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Dainik Jagran ND
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बिना केमिकल के पानी साफ करने की तकनीक विकसित

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : अशुद्ध जल को शुद्ध करने के लिए जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी), दिल्ली के साथ मिलकर एक नई तकनीक विकसित की है।

इसके तहत अब इंडस्ट्री से निकलने वाले अशुद्ध जल को शुद्ध करने के लिए केमिकल के इस्तेमाल की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। इस प्रयास में स्टील अर्थॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड भी उक्त दोनों शिक्षण संस्थानों के साथ भागीदार रही है। जामिया के प्रवक्ता मुकेश रंजन के अनुसार गंदे पानी को शुद्ध करने की दिशा में विकसित की गई इस तकनीक में केमिकल के इस्तेमाल से परहेज किया गया है।

जामिया की ओर से इस प्रोजेक्ट में सिविल इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट भागीदार है। तकनीक की बात करें तो ये मिक्सड माइक्रोबाइल कोनसोरटियम है। इस बॉयोलॉजिकल टेक्नोलॉजी के जरिये स्टील प्लांट व इसी तरह के अन्य बड़ी औद्योगिक इकाइयों से निकलने वाले प्रदूषित जल को बिना किसी केमिकल के प्रयोग किए ही शुद्ध किया जा सकता है।

इस तकनीक का स्टील अर्थॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा इस्तेमाल भी शुरू कर दिया गया है।

Screening of film on Kashmir triggers row in IIT-Delhi

http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/screening-of-film-on-kashmir-triggers-row-in-iit-delhi/209114.html

Even as attempts were made to downplay the exchange of mails between the authorities in the IIT, what has upset the centre is the reaction the film has evoked in some students who were not present for the screening and their attempt to disrupt it.

For the last six months, research scholars associated with the Centre of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D), watched films, a routine event on weekends at 5 p.m., which was followed inevitably by discussions, sometimes in the presence of the director.

A process, the faculty and students looked forward to. On January 29, when the Film Society, brainchild of the centre, screened Iffat Fatima's KhoonDiyBaarav (On a Trail of Vanished Blood), a film on Kashmir, not only were the proceedings disrupted, the viewers were asked to explain whether the screening was tantamount to being "anti-national."

When the film was screened on January 29, a couple of students from the Applied Mechanics department sought to disrupt the screening, calling it anti-national. These students wrote to the officiating director, Professor K. Thyagarajan, who has forwarded the mail to the centre, seeking a detailed discussion from the department for screening the film.

Even as attempts were made to downplay the exchange of mails between the authorities in the IIT, what has upset the centre is the reaction the film has evoked in some students who were not present for the screening and their attempt to disrupt it.

"There was a heated exchange between those who watched and those who protested the screening," said those who watched the film. The Film Society was meant to encourage students' engagement with meaningful cinema. The head of the centre, Ravinder Kaur, said: "We should have the freedom to discuss a whole range of opinions, and centres such as IITs, should retain the right to discuss sensitive issues that cinema often raises in its audience."

Kaur said she was hopeful the centre would continue to show cinema to its students. It is also learnt that the centre will be discussing the matter with Thyagarajan on Wednesday.

While sources in the department said those students who disrupted the screening had complained to the director, and not those whose viewing was marred by the act, the behaviour of the disruptive students was unacceptable.

The society which is six-months-old, showcases contemporary, meaningful cinema often resulting in lengthy discussions. Thyagarajan was unavailable for comments though an email was sent to him.

IIT Delhi has been in the news for high-profile visits of Baba Ramdev, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the Brahmakumaris in the recent past.

Meeting of IIT Chiefs in Hyderabad to Decide fate of JEE

http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/meeting-of-iit-chiefs-in-hyderabad-to-decide-fate-of-jee-1455105713-1

In the third week of February a meeting consisting of all the directors of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) will take place in Hyderabad to decide the fate of JEE for admission in IITs and NITs in the country. The JEE has been planned to get replaced by a National level aptitude test by the centre, which will more be in the lines of SAT examination taken up in US.

If the new aptitude test model gets an approval through the meeting, the examination now can see a paper of English. The plan is to introduce the national aptitude test for JEE admissions from the academic session 2017-18. This step is believed to take down the number of qualified candidates to take up the JEE Advanced examination and filter good candidates from the heap.

Presently for the admission in prestigious engineering institutes like IITs and NITs, the candidates need to undergo JEE (Mains) and JEE (Advanced) examinations. The two stage examination is proposed by IITs to remain the same for IIT admissions but replacing the first state of the JEE (Mains) with National Aptitude Test. The second stage of selection would continue to be JEE (Advanced), as it is presently.

The IIT Directors are planning to include English as additional subject in the aptitude test as most of the students coming from non-English medium backgrounds face a lot of difficulties while going through the courses at IIT, due to the fact that the medium of instruction is in English. At the screening level they want to test the English language proficiency of the candidates to make life easier for them.

ABVP takes 'anti-national' fight to JNU

Basant Kumar Mohanty

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160211/jsp/nation/story_68685.jsp#.Vrwe8HqlhWU

New Delhi, Feb. 10: The Sangh student wing ABVP has demanded the expulsion of a group of Jawaharlal Nehru University students who organised a march against Afzal Guru's hanging, condemning them as "anti-national" - the same tag it had used to secure the suspension of Rohith Vemula.

The ABVP today declared it would seek human resource development minister Smriti Irani's intervention to ensure action is taken. It also held a protest in front of the office of vice-chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar and later met him to press for immediate expulsion.

Kumar said the varsity's proctorial committee would probe the matter. "The organisers have certainly committed indiscipline," he added.

A small group of students - their number was put at 30-40 by some and around 150 by others - had marched about 1km from Sabarmati Hostel to Ganga Dhaba on the campus yesterday, shouting slogans against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru three years ago. The students, many of whom were former members of the Democratic Students' Union, took out the procession although they had been denied permission.

ABVP students tried to stop them, leading to a scuffle.

Saurav Sharma, ABVP leader and joint secretary of JNU Students Union, alleged he was attacked. Six FIRs have been lodged against Umar Khalid, the organiser of the march, and several other students who participated in it.

At the University of Hyderabad, the ABVP had declared Rohith and four other Dalit students "anti-national" because they opposed the hanging of Yakub Memon for his role in the Bombay blasts. The union had also alleged that the Dalit students had assaulted an ABVP member. The Union HRD ministry sent repeated reminders to the university to act against the five. Rohith committed suicide last month, weeks after he was suspended.

Professor C.P. Bhambri, a former JNU teacher, said the ABVP was behaving like the "protector" of the nation.

"This incident could have been dismissed as just a trivial thing. There are people like these DSU groups in every democratic society. People express their feeling in a wrong manner to be noticed and generate controversy. They should be ignored with the contempt they deserve," Bhambri said.

"The ABVP is asserting itself as a guardian or protector of the nation. They are taking this issue too far. They know the new vice-chancellor has come and the government at the Centre is led by the BJP," he said.

HRD ministry spokesperson Ghanshyam Goel dismissed this as baseless. "There is no truth in these allegations that the government is supporting ABVP," Goel said.

A similar march was held on the campus last year too. Then, the organisers had been fined Rs 5,000 each.

Registrar Bhupinder Zutshi, however, appeared to agree with the ABVP that the march was "anti-national". "How can you talk about disintegration of the country? Is it national?" Zutshi said.

Complaints of "anti-national activities" have been made to the HRD ministry from other campuses, including IIT Madras, IIT Delhi and Aligarh Muslim University. At IIT Delhi, the screening of Iffat Fatima's film on Kashmir, *Khoon Diy Baarav*, on January 29 was disrupted on the grounds that it was "anti-national".

Supreme Court lawyer K.V. Dhananjay, who is an expert on constitutional issues, said the slogans criticising Afzal Guru's conviction should be scrutinised to see if the students were saying he was wrongfully convicted or whether they were justifying his role in the Parliament attack.

"Anybody can disagree with a court judgment with justification. If they say the conviction was wrong, they must justify why. In case they do not, their action is an offence," Dhananjay said.

He said demanding division of the country can be treated as "anti-national" under the Indian Penal Code. Some slogans had included a call for " *azaadi* (freedom)". Counter-slogans by the ABVP included a threat to spill blood.

Chinmay Mahanand, the leader of Birsa Ambedkar Phule Students' Association (BAPSA) which took part in the march, distanced itself from the sloganeering.

"Some students were shouting those slogans. We participated in the march since we are against death sentence. The ABVP is targeting us as we are demanding justice for Rohith Vemula," Mahanand, an accused in the yesterday case, said.

Economic Times ND 11/02/2016   **P-06**

When Being Nerdy is Fashionable

Very few entrepreneurs in the Indian startup ecosystem have scaled like this IIT-K graduate

ET PROFILE

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Bengaluru: The popular perception of computer science engineers is that they are nerds, interested in academics, and Mukesh Bansal was no exception. That is, until he was bitten by the startup bug. But the transformation into a fashionista would come later, after he built and sold one of the country's most recognised fashion portals—Myntra—to Flipkart.

"My closet is probably ten times bigger than what it was three to four years ago. I have taken a lot of inputs from stylists," says the dapper 40-year old who graduated from IIT-Kanpur in 1997. The bookish bent of mind though still remains. He reads at least one book every week, most often on his Kindle.

It is this quality of immersing himself in the details even as he drives a growing business, which has catapulted Bansal to the highest echelons of India's startup industry. After the acquisition of Myntra in 2014, Bansal has helmed the core online commerce business for Flipkart.

He began work as a software engineer, working first for consulting firm Deloitte and then a series of startups in Silicon Valley. This track record, clearly helped as he returned to India and launched Myntra in Bengaluru in 2007.

"The key highs that I remember are when we transitioned from personalisation to fashion lifestyle. In some ways it was pretty much killing the business we built over four years and starting afresh," says Bansal.

Investors who backed him, rate this pivot as one of his biggest successes. "He executed it to perfection,' said Sudhir Sethi, founder of technology investment firm IDG Ventures who backed Myntra in 2008.

"There are very few entrepreneurs who have scaled like Mukesh has," says Sethi pointing to the rapid rise in Myntra's revenues from an estimated ₹1.4 crore in 2008 to selling goods worth about $100 million by 2014, when it was acquired by Flipkart.

"Very few entrepreneurs have scaled like he has," says Sethi."

A fitness freak who is up at 5 am for a work-out, Bansal has decided to step away from his post as the head of commerce and advertising at Flipkart to strike out independently.

He plans to take a break for a few months, and "take the kids to the Olympics," and will ultimately "startup again."

""I love building businesses from scratch and that's what I will focus on. Right now I don't have a business plan in mind but I will start thinking about it post my transition is complete," he told **ET**.

He won't have to look too far for backers clearly. One of the earliest investors in his fashion portal said he would invest "1,000%" in Bansal's new venture.

THE BANSAL TRIO: Mukesh Bansal with Sachin Bansal (right) & Binny Bansal (left) on the day Flipkart acquired Myntra – N Narasimha Murthy

Business Line ND 11/02/2016   P-05

Higher salaries and better offers bring back cheer to B-schools

Hiring in manufacturing also sees a boost

CHETNA MEHRA

New Delhi, February 10

With B-schools witnessing a robust round of placements this year, it seems that once again the MBA degree is the top choice for students wishing to pursue higher education. Salaries offered during the placement process at many B-schools have risen by more than 20 per cent this year and the recruitments (many of them high-paying) wrapped up in 3-5 days, despite large batch sizes.

The average domestic salary at Delhi-based Indian Institute of Foreign Trade was up 24 per cent, while the highest salary offered for the batch of 254 students was over ₹1 crore ($150,000) for an international role.

"Economic indicators and GDP growth rate paint a very optimistic view about opportunities in India. Corporates are now hiring in large numbers from B-schools," said AF Mathew, Chairperson, Placements at IIM Kozhikode. At ₹17.1 lakh, the average domestic offer grew 12 per cent in 2016. The highest domestic package was ₹37 lakh.

E-commerce hiring spree

Though most start-ups refrained from hiring big, many established e-commerce players, such as Amazon and Uber, hired in large numbers from IMT Ghaziabad.

"E-commerce hiring grew by nearly 28 per cent, one of the largest growth figures in any sector this placement cycle," said Vishal Goyal, Group Head-Corporate Relations, IMT Ghaziabad and Dubai. The salary range offered is ₹8 lakh to ₹13.5 lakh.

Hiring up in manufacturing

Another trend in the making is a boost in hiring from the manufacturing sector. Offers from the sector at Delhi-based IMI increased by 33 per cent this year.

Among those companies that recruited for manufacturing roles were General Motors and Hero MotoCorp, said Manaswini Acharya, Professor of Marketing & Dean (Placements & Corporate Relations) at IMI-New Delhi.

"Considering the trend of multiple offers, students have been asked not to accept offers of less than ₹7 lakh, but wait for a better opportunity," a statement by Delhi-based FORE School of Management said.

Newer IIMs that were struggling with placements have also bounced back this year, with better offers extended to students.

The average salary at IIM-Rohtak, for instance, grew by 12.5 per cent this year, at ₹11.78 lakh.

With IIM Ahmedabad gearing up for its cluster cohort placement process, the numbers are only going to get better. Cluster 1 will start from February 13 while clusters 2, 3 and 4 are scheduled on February 16, 19 and 21 respectively.

Big catch in MBBS admission racket

Gang Promised Entry For Fee Of ₹15L-₹60L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police announced on Wednesday the arrest of a key member of a gang running a medical studies racket in which aspirants were falsely promised admission to MBBS courses under the management quota of any institution in India for a fee of Rs 15-60 lakh.

The man who was arrested a few days ago has been identified as Sandeep Gupta, a 30-year-old resident of Vasundhra in UP. The crime branch is now looking for his associates, among them doctors, MBAs and engineers. Several arrests are likely this week.

Apart from the alleged kingpins, two men named Ankush and Rohit, the names of others revealed by Gupta include Abhishek Patel alias Varun Kelker and Amit Sinha (both BTech graduates), Bhaskar (a BAMS student), Imran Khan and Birender Kumar (MBAs) and Ashok Rawat.

Gupta had twice been arrested on similar charges, in May last year by the Dehradun police and a year earlier by the Varanasi police.

JCP (crime) Ravindra Yadav said Gupta's arrest had exposed just the tip of the iceberg. "Several cases have come to our knowledge of students being duped of lakhs of rupees. Police stations have been informed about Gupta's arrest," said Yadav.

Yadav said interrogation had revealed that the gang fished out data of medical college aspirants who had failed to clear entrance exams and con-

tacted them. They would then convince the parents that a seat under the management quota could be arranged for the youngsters. "The clients would be taken to a medical college of their choice, where a gang member would impersonate a college official to win their confidence," Yadav said. "They also got the aspirants to fill up a hostel form. Later a fake confirmation letter for admission would be issued on forged letter pads."

The crime branch began investigating the case when Arvind Tiwari lodged a complaint at Moti Nagar police sta-

tion in west Delhi. Tiwari said that Gupta offered to secure admission for his daughter in the Agra Medical College on a government nominee seat for Rs 15 lakh. However, he did not deliver on the promise despite taking the money.

"During investigation, the police found that the same module had duped one Vinod Magotra from Paschim Vihar area of Rs 30 lakh after telling him they would get his son admitted to the RRMCH Medical College in Bengaluru. The police there had been probing this case too," DCP (crime) Bhisham Singh said.

THE HIT LIST

PEOPLE DUPED BY THE GANG

₹ 30 lakh
Vinod Magotra from Delhi

₹ 15 lakh
Arvind Tiwari | DELHI

₹ 20 lakh
Mahender | BIKANER

₹ 20 lakh
Harish Gupta | MUMBAI

₹ 8 lakh
Sopoun Jyoti Sharma | ASSAM

₹ 4 lakh
Kishan Pal from Rewari | HARYANA

₹ 1.27 lakh
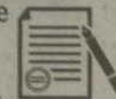Ashu Latther from Jind | HARYANA

Dos and Dont's

- Don't fall prey to mass messages with subjects like "DM-Admission" etc

- Always contact the college for admission in management quota

- If you avail a facilitation firm's services, make payment only after the admission is secured. Verify the legality of admission before making payment. Make payments through cheque or draft

- When you notice any delay from the other party, get police help

- Have evidence like call recordings and photographs of meetings to help in case of crisis

How IIT-K Designed Bio-Toilets Will Compost Waste, Save Water & Keep Ganga Clean at Magh Mela

http://www.thebetterindia.com/45690/iit-kanpur-magh-mela-bio-toilet/

During the ongoing Magh Mela, an important Hindu festival on the banks of the Sangam, thousands of devotees have gathered in Allahabad. This is also a time when the Ganga is at risk of becoming highly polluted. The Health Department has set up as many 10,000 toilets in the area. Meanwhile, IIT Kanpur, which has been providing bio-toilets in the area, has redeveloped it's green toilet – 'Triansh' – for the devotees.

Vinod Tare of IIT-Kanpur is the man behind this new and improved toilet. As many as 108 such toilets have been installed in the Magh Mela area.

In this model, the toilet pan separates urine, faecal matter and the water used for cleaning, at the source itself.

Photo source: Facebook

"Also known as zero discharge toilet system, these toilets ensure the saving of water and also prevent the Ganga from being polluted. Although such toilets have been installed at the Sangam for the past three years, this year, a new and an upgraded model of the toilet has been installed. The discharge of urine, solid waste and fresh water for personal cleaning is separated in three different chambers," Prof. Vinod told the *Times of India*.

The solid waste and urine collected during this period is later converted into organic fertilizer through the process of vermicompost. The water collected can be treated and then used for flushing.

"During occasions such as Magh Mela, we collect human sludge and manage it. After conclusion of the mela, we mix cow dung with human sludge and add an enzyme for vermicomposting. The compost cycle goes on for a period of 40 days, after which this sludge gets converted into organic manure," says Prof. Vinod.

HRD approves UGC proposal allowing govt run deemed varsities have more than 6 campus

http://www.igovernment.in/article/2016/02/10/hrd-approves-ugc-proposal-allowing-govt-run-deemed-varsities-have-more-6-campus

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI) The Union HRD ministry has approved a UGC proposal which allows government run deemed Universities to have more than six off-campus centres.

The move will benefit institutions like the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, which runs several off-campus centres.

Private deemed Universities, however would be permitted only a maximum of six campuses beyond approved geographical boundaries, HRD ministry officials said.

Several leading institutions including the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, Banasthali University (Rajasthan), Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBMI), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research are learnt to have been issued notices by the UGC over over issues related to their off-campus centres.

In another key development, the ministry has also approved a UGC proposal laying the criteria for appointment of Vice Chancellors.

Now a candidate to be appointed a Vice Chancellor of a deemed University should have a minimum ten years of experience as professor in University system or ten years of equivalent experience in a reputed research or academic organisation.

The details for composition of search and selection committees for selection have also been finalised.

"The Commission (UGC) had in a recent meeting approved these amendments in the UGC regulations for deemed institutions which have found concurrence of the ministry," a senior HRD ministry official said.

Campus Row: IIT-Madras drops clause barring political activity

http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/dalit-banned-rohith-vemula-campus-row-iit-madras-drops-clause-barring-political-activity/

A senior IIT Madras official said the new document, inserted along with three earlier ones, is being circulated in the wake of nationwide protests in educational institutions.

IIT Madras has removed a controversial clause barring "political activity" that was included in a recent circular. Certain clauses in the undertaking — which was to be signed by students, scholars and project associates among others — had triggered objections from students.

K Sethupathi, chairman of the Council of Wardens, sent a mail to students directing them to follow the revised circular on the institute's website. The excluded portion said: "I undertake not to indulge in any political activity within the campus of the institute as it is against the apolitical nature of the college." The portion now says: "I shall also not indulge in any activity that will adversely affect the image of the institute."

A senior IIT Madras official said the new document, inserted along with three earlier ones, is being circulated in the wake of nationwide protests in educational institutions.

Sethupathi had initially denied reports of insertion of the new rules, and termed it a mistake. After The Indian Express contacted him, Sethupathi sent the mail to students directing them to follow the revised document.

Read | Campus Row: IIT-Madras circular bars all 'political activities'

Many students asked what the "image" of the institution was, and what acts could be considered to affect it. "These are all very vague and arbitrary usages spoiling the liberal face of institutions like IIT Madras," a student said.

Protesting against alleged attempts to curtail their freedom, student groups in the IIT said the management was using "vague clauses that will be open to interpretation, and can be used against any student at any point to drive him/her out of the hostel, which is the last point in the undertaking".

The Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle, an independent students' body, has decided to file a petition before the management against the retained clause.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director of IIT Madras, said a mistake has been corrected. "Retaining the clause on protecting the image of the institution has no hidden agenda. If students have objections, we will definitely look at all the arguments," he said.

Supercomputer debuts, hope floats in NE

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160211/jsp/northeast/story_68630.jsp#.Vrwe-nqlhWU

A STAFF REPORTER

TECHNOLOGY BOOST

- A supercomputer has a high-level computational capacity, compared to a general-purpose computer
- C-DAC embarked on its first mission in 1988. Since then, it has delivered a series of supercomputing systems called Param
- Param Yuva II is the latest in the series of supercomputers by C-DAC
- C-DAC's compact affordable supercomputer Param Shavak was unveiled in December 2014

Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi speaks at Assam Engineering College in Guwahati on Wednesday.
Picture by UB Photos

Guwahati, Feb. 10: The Northeast got its first supercomputer, set up at Assam Engineering College here today.

Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi inaugurated the C-DAC & AEC Param Supercomputing Facility, a joint collaboration of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and the college.

The facility, set up at around Rs 60 lakh, will house the latest offering from C-DAC's labs, Param Shavak, which is in tabletop form (four in number) and considered one of the world's most compact supercomputers.

C-DAC is the premier research and development organisation of the Centre's department of electronics and information technology for carrying out research and development in IT, electronics and associated areas.

The supercomputing facility will begin operations with four units of the Param Shavak supercomputing system. Supercomputing experts from C-DAC had earlier visited the college to deliver and deploy the system. The system is meant for research organisations and academic institutions that are on the verge of adopting high-performing computing culture.

Param Shavak is specially designed to provide computational resource with advanced technologies to perform high-end computations for scientific, engineering and academic programmes to address and catalyse research, using modelling, simulation and data analysis. This initiative is expected to create a high-performing computing-aware skilled workforce and promote research by integrating leading-edge emerging technologies at the grassroots level.

C-DAC director-general Rajat Moona said supercomputing today has become the new paradigm for growth and development across the world. "We have always realised that the supercomputing scenario requires a uniform

ecosystem that fosters growth both on the systems and the users simultaneously. Only then can India's roadmap for supercomputing enter a more comprehensive state of realisation."

Moona said with the progress of technology, supercomputing, which had earlier been an elite technology, is now readily available for the common user, thereby multiplying its potential benefits without the high cost of investments that plagued its reach earlier.

"Param Shavak is an offspring of this thought process. It is our answer to break through the elitist tag of supercomputing. We believe that every technical institute that believes in progressive education will surely see the return of investment on these systems, and thereby partner with us in tapping their own potential for creating the perfect ecosystem."

C-DAC executive director Hemant Darbari said they were proud to be a partner with Assam Engineering College, which has produced many pioneers in several branches of engineering and technology. "We are happy that the college has chosen to raise the bar for technical education in the state by introducing supercomputing in their curriculum," he said. Moona said five more supercomputers are in the pipeline in the region at the NITs in Agartala, Silchar, Sikkim and Manipur, as well as IIT Guwahati.

Atul Bora, director of technical education, Assam, and college principal, said the supercomputer's resources would be available for Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology and Bineswar Brahma Engineering College. He said the government has allocated Rs 34 lakh for this purpose.

Four Indian-Americans selected to U.S. National Academy of Engineering

NAE is a non-profit institution that provides engineering leadership in service to the nation.

http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/four-indianamericans-selected-to-us-national-academy-of-engineering/article8219281.ece

Four Indian-Americans have been selected to the prestigious U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE) to be part of its new list of 80 members for their valuable contributions to the society.

Anil K. Jain, Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Ganesh Thakur and Dr. K.R. Sridhar were formally made part of the NAE during a ceremony at its annual meeting here, the academy announced in a statement on Tuesday.

Accomplishments

Mr. Jain, a distinguished professor in the department of computer science and engineering at the Michigan State University in East Lansing, was elected for his contributions to the field of engineering and practice of biometrics. An IIT-Kanpur alumnus, Mr. Jain's research focuses on pattern recognition, computer vision and biometric recognition.

Dr. Prabhakar, director of the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in Virginia, was chosen for national leadership to advance semiconductor and information technologies.

Beginning her career as a Congressional Fellow, Dr Prabhakar has also chaired the Efficiency and Renewables Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Mr. Thakur, who is the president of Thakur Services Inc. in Houston, Texas, was named a member for leadership in the implementation of integrated reservoir management techniques.

Dr. Sridhar, the principal co-founder and chief executive officer of Bloom Energy Corporation in California, was selected for the "contributions to transport phenomena and thermal packaging of electrochemical systems and generation of clean, reliable and affordable power".

Contributed to NASA Mars programme

Earlier, Dr. Sridhar was director of the Space Technologies Laboratory (STL) at the University of Arizona where he was also a professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering.

His contributions to the NASA Mars programme to convert Martian atmospheric gases to oxygen for propulsion and life support was recognised by *Fortune* magazine which cited him as "one of the top five futurists inventing tomorrow, today."

Along with the new members, the total US NAE membership has up to 2,275, selection to which is considered the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

Founded in 1964, the NAE is a non-profit institution that provides engineering leadership in service to the nation.