U.S.)

# **ATTENDANCE SHORTAGE: JAMIA EXPELS 300 STUDENTS**

**Joyeeta Ghosh**

■ joyeeta.ghosh@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Around 300 first-year students pursuing various post-graduate courses of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) have been expelled for failing to meet the minimum attendance requirement.

The varsity introduced semester system in the post-graduate courses from this academic session.

The university authorities said the admission prospectus clearly mentioned that anyone failing to meet the minimum 75% attendance in each semester will be barred from sitting for the first semester examination and will also not be allowed to seek readmission in the second semester.

The university though gives a 15% relaxation in special cases such as illness and to sports persons.

"This is not something new, as in the annual mode if someone does not meet the required attendance they are not allowed to sit for the examination and the same rule applies here as well," said Simi Malhotra, media coordinator, JMI.

Some of the students who have been expelled alleged that they were not aware that they will be expelled due to lack of attendance and the varsity should have informed them.

"The university prospectus said the required attendance was for the whole academic year and not just one semester," said an expelled student from Peace and Conflict Resolution which has been affected the most where 14 out of a class of 28 students has fallen short of the required attendance.

Vice Chancellor Najeeb Jung said, "This step is in accordance with the ordinances of the varsity. The students should realise that the courses they are doing are serious and any kind of non-serious attitude will not be tolerated."

Some of the expelled students said that would seek legal recourse against the varsity if they were not allowed to sit for the examination.

Hindustan Times ND 08/12/2010

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# 'Move from rote learning to practical ways'

## SCHOOL OF TOMORROW Annual conference discusses improving teaching, learning methods

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** Suggesting ways to improve teaching methods and making education a future looking process, X SEED iDiscoveri Education, in association with Hindustan Times, held the second annual School of Tomorrow conference, to discuss the changing scenario of education on Tuesday.

The conference, held simultaneously in New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, was conducted in two parts, where the first had school directors and principals deliberating on innovative practices in schools. Abha Adams, former director of Shri Ram Schools; Graham Ranger, director of British School and David Zarowin, director of Harvard WIDE World Programme, were the panellists for the first part.

**We must abandon Industrial Age assumptions about schools. Learning should centre on the student and not on teachers.**

**PETER SENGE, MIT  
Sloan School of Management**

Changes in the government's education policy during the last two years and the society's expectations from schools were discussed in the second part of the conference with CBSE chairman, Vineet Joshi and Rukmini Banerji, director, Pratham, as panellists.

Author Gurcharan Das, who gave the keynote address at the conference, said: "Only 20% of school students get a decent education, while 80% has miserable schooling. We need to

move away from rote learning and move to more practical methods of education to make a formidable power."

Educationists from Harvard University and MIT Sloan School of Management also joined the conference through videoconferencing.

"We must abandon Industrial Age assumptions about schools. Learning should centre on the student and not on teachers. We need to move away from homogeneity and rote memorisation," said Peter Senge from MIT Sloan School of Management.

X SEED iDiscoveri Education has been providing training and learning tools to more than 400 schools at an average cost of ₹100 per child every month.

"We try to introduce contemporary ideas in methods of teaching as well as learning," said Ashish Rajpal, CEO of iDiscoveri Education.

# Hindustan Times ND

## 08/12/2010 p-8

### Cabinet nod for 20 new IIITs

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the setting up of 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) through public-private partnerships (PPP), accepting the human resource development ministry's plan to introduce a IIIT Act to govern the institutes. The Prime Minister had first announced the 20 new IIITs in PPP mode during his August 15 address to the nation in 2007.

Mint, ND  
08-Dec-10 p-10

#### EDUCATION

### Cabinet approves setting up 20 IIITs

**New Delhi:** The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved the setting up of 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) with a public private partnership model with an outlay of ₹2,808.71 crore.

The capital cost of each IIIT will be ₹128.00 crore to be contributed in the ratio of 50:35:15 by the Centre, the states and the industry, respectively.

In case of northeastern states, the ratio will be 57.5:35:7.5. In addition, ₹50 crore will be provided by the Centre for faculty development programme for the faculty of new IIITs. **PRASHANT K. NANDA**

# Doing write by the students

The common entrance exam should have been discussed before being vetoed

**A** common entrance examination for engineering and medicine is the latest education soufflé to fall flat even before it has been tasted. No doubt, this will be of extreme disappointment to the Union human resource

**ourtake**

development minister who thought, and rightly so, that this would be the perfect recipe for students who are overburdened with having to write numerous examinations for different professional courses. What Mr Sibal clearly did not bargain on is the many cooks who spoiled the broth, the most notable being the health ministry which did not want to give up its control over the medical examination.

Mr Sibal had thought of a way out in suggesting that physics and chemistry be part of the common examination after which students could sit for an examination in their chosen field of specialisation. Clearly, turf wars and politics have come in the way of what would be a great relief for many students. Mr Sibal, arguably one of the most efficient ministers in this government, has hit the ground running on education from day one. He has come up with several innovative proposals of which the common entrance examination is one. But, at each step, the moribund education system has refused to budge despite the hurricane changes that Mr Sibal has proposed. A common entrance examination would make it logistically and economically easier for many students. The fact that many of them come from different state boards and, therefore, are on different levels of learning is a valid point. However, this can easily be rectified if there is an appropriate system of weightage of marks which would give the students a level playing field. It would be interesting to know what exactly the health ministry's objections are barring that Mr Sibal is encroaching into its territory.

All those who are quibbling over the many education reforms that Mr Sibal and others before him have initiated seem to forget that the student is at the centre of the system. Any proposal which aims to make life easier for her and unleashes greater creativity should at least be debated before being vetoed. The same people who are objecting to common entrance examinations for institutions of higher learning at home don't seem to have the same reservations when it comes to common qualifiers for courses abroad. The education system has been comatose for too long. Any change, especially those designed with the benefit of the student in mind, deserves a fair shot. It is only experimentation which can create educational fare which will prove palatable in the long-run.

# Pvt institutes to get research projects, grants

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

**T**he government has decided to engage private institutes for sponsored research projects, a field so far restricted to publicly funded schools such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

“India needs more institutes to help government on policy formulations. We need expert input and they can do research for government departments,” human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal said on Tuesday.

Sibal was speaking at an event announcing the Indian School of Business’ (ISB) partnership with US-based Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy for setting up an institute on public policy.

“We are ready to collaborate with ISB and Fletcher School, though we know that they are not recognized by regulators. We are changing the norms,” said Sibal. “Education needs many policy frameworks and we need their collaboration.” While *Mint* could not immediately establish how much the government gives in research grants to publicly funded institutes, education experts said the opening up of research grants to private institutes is a significant boost to education.

## ACADEMIC LEVELS

# Top test scores from Shanghai stun educators

**Students from the city outscored those from dozens of other nations in reading, mathematics as well as science**

By SAM DILLON  
feedback@litemint.com

With China's debut in international standardized testing, students in Shanghai have surprised experts by outscoring their counterparts in dozens of other countries, in reading as well as in mathematics and science, according to the results of a respected exam.

US officials and Europeans involved in administering the test in around 65 countries acknowledged that the scores from Shanghai—an industrial powerhouse with some 20 million residents and scores of modern universities that is a magnet for the best students in the country—are by no means representative of all of China.

Around 5,100 15-year-olds in Shanghai were chosen as a representative cross-section of students in that city. In the US, a similar number of students from across the country were selected as a representative sample for the test.

Experts noted the obvious difficulty of using a standardized test to compare countries and cities of vastly different

sizes. Even so, they said the stellar academic performance of students in Shanghai was noteworthy and another sign of China's rapid modernization.

The results also appeared to reflect the culture of education there, including greater emphasis on teacher training and more time spent on studying rather than extracurricular activities such as sports.

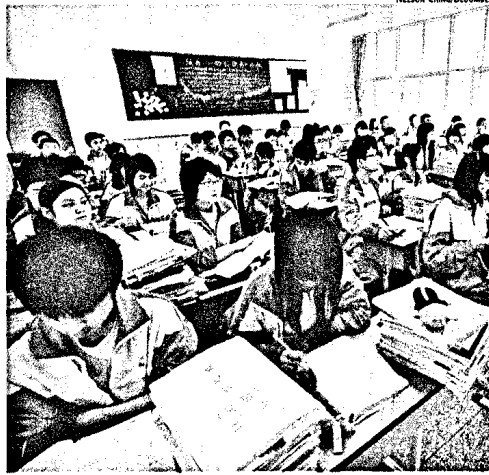
"Wow, I'm kind of stunned, I'm thinking Sputnik," said Chester E. Finn Jr., who served in President Ronald Reagan's department of education, referring to the groundbreaking Soviet satellite launching.

Finn, who has visited schools all across China, said, "I've seen how relentless the Chinese are at accomplishing goals, and if they can do this in Shanghai in 2009, they can do it in 10 cities in 2019, and in 50 cities by 2029."

The test, the Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA, was given to 15-year-old students by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a Paris-based group that includes the world's major industrial powers.

The results were released officially on Tuesday, but advance copies were provided to the media a day early.

"We have to see this as a wake-up call," Arne Duncan, the US secretary of education,



**Test outcome:** A school in China's Sichuan province. Shanghai's results appear to reflect the culture of education in the country.

said in an interview in Monday. "I know sceptics will want to argue with the results, but we consider them to be accurate and reliable, and we have to see them as a challenge to get better. The United States came in 23rd or 24th in most subjects. We can quibble, or we can face the brutal truth that we're being out-educated."

In maths, the Shanghai students performed in a class by themselves, outperforming second-place Singapore,

which has been seen as an educational superstar in recent years. The average maths scores of US students put them below 30 other countries.

PISA scores are on a scale, with 500 as the average. Two-thirds of students in participating countries score between 400 and 600. On the maths test last year, students in Shanghai scored 600, in Singapore 562, in Germany 513, and in the US 487.

In reading, Shanghai students scored 556, ahead of sec-

ond-place Korea with 539. The US scored 500 and came in 17th, putting it on par with students in the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Germany, France, the UK and several other countries.

In science, Shanghai students scored 575. In second place was Finland, where the average score was 554. The US scored 502—in 23rd place—with a performance indistinguishable from Poland, Ireland, Norway, France and several other countries.

The testing in Shanghai is carried out by an international contractor, working with Chinese authorities, and overseen by the Australian Council for Educational Research, a non profit testing group, said Andreas Schleicher, who directs OECD's international educational testing programme.

Mark Schneider, a commissioner of the department of education's research arm in the George W. Bush administration, who returned from an educational research visit to China on Friday, said he had been sceptical about some PISA results in the past. But Schneider

said he considered the accuracy of these results to be unassailable.

"The technical side of this was well regulated, the sampling was okay and there was no evidence of cheating," he said.

Schneider, however, noted some factors that may have influenced the outcome.

For one thing, Shanghai is a huge migration hub within China. Students are supposed to return to their home provinces to attend high school, but Shanghai authorities could increase

scores by allowing stellar students to stay in the city, he said. And Shanghai students apparently were told the test was important for China's image and thus were more motivat-

ed to do well, he said. "Can you imagine the reaction if we told the students of Chicago that the PISA was an important international test and that America's reputation depended on them performing well?" Schneider said. "That said, China is taking education very seriously. The work ethic is amazingly strong."

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**Shanghai students' stellar academic performance is another sign of China's rapid modernization**



**Times of India**  
**ND 08/12/2010**

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## **New bacteria is munching away Titanic**

**Toronto:** A newly discovered rust-eating bacteria is munching away the wreckage of the Titanic and the remains of the ship may soon be lost, a team of scientists that included an Indian has warned.

Researchers at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada, have been examining the bacteria eating away the remains of the famous ship as it sits on the Atlantic Ocean floor. Using DNA technology, Dalhousie scientists Henrietta Mann and Bhavleen Kaur and researchers from the University of Sevilla in Spain were able to identify a new bacterial species collected from rusticles — a formation of rust similar to an icicle or stalactite — from the Titanic wreck.

The iron-oxide-munching bacterium has fittingly been named *Halomonas titanicae*, MSNBC reported. Titanic was the largest passenger steamship in the world when it set off on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City on April 10, 1912. The bacteria has critical implications for preservation of the ship's wreckage. ❏

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Times of India ND 08/12/2010

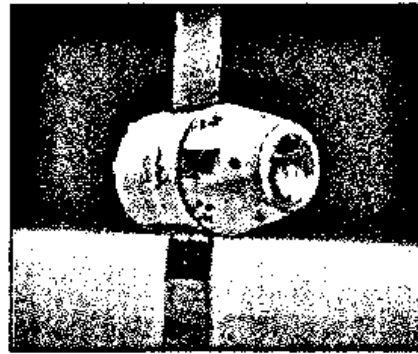
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# Countdown begins: First pvt spacecraft all set for lift-off

**Washington:** An American company may attempt to launch its first space capsule into orbit as early as Wednesday, in a key test for the future of commercial space flight as Nasa winds down its shuttle program.

The Dragon spacecraft, unnamed for now but designed with seats for seven and an ample cargo hold, aims to hurtle into orbit and then splash into the Pacific Ocean about four to five hours later, said the company, SpaceX. The bullet-shaped space capsule, which could one day tote supplies to International Space Station, is scheduled to blast off from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

The operation hopes to showcase the capsule's ability to launch and separate from the Falcon 9 rocket, orbit Earth, transmit signals and receive commands, and then re-enter the Earth's atmosphere for an ocean recovery. Never before has a non-government owned spacecraft successfully pulled off such a feat. AFP



**DEBUT FLIGHT:** The Dragon spacecraft

## Japan probe reaches Venus

**A** Japanese probe reached Venus on Tuesday and prepared to enter orbit on a two-year mission that would mark a major milestone for Japan's space program and could shed light on the climate of Earth's mysterious neighbor. The probe, called Akatsuki, which means "dawn," would be the first Japan has ever placed into orbit around another planet and comes after the country recently brought a probe back from a trip to an asteroid. AP

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# An aspirin a day keeps cancer away: Study

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**New Delhi:** Millions across India count on it to relieve them of pain, or protect them against heart disease and cardiac arrest.

However, a new research has confirmed that popping a single pill of low dose aspirin daily plays a major role in cancer prevention.

In a study, published in the *Lancet* on Tuesday, scientists have found that those who take low-dose Aspirin — just 75 mg daily — have 20% lower chance of being diagnosed and dying of various types of cancer, than the ones who don't.



## NEW USE

The team, led by Dr Peter Rothwell from the Oxford

University, analysed eight studies that included over 25,000 patients to find that aspirin reduced cancer death by 21%.

However, when taken for five years, death rates fell by 34% for all types of cancers and 54% for gastrointestinal cancers.

The death rates after 20 years was 20% lower for all cancers and 35% lower for gastrointestinal cancers.

Dr Vinod Raina, HoD of medical oncology at AIIMS, said, "Aspirin taken once a day was known to be beneficial in preventing colon cancer but not when the cancer was already established."

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## New bacteria is munching away Titanic

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# New tech heralds era of smartphone wallets

**San Francisco:** The mobile phone may soon be someone's ticket to board any transit system in the world.

An alliance unveiled today by Inside Secure and other European technology firms is aimed at making that vision real with chips that can turn smartphones into wallets. "It is the next big thing," said Charles Walton, chief operating officer of the French-based firm.

Walton said these chips that can send financial transaction data short distances to readers at fare gates, check-out stands and elsewhere. A second-generation Nexus S smartphone being released in the United States this month by Google has a chip that makes it a virtual wallet so people can "tap and pay."

"You will be able to take these mobile devices that will



## MONEY ON A CHIP

be able to do commerce," Google chief executive Eric Schmidt said while providing a peek at the Nexus S last month at a Web 2.0 Summit in

San Francisco. "Essentially, bump for everything and eventually replace credit cards."

The near-field communications (NFC) chips store personal data that can be transmitted to readers by tapping a handset on a pad. The chief of BlackBerry maker Research In Motion said at the summit, "We'd be fools not to have NFC in a product in the near term, and we are not fools."

Chip industry insiders expect 40 to 50 million payment-equipped mobile phones the flow into the market next year, according to Walton. "I think it will be a very transformational year for the payments market as devices that support this kind of functionality start coming to bear," he said. Inside Secure chips have been used in 250 million bank and credit cards as well as passports and identification badges. **AFP**

Times of India ND 08/12/2010 p-19

# Mobile use in pregnancy tied to ill-behaved kids?

'Cellphone Exposure In Womb Ups Behavioural Issues by 30%'

**London:** Moms-to-be, please note — regular use of cell phones during pregnancy could cause behavioural problems in your offspring, says a new study.

Researchers at the University of California and the University of Southern California have found that the risk is even higher if the offspring start using mobiles themselves by the time they are seven. In the study, involving 29,000 youngsters, the researchers found children who were exposed to mobile phones in the womb and then in early childhood were 50% more likely to have behavioural problems aged seven than youngsters exposed to neither.

Only being exposed to mobile phones while in womb was linked to a 30% increase, while youngsters who're exposed to phones in childhood but not in the womb were 20% more likely to display abnormal behaviour, The Daily Telegraph reported.

The study is the second such research by the same team to find such an association. When the results from both studies were com-



**CALL ALERT:** The risk is higher if the child starts using mobiles by the age of 7

bined, more than 10% of children exposed to mobile phones in pregnancy had mothers who spoke on

them at least four times a day, while half women had their phone turned on at all times. **PTI**

Times of India ND 08/12/2010

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# IITians refuse to join firms offering bonds

Hemal Chhapla | TNN

**Mumbai:** Gentlemen don't prefer bonds. When it comes to most IITians, agreements that tie them down to an organization are a definite no. With the good times rolling back, engineering grads from tech schools want an active lifeline to navigate around the job market.

Companies, in turn, have read the writing on the wall and, at IIT-Bombay, 90% of the recruiters are not insisting that students sign on the dotted line. Similar is the case with organisations, domestic or international, which are participating in the placement season at other IITs. Again, about 70% of the firms recruiting from IIT-Madras expect a mere nod from the grads. "Most candidates are not signing any bonds. We tell the companies that they need to incentivise students

to work for them," said IIT-M academic affairs secretary Anuraag NVS. Companies were reasoning that students must sign a commitment to stick around in return for the intensive training that firms would put the fresh graduates through. "But most of us on campus look down on an arrangement that holds us back," said an IIT-Kanpur student who is registered for placements this year.

At IIT-Bombay, the process started early in the day: right when firms evinced interest in participating in the campus placements. Companies which insisted on contracts were politely declined. Placement head Ravi Sinha said, "Some of our past students have worked in one company for decades and made their career. I feel it's the fear of not fully understanding where they will be a right fit, that is discouraging students from signing bonds."

Economic Times ND  
08/12/2010 P11

# Cabinet nod for setting up 20 IIITs in PPP mode

PTI

NEW DELHI

THE government on Tuesday approved setting up of 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) at a cost of ₹2,808.71 crore. The IIITs will be set up on a public private partnership with the Centre funding 50% of the capital cost, state governments 35% and the rest by the industry. Each Institute is expected to specialise in application of IT skills in one or more domain areas.

In case of Northeastern states, the Centre's share would be 57.5% while the industry's contribution would come down to 7.5%. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by prime minister Manmohan Singh. "₹50 crore will also be provided by the Centre for development programme for the faculty of new IIITs as well as existing IIITs and IISERs," the release said. During the first four years, the Central government will provide partial support towards the recurring expenditure upto ₹10 crore for each IIIT depending on actual requirement.



# Business Line ND

p-4

## 08-Dec-10

### Cabinet clears Paradip petchem project, IIT proposals

**Our Bureau**

*New Delhi, Dec. 7*

The Centre has approved the Orissa Government's proposal for establishing a Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Paradip.

This would be the fourth PCPIR to be approved after the ones at Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal. A total investment of about Rs 2,77,734 crore is projected in the Orissa PCPIR, which includes a committed investment of Rs 29,777 crore towards a 15-million-tonne grassroots refinery by IndianOil Corporation.

The Orissa Government's proposal, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) here on Tuesday, envisages development of roads, rail, air links, ports, water supply and power at a cost of Rs 13,634 crore.

The PCPIR policy prescribes creation of such infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships to the extent possible, with the Centre providing necessary

Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The State Government has sought VGF support of Rs 716 crore in this case.

IOC, whose refinery is expected to be commission by March 2012, has been identified as the "anchor tenant" for the Orissa PCPIR.

#### **20 IIT INSTITUTES**

The Union Cabinet also gave the nod for setting up 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) on a public-private partnership model, involving a total outlay of Rs 2,808.71 crore.

The estimated Rs 128 crore capital cost for each IIIT would be borne on a 50:35:15 ratio between the Centre, the State Government concerned and industry. During the first four years after setting up, the Centre will provide partial support towards recurring expenditure up to Rs 10 crore for each IIIT. Within five years of their establishments, the IIITs will have to meet their own operating expenditure through student fees, research and other internal accruals.

**Financial Express ND**  
**8/12/2010 P-2**

# **Centre nod for 20 IITs in PPP mode**

**fe Bureau**

**New Delhi, Dec 7:** The Centre on Tuesday cleared a proposal to set up 20 new Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) on public private partnership (PPP) basis with an estimated cost of Rs 2,808 crore. The capital cost of each premier institute would be Rs 128.00 crore to be shared in the ratio of 50:35:15 by the Centre, state and the industry respectively. As per the plan, the concerned state governments would provide 50-100 acres of land free of cost.

“The project shall start next financial year with setting up of 5-10 IIITs depending upon the response of the states and private partners. Each institute will meet its operating expenditure on its own within 5 years of commencement out of students fees, research and other internal accruals,” an official statement said.

Each IIIT is meant to specialise in application of IT skills in one or more domain areas. The governing board of the institute will be empowered in the matters relating to student intake, fee structure, faculty and non-faculty salaries, creation of faculty and non faculty positions besides recruitment norms among others.

**Pioneer ND**  
**08/12/2010 P6**

## **Science meet starts at IIIT-A today**

**PNS ■ ALLAHABAD**

**T**he Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) and Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, Science & Technology will organise the third Science Conclave-2010, from Wednesday to December 14 on the IIIT-A campus.

This was revealed by IIIT-A director MD Tiwari at a Press conference.

During the conclave, Nobel Laureates will interact with the faculty and students from different institutions from all over India. Leading exponents will perform during cultural evenings.

The objective of the conclave is to arrest regressive trends in the studies of general sciences and to provide encouragement to students and researchers to take up subjects like physics, chemistry, zoology, botany, biochemistry, mathematics and engineering.

Telegraph Kolkata .07.12.10 p-4

# India, France seal IIT plan

**BASANT KUMAR  
MOHANTY**

**New Delhi, Dec. 6:** India and France today agreed to collaborate in setting up a centre of excellence at IIT Rajasthan, hours after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Nicolas Sarkozy had discussed the proposal at last night's dinner.

France will also help set up a joint laboratory at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, as part of efforts to increase cooperation in education and research.

Singh himself told reporters about the agreement on IIT Rajasthan, which recently began functioning from a temporary campus in Jodhpur, at a joint news conference with Sarkozy.

A French consortium will help the IIT set up the centre, which will work on technologies for health, renewable energy (especially solar energy), aerospace, mechanical engineering and technologies for art, conservation and heritage. The consortium is made up by French universities and other higher education and research institutions.

Also, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed for joint research and student exchange between in-

stitutions under ParisTech (which has some of the best French engineering and business schools) and the seven older IITs.

The ParisTech institutions include AgroParisTech, Arts et Métiers ParisTech, Chimie ParisTech, Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, Ecole Polytechnique and Telecom ParisTech.

Another memorandum was signed to set up an "International Joint Laboratory" at the IISc, Bangalore, with the help of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France.

The French minister for higher education and research, Valerie Pecresse, met human resource development minister Kapil Sibal and discussed areas of cooperation.

Pecresse has already said her country aims to triple the number of Indian students studying at French universities by 2012. About 1,700 Indian students now study in France. The number of French students in India has remained below 100 for the past several years.

"France and India call for an increase in bilateral student exchanges and pledge to facilitate the academic stays of French students in India and Indian students in France," a joint statement said.

Telegraph Kolkata 07.12.10 p-6

# Sibal prods states on IIT land transfers

**BASANT KUMAR  
MOHANTY**

**New Delhi, Dec. 6:** With four of the eight new IITs yet to get land to build their campuses, the Centre today asked the states concerned to speed up the process.

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal asked the education secretaries and other senior officials of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan to transfer the land and provide the sites with electricity, water and roads.

All the eight new IITs started in the past two years are functioning from temporary campuses, but land acquisition and campus construction

have begun for the institutes in Ropar, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Patna.

The Gujarat government has identified 400 acres for the Gandhinagar institute but of this, 200 acres belong to the Union agriculture ministry, which is reluctant to hand over this land.

Sibal has asked state officials to sort out the issue with the agriculture ministry or provide land at an alternative site, sources said.

The Madhya Pradesh government has allotted 500 acres for IIT Indore but of this, nearly 200 acres is forestland. Since this land cannot be used for the institute without its status being changed, the state government has written to the en-

vironment and forest ministry.

In Himachal, too, the 370 acres proposed for IIT Mandi are forestland, and the state has approached the environment and forest ministry.

Although Rajasthan has identified 900 acres in Jodhpur for its IIT, the land has not been transferred to the institute. Sibal has asked the state to transfer the land by the end of this month and ensure adequate electricity and water supply.

Sibal had held a meeting of the directors of the new IITs in September where the issue of land acquisition came up. All the new IITs have been asked to have their campuses ready by 2014.

Telegraph Kolkata 07.12.10 p-15

# IITs must help tech institutes & advise state govts

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

**Bangalore:** There's some hope for burgeoning technical institutions and engineering colleges often accused of churning out graduates not ready for industry. The Indian Institutes of Technology have been mandated with handholding them through a quality upgrade.

The four-decade-old Institutes of Technology Act is being amended to give IITs additional duties of supporting and collaborating with technical education institutions and advising state governments on technological problems in their zones.

The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2010

makes it mandatory for the 15 IITs — including eight new ones set up in 2008 — to provide training, facilitate study visits, share laboratory and other resources with nearby technical institutions. States, unsure how to use technology to better governance and administration, can now bank on their expertise.

Despite a green signal by the Council of IITs, the parliamentary standing committee on human resource development, recommended that making collaboration and assisting technical institutions and governments should not be made mandatory. In its report submitted last month, the committee which also has Rahul Gandhi, Kanimozhi

## NEW ROLE

● Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2010 adds eight new IITs in Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar

● The Bill also integrates Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, within the ambit. All will be declared institutions of national importance

● Bill allows central government to notify zones in the country. Each institute has a duty to support and collaborate with technical education institutions that fall in respective to enhance their quality

● They will also advise state government and Union Territory in technical education in their zone



and Suresh Kalmadi as members, stated that issues of resources, capacity and faculty at IITs should be addressed

first and "technical education institutions themselves should also have the vision to deal with the new demands of

the society and the industry".

The committee, headed by Rajya Sabha MP Oscar Fernandes, relied heavily on reservations expressed by the finance ministry which pointed out that these new clauses placed an obligation on the IITs to strive to meet technological needs of states. "Not only this, the new clauses would considerably constrain the autonomy of these institutes by making the duty mandatory and forcing the institutes to undertake activities for which they may not be having the capacity," states the report. HRD ministry will take a call on accommodating these recommendations.

Curiously, it was the IIT Council which had suggested the new role for the IITs. "Col-

laborating and advising technical institutes and government is part of our mandate. It is in this spirit that an amendment is being introduced. However, we have to acknowledge resource and faculty crunch at all existing and newer IITs," Sanjay Dhande, director, IIT-Kanpur, told TOL.

The amendment will also greatly alter the boundaries of IIT zones. Currently, the older seven IITs span the entire country. With the inclusion of eight IITs, the boundaries will be redrawn. Except for IIT Guwahati, the number of states/ Union Territories under existing IITs will be reduced. Now, the IITs in Mumbai and Chennai have jurisdiction over Karnataka.

Times of India Chennai 07.12.10 p-5

# Germany to fund IIT research centre

## ₹22Cr A Year For Four Years For Study On Energy, Water, Land Use & Waste Mgmt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** An Indo-German centre for sustainability called 'The Passage to India', which will get a funding of about ₹22 crore per year for four years from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), will be built at IIT-Madras.

The foundation stone for the centre, which should be ready in a year, was laid on Monday. The key areas of research at the centre will be energy, water, land use and waste management, according to Raffig Azzam, its coordinator.

"Minister of science and technology Kapil Sibal has expressed his interest to fund a similar initiative called 'A Passage to Germany' and said that

Minister of science and technology Kapil Sibal has expressed his interest to fund a similar initiative called 'A Passage to Germany' and said a matching grant would be provided to the centre by the government

**M S Ananth** | DIRECTOR, IIT-MADRAS



a matching grant would be provided to the centre by the government," said Dr M S Ananth, director of IIT-Madras. He also said the proposal to construct the centre was finalised in 2008 when the German minister for science and technology visited the campus.

Speaking about the need for such a centre for sustainability, Thomas Rachel, parliamentary state secretary of the federal ministry of education and research, Germany, said that while the energy needs of the world were increasing, there was also growing con-

cern about the rise in greenhouse gases emission. "It is important for India and Germany to take up research on sustainability and we hope to reduce our emissions by 40% in 2020 and 80% in 2050. A new energy policy has been presented for this," he said.

Experts at the inauguration also said that by 2020, Asian countries would face severe water shortage, leading to desertification and contamination of ground water. "The centre for sustainability will adopt an inter-disciplinary approach to address these issues," said Raffig.

Renowned agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan said that a patent bank should be started which would buy

patented technological innovations and make it available for researchers.

Stressing on the importance of addressing the issue of climate changes, Hans-Burkhardt Sauerteig, Germany's consul general in Chennai, said it was vital for premier institutions to cooperate with each other and tackle the looming issues such as depletion of non-renewable resources and threat to natural biodiversity.

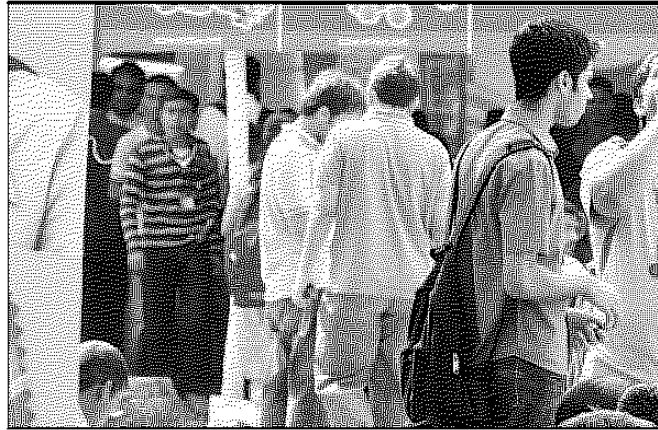
Plans were also on to develop courses for both Indian and German students and these courses would help improve the level of science students said Max Huber, vice-president of DAAD.

timeschennai@timesgroup.com

Times of India Ahmedabad

07.12.10 p-4

# Guj students make presence felt at IIT-B's Techfest



File photo of the IIT Bombay's Techfest held in January this year

**Dayananda Meitei | TNN**

**Ahmedabad:** Shruti Kulkarni of SVNIT in Surat took part in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay's annual international science and technology festival called Techfest in January. Though she did not bag a prize in the competition, she had reason to come back smiling. "The event was not only a fun-filled time, but it was also an opportunity to meet students from other parts of the country and abroad and understand more about the field," said Kulkarni.

She is one of thousands of students from Gujarat who take part in Techfest each year, making the participation from Gujarat the second highest. Only Maharashtra is ahead of Gujarat.

With a promising rise in registrations from the state this time as well, the upcoming edition of event, Techfest 2011 to be held between January 7 and 9, is once again expecting high participation from Gujarat. Media coordinator of the festival, Ronnie Philip said, "The registration process is on at present but looking at the trend, it seems Gujarat will take the number two position this time as well."

IIT Bombay student and media and marketing manager of Techfest 2011 Neeraj Kookada said, "Till now we have received around 55,000 registrations in the competition events and workshops. Of these, around 10,000 registrations are from Gujarat." While 3,148 students from Gujarat took part in Techfest 2009, the number rose 3,876 out of a total of around 20,000 in 2010.

Some of the institutes from Gujarat that are sending students for the event in large numbers in 2010 include SVNIT, Surat, and MS University Vadodara, which are both sending 800 students each. Nirma Institute of Technology in Ahmedabad and DAICT in Gandhinagar will both see nearly 700 students participating in the event.