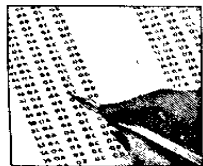# Newspaper Clips

February 10, 2012

Decan Herald ND 10.02.12 P-10

Makes sense

The new format of the entrance examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology and other government engineering colleges in the country have a welcome emphasis on the aptitude of candidates and the scholastic abilities represented by the marks in the qualifying examination. The common test will cover all the 15 IITs, 30 national institutes of technology, four Indian institutes of information technology and five Indian institutes of science education and research. It comes in place of the IIT joint entrance examination and the all India engineering entrance examination, and the plan, as announced by the government, will be implemented from 2013. It will have the advantage of reducing the number of tests students have to take for admission to the various engineering institutes. This helps them to save a lot of money and trouble in travelling to various centres of examination and to avoid much mental and physical stress.

The new format consists of a common aptitude-cum-advanced knowledge test which will have a weightage of 60 per cent and board examination results of Plus Two or equivalent examination which will account for 40 per cent of the total marks. An important criticism levelled against the IIT JEE is that it is biased in favour of students who are coached for years to appear for the test. It is not the creativity or aptitude of students that counts in the test but their ability to learn by rote. The decline in standards of education in the IITs and the quality of students who join them is attributed to this. The new system should help to reduce the influence of the coaching institutes which many students cannot afford. It is not known what weightage aptitude has got within the 60 per cent allotted to the aptitude-cum-knowledge segment. Ideally it should have more importance than knowledge because knowledge can be acquired by those who have the aptitude and ability to learn.

Since engineering entrance was separated from school board tests students tended to give scant attention to their studies in school. The new system will correct this but the variety in the school board syllabi across the country and varying standards of education might pose difficulties. It is necessary to have uniform syllabus and standards across school boards. This may not be difficult because the subjects involved are mathematics and science. If implemented well, the system should turn out to be better than the existing one.

Hindu ND 10.02.12 P-5

IIT Delhi student held for 'blackmailing' IIT Kanpur girl

KANPUR: A student from IIT Delhi was arrested from the college campus and brought here on Thursday for allegedly blackmailing an IIT Kanpur girl, the police said.

Surendra Bhukhiya, a third year student of textile engineering at IIT Delhi, was arrested for attempting to kidnap the girl and putting pressure on her to marry him, Circle Officer Shailendra Lal said.

The girl, a first year B.Tech. student of IIT Kanpur, had registered an FIR against Bhukhiya at the Kalyanpur police station on November 26 stating that the boy was threatening to misuse her pictures if she refused to marry him, Mr. Lal said.

The girl had lost her mobile phone and purse in November, which was found by Bhukhiya, who hails from Warangal in Andhra Pradesh, he said.

The accused asked her to meet him to return the phone and on this pretext, abducted her, the police officer said. Bhukhiya took her to a temple and tried to force her to marry him, but she managed to escape, he added.

Following the incident, Bhukhiya threatened to misuse her photographs obtained from her phone, and sent her vulgar messages over email, Facebook and phone, he said.

The girl tried to reason with him, but after all else failed, she registered an FIR, following which the accused was arrested from the IIT Delhi campus.

IIT Kanpur administration refused to comment on the matter saying the matter was being investigated by the police.

Further investigations are on in the matter, Mr. Lal said. - PTI

IIT-Delhi student arrested for blackmail

A THIRD-YEAR student at IIT-Delhi has been arrested on the charge of kidnapping and harassing a first-year student of IIT-Kanpur.

Surendra Bhukya, who was arrested from the IIT-Delhi campus, was taken to Kanpur and produced before a city court on Thursday. He will remain in judicial custody for 14 days.

It is alleged that Bhukya, a student of textile engineering, had been harassing a girl from IIT-Kanpur, blackmailing her to marry him. She registered a case at Kalyanpur police station in Kanpur on November 25.

Kanpur Additional SP (Rural) Arun Kumar Pandey said Bhukya was arrested after they collected evidence that he had been sending obscene and threatening messages to the girl.

In her complaint, the girl said Bhukya had morphed her photos and threatened to upload them on social networking websites if she refused to marry him. The case was filed on November 25.

Police said the two knew each other for a few months before he began harassing her.

The girl told police that she had lost her handbag and cellphone a few months ago. These were later found by Bhukya, who asked her to meet him in Delhi and collect her belongings.

Police said when she went to meet Bhukya, he abducted her and took her to a temple where he attempted to forcibly marry her, but she escaped, Kanpur police said. The girl said Bhukya then threatened to misuse her photos.

Shashi Mathur, Dean of Students at IIT-Delhi, told *Newsline*, "Kanpur police approached the institute with an arrest warrant against the student. They told us that a girl had filed a case against him in Kanpur, reportedly stating that he had troubled her. There could also have been a family dispute as the two hail from the same town in Andhra Pradesh, but I am not sure what the problem was."

IIT dirty pix: Boy held on girl's plaint

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kanpur: The Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday arrested an IIT-Delhi student for allegedly blackmailing an IIT-Kanpur student and threatening to upload her obscene videos and pictures on internet if she does not marry him.

Surendra Bukhiya, a BTech student, was arrested from Delhi's IIT campus three months after the IIT-Kanpur student had lodged an FIR against him. The police had registered a case against him on November 25 last year.

The girl told the cops that Surendra has been torturing her mentally with his threats. She said she had lost her cellphone and ATM card on November 7. After that, she got calls from the boy, who forced her to marry him. When she refused, he began sending vulgar messages. The girl had also mentioned in her FIR that Surendra had "abducted" her

and that she "freed" herself. She said Surendra had come to IIT-Kanpur from where he took her to an Arya Samaj temple in the city and asked to marry him.

Sources said Surendra told that police that the girl had been in a relationship with him and that they had met during a cultural fest at IIT-Kanpur. He said charges against him were baseless and that he never blackmailed her. Surendra said the cellphone which the girl had lost contained "objectionable material" and denied having forced her to marry him.

Surendra said the girl had dumped him after committing to marry him to which he had objected. The boy said that he belongs to a poor family and had been framed.

A police officer said the two, from Andhra, had known each other and the girl had broken off with the boy and he was harassing her over it.

Hindustan Times, ND 10/02/2012

P-3

IIT-Delhi student held

KANPUR: After two-and-a-half-months long investigation, Kanpur police arrested IIT-Delhi B Tech final year student Bhukayah Surendra (20) from his college on Wednesday.

Surendra was arrested for attempted kidnap of an IIT-Kanpur B Tech first year student Suchita Sadavat (name changed) to compel her for marriage, intentional insult and criminal intimidation. He was also charged under the Information Technology Act.

Surendra was brought to Kanpur on Thursday and produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate-II court from where he was sent to jail.

On November 25, 2011, Sadavat had lodged an FIR at Kalyanpur police station, stating that Surendra, a resident of Varangal, AP, had abducted her from IIT-K campus and taken her to an Arya Samaj temple to force her for marriage.

HTC

Asian Age ND 10/02/2012   p-5

IIT-DELHI STUDENT HELD FOR BLACKMAILING GIRL

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 9

An IIT-Delhi student was arrested here in the college campus for allegedly blackmailing a girl of IIT-Kanpur. The Kanpur police arrested the accused identified as Surendra Bhukhiya on Thursday. He was later taken to Kanpur for prosecution.

"Surendra Bhukhiya, a third year student of textile engineering at IIT-Delhi, was arrested for attempting to kidnap the girl and pressurising her to marry him," circle officer Shailendra Lal, Kanpur police, said.

The girl, a first year BTech student of IIT Kanpur, had registered an FIR against Bhukhiya in Kalyanpur police station on November 26.

Amar Ujala ND 10/02/2012   p-5

आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्र को जेल भेजा

कानपुर। आईआईटी कानपुर में बीटेक प्रथम वर्ष की की छात्रा को ब्लैकमेल करने के आरोप में कल्याणपुर पुलिस ने दिल्ली में आईआईटी बीटेक तृतीय वर्ष के छात्र सुरेंद्र भूक्या को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। उस पर छात्रा पर जबरन शादी का दबाव डालने, मना करने पर जान से मारने की धमकी देने, खराब फोटोग्राफ और वीडियो क्लिपइंटरनेट पर रिलीज करने का आरोप है। सुरेंद्र के खिलाफ आईटी एक्ट भी लगाया गया है। एसीएमएम-दो हरेंद्र बहादुर सिंह की कोर्ट में पेश करने के बाद गुरुवार शाम उसे जेल भेज दिया गया।

आईआईटी कानपुर की लड़की को धमकाने वाला आईआईटी दिल्ली का छात्र गिरफ्तार

कानपुर (एजेंसी) । आईआईटी, कानपुर की एक छात्रा को फेसबुक और मोबाइल पर अश्लील एसएमएस भेजने, जबरन शादी का दबाव डालने, धमकी देने तथा अपहरण का प्रयास करने के आरोप में कानपुर पुलिस ने आईआईटी, दिल्ली के एक छात्र को गिरफ्तार किया है। आईआईटी, कानपुर में बीटेक प्रथम वर्ष में पढ़ रही एक लड़की ने 26 नवम्बर को शहर के कल्याणपुर पुलिस थाने में आईआईटी, दिल्ली के टेक्सटाइल इंजीनियरिंग के तीसरे वर्ष के छात्र सुरेंद्र भूखिया (निवासी वारंगल, आंध्र प्रदेश) के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराई थी। प्राथमिकी में छात्र पर छेड़छाड़, फेसबुक, ईमेल और मोबाइल के जरिए अश्लील एसएमएस भेजने तथा अपहरण का प्रयास करने और जबरन शादी के लिए दबाव डालने तथा धमकी देने के आरोप लगाए गए थे।

इस मामले में कानपुर पुलिस की एक टीम ने बुधवार की शाम आईआईटी, दिल्ली परिसर से सुरेंद्र को गिरफ्तार किया और आज सुबह उसे कानपुर ले आई। सुरेंद्र को गिरफ्तार करने से पहले आईआईटी, दिल्ली के प्रशासन को सूचित कर दिया गया था। कल्याणपुर पुलिस थाने के सर्किल आफिसर शैलेंद्र लाल ने बताया कि आईआईटी, कानपुर की छात्रा जूली (बदला हुआ नाम) गर्ल्स हास्टल में रहती है । उसने 26 नवम्बर 2011 को प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराई थी कि सुरेंद्र के पास एक मोबाइल फोन में उसके कुछ फोटो और एसएमएस हैं। उसने धमकी दी है कि अगर वह उससे शादी नहीं करेगी तो वह उसके फोटो और एसएमएस सबको दिखा देगा तथा इंटरनेट पर डालकर उसे बदनाम कर देगा।

लाल के मुताबिक लड़की ने पुलिस को यह भी बताया था कि नवम्बर माह के पहले सप्ताह में उसका मोबाइल और पर्स खो गया था। बाद में उसके दूसरे मोबाइल पर फोन आया था कि उसका मोबाइल दिल्ली, आईआईटी के छात्र सुरेंद्र के पास है। लड़की ने पुलिस को बताया कि सुरेंद्र उससे मिलने नवम्बर के पहले सप्ताह में आईआईटी, कानपुर आया और उसने उसे आईआईटी गेट पर बुलाकर एक आटो में जबरन बैठा लिया था तथा उसे आर्यसमाज मंदिर ले गया। वहां उसने शादी करने के लिए जबरन दबाव डाला। लेकिन वह किसी तरह से बच कर वहां से भाग आई।

How free is the IIM

It has to negotiate between business and government

DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE

THE one-line summary of the clamour for autonomy of IIMs is this: leave the institutional leadership and affairs of the IIMs to IIMs themselves. This, like Sachin Tendulkar's hundredth hundred, seems so near yet so far in coming. Autonomy is a tightrope walk in which IIMs have to negotiate between two powerful gorillas on either side — business and government.

Leaders of for-profit businesses are not terribly shy to cast IIMs in their own image. The driving logic of commercial education is to fit the student to the job market like a nut to a bolt. Who cares if this runs at cross purposes with the mission of higher education, which is to help actualise human potential and to create social and intellectual capital? To apply a pure marketplace mentality to education is to defeat the very purpose of higher education. The market is merely a mechanism to sort out· the efficient from the inefficient. The market is blind to what's good and what's bad, what is ethical or what is socially desirable. It is the academic leader's duty to tell these businesses to simply mind their own business and leave the IIMs alone.

Here is a look at the other gorilla: the government. Several times in the past, the political priorities of the incumbent government and compulsions of bureaucracy have affected the location, governance and administration of the IIMs. Many IIMs are forced to locate themselves in remote geographies with the avowed aim of "developing the region". Based on market logic, locating a business school where the market is should be a pragmatic decision unclouded by constituency politics. Yet, there is always a method in our political leadership that only the divine can decode.

The unique capacities of government, business and academia should be mutually enriched rather than diminished by the haphazard setting-up of institutions of excellence such as the IIMs. All world-class institutions exist at the intersection of three forces: attractor for global academic talent, flow of funds and enlightened governance. The first of these is the work of the institutional academic leader, the second is the province of business and the third is the responsibility of the government. As long as each institution sticks to its core purpose, autonomy would be a non-issue.

Through a recent communication, the ministry of human resources development has communicated to IIM Kozhikode amendments in its Memorandum of Association and Rules. Here is a gist of the autonomy and accountability measures in IIMs as prescribed by the ministry:

The director of IIMs will be appointed by the chairperson of the board of governors of IIMs wherein the board will recommend to the Central government three names based on the findings of a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the board. From this list the Central government shall choose one person for appointment as director. IIMs will have some degree of operational autonomy to create faculty and non-faculty posts in the institute and to make such appointments as are necessary within the overall ratio of faculty to students and fac-· ulty to non-faculty as may be prescribed by the Central government. The chairperson of the IIM board would be appointed by the Central government from a panel of three names recommended by the board. The tenure of board members, except the chairman, director and faculty representatives, will be restricted to three years. A member of the society or board will cease to be a member if he or she fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the board with or without leave of absence.

While the appointing authority of the chairman of IIMs and directors still rests with the Central government, the appointment process itself and short-listing of names are passed on to the IIM board. A semblance of operational autonomy is allowed in the form of making contractual appointments and topping up salaries within the broad framework of government-prescribed rules and norms. If the expectation of autonomy was complete relinquishing of control of government from IIMs's functioning then such an expectation was too far-fetched.

Ideally, institutional autonomy should enable an IIM to do the following: Recruit and employ academic and administrative staff at its own discretion; recruit and appropriately remunerate faculty of global standards; determine its own academic programmes and content and open extension cam- puses anywhere it is feasible and desirable to do so; frame its unique criterion for students' admissions in accordance with institutional mission; raise funds from the market and non-governmental sources without compromising its independence; manage its own finances and budgets within the framework of the law of the land; have a board of directors that would help IIMs negotiate the paradox of being globally impactful, while negotiating local interests and sensitivities; and institutionalising succession planning for directors and academic leaders so that a leadership pipeline is created and transition traumas prevented. Thus, the quest for excellence within IIMs goes on unhindered by political interests so that parti-'san political wish does not become the IIM's command.

The flip side of autonomy of the IIMs is the question of accountability. To make IIMs accountable on the same parameters as world-class Ivy League schools is as impractical right now as measuring heart rate with a thermometer. For over 50 years, the IIM mandate was not to compete for talent globally but to produce quality managers for the nation. That is what we were accountable for. In a deep sense, autonomy and accountability are integral to each other. Our accountability is not only to external stakeholders but also to our internal integrity and excellence that has been the characteristic of the IIM's institutional culture so far. The key role of an IIM is the conceptualisation and creation of managers of the future and to create exceptional value for new generations. The primary purpose of the IIM's quest for autonomy is academic freedom and the power to direct its resources in a way that supports and sustains our vision for India's future.

> **The primary purpose of the IIM's quest for autonomy is academic freedom and the power to direct its resources in a way that supports and sustains our vision for India's future.**

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Economic Times ND 10/02/2012 P-6

IIM-S to Send Bureaucrats to China

BIKASH SINGH
GUWAHATI

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong is rolling out an advanced management programme for bureaucrats in the northeastern states in collaboration with Ocean University of China, from February 17 this year.

To begin with, nearly 20 bureaucrats from Meghalaya will be trained in China on the Chinese way of doing business. IIM plans to cover other states in a phased manner.

IIM-Shillong has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ocean University of China, and the five-day course will be conducted in the university's campus in Qingdao. The fee per participant is nearly Rs 2 lakh.

"We are also in talks with governments of other northeastern states for this course, and by next year, officials of these states will be taken for the course," IIM Shillong director Ashoke Dutta told ET.

The course will involve understanding Chinese business and its growth. "It will include a field visit. The economic transformation of China, state functioning and culture, besides operation of foreign direct investment and urban development will be the focus," says Dutta. The whole idea of this programme is to establish people-to-people contact and learn from Chinese experience, he adds. "China to wants greater engagement with India and Northeast India is a good platform to do so."

The Northeast's bilateral trade with its neighbour is dismal. During 2010-11, total export from the region was worth around Rs 861.14 crore. "China has emerged as an important trading partner of India and the European Union, and knowing China has become very important for us," he adds. As part of its Look East policy which came into existence a decade ago, India is making attempts to foster greater economic ties with Asian countries.

"Meghalaya is looking to become the launching pad of the Look East policy. This region has close proximity with the emerging economics of South East Asia," adds Dutta.

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The Tribune ND 10/02/2012   P-8

Chinese model of education

WHEN China captured the first position and India ranked second last among 73 countries in a two-hour PISA 2009 test to evaluate education systems worldwide, it presented a sorry state of education being provided in our schools.

Across the world, India is seen as an education powerhouse, based largely on the reputation of a few 'islands' of academic excellence such as the IITs. Scratch the glossy surface of our education system and the picture is full of imperfections.

Why is China at the top and India? We should take a leaf out of the Chinese book whose education system is a consistent blend of Confucian theories and modern concepts. China provides compulsory education to all children with special emphasis on vocational training and higher education.

In India, vocational education colleges and universities are in a shambles. There is no denying the fact that no country has transited from being poor and backward to being rich and developed without an education revolution.

We in India are busy boasting about our economic growth rate and geo-political rise, but have lost sight of the deep weakness of our society.

DILBAG RAI,
Chandigarh

DNA's tell-all tale

It has traditionally been believed that modern humans marched out of Africa about 50,000 years ago, but recent genetic analysis shows that modern humans encountered and bred with at least two groups of ancient humans in relatively recent times, the Neanderthals and a mysterious group known as the Denisovans, writes Alanna Mitchell

IT'S IN OUR DNA Studies suggest that modern humans need archaic DNA to survive.

The tip of a girl's 40,000-year-old pinky finger found in a cold Siberian cave, paired with faster and cheaper genetic sequencing technology, is helping scientists draw a surprisingly complex new picture of human origins. The new view is fast supplanting the traditional idea that modern humans triumphantly marched out of Africa about 50,000 years ago, replacing all other types that had gone before.
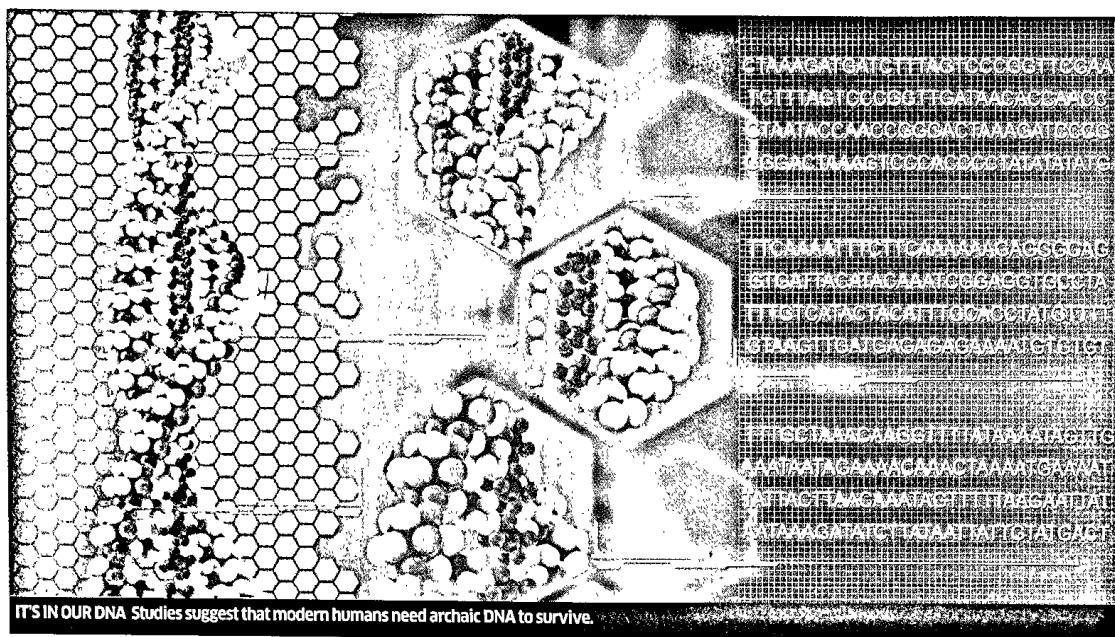
Instead, the genetic analysis shows modern humans encountered and bred with at least two groups of ancient humans in relatively recent times: the Neanderthals, who lived in Europe and Asia, dying out roughly 30,000 years ago, and a mysterious group known as the Denisovans, who lived in Asia and most likely vanished around the same time. Their DNA lives on in us even though they are extinct.

"In a sense, we are a hybrid species," Chris Stringer, a paleoanthropologist who is the research leader in human origins at the Natural History Museum in London, said in an interview. The Denisovans (pronounced dun-EE-suh-vinz) were first described a year ago in a groundbreaking paper in the journal *Nature* made possible by genetic sequencing of the girl's pinky bone and of an oddly shaped molar from a young adult. Those findings have unleashed a spate of new analyses.

A mix of two groups

Scientists are trying to envision the ancient couplings and their consequences: when and where they took place, how they happened, how many produced offspring and what effect the archaic genes have on humans today. Other scientists are trying to learn more about the Denisovans: who they were, where they lived and how they became extinct. A revolutionary increase in the speed and a decline in the cost of gene-sequencing technology have enabled scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, to map the genomes of both the Neanderthals and the Denisovans.

Comparing genomes, scientists concluded that today's humans outside Africa carry an average of 2.5 per cent Neanderthal DNA, and that people from parts of Oceania also carry about 5 per cent Denisovan DNA. A study published in November found that Southeast Asians carry about one per cent Denisovan DNA in addition to their Neanderthal genes. It is unclear whether Denisovans and Neanderthals also interbred. A third group of extinct humans, Homo floresiensis, nicknamed "the hobbits" because they were so small, also walked the earth until about 17,000 years ago. It is not known whether modern humans bred with them because the hot, humid climate of the Indonesian island of Flores, where their remains were found, impairs the preservation of DNA. This means that our modern era, since H. floresiensis died out, is the only time in the four-million-year human history that just one type of human has been alive, said David Reich, a geneticist at Harvard Medical School who was the lead author of the *Nature* paper on the Denisovans.

For many scientists, the epicentre of the emerging story on human origins is the Denisova cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia, where the girl's finger bone was discovered. It is the only known place on the planet where three types of humans – Denisovan, Neanderthal and modern – lived, probably not all at once.

Going back in time

John Hawks, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, whose lab is examining the archaic genomes, visited the cave in July. It has a high-arched roof like a Gothic cathedral and a chimney to the sky, he said, adding that being there was like walking in the footsteps of our ancestors. The cave has been open to the elements for a quarter of a million years and is rich with layers of sediments that may contain other surprises. Some of its chambers are unexplored, and excavators are still finding human remains that are not yet identified. The average temperature for a year, 32 degrees Fahrenheit, bodes well for the preservation of archaic DNA.

Could this cave have been one of the spots where the ancient mating took place?

Hawks said it was possible. But Reich and his team have determined through the patterns of archaic DNA replications that a small number of half-Neanderthal, half-modern human hybrids walked the earth between 46,000 and 67,000 years ago, he said in an interview.

The half-Denisovan, half-modern humans that contributed to our DNA were more recent. And Peter Parham, an immunologist at the Stanford University School of Medicine, has used an analysis of modern and ancient immune-system genetic components – alleles – to figure out that one of the Denisovan-modern couplings most likely took place in what is now southeastern China. He has also found some evidence that a Neanderthal-modern pair mated in west Asia. He stressed, however, that his study was just the first step in trying to reconstruct where the mating took place.

Parham's analysis, which shows that some archaic immune alleles are widespread among modern humans, concludes that as few as six couplings all those tens of thou-sands of years ago might have led to the current level of ancient immune alleles. Another paper, by Mathias Currat and Laurent Excoffier, two Swiss geneticists, suggests that breeding between Neanderthals and modern humans was rare. Otherwise, they say, modern humans would have far more Neanderthal DNA. Were they romantic couplings? More likely they were aggressive acts between competing human groups, Stringer said. For a model, he pointed to modern hunter-gatherer groups that display aggressive behaviour among tribes.

The value of the interbreeding shows up in the immune system, Parham's analysis suggests. The Neanderthals and Denisovans had lived in Europe and Asia for many thousands of years before modern humans showed up and had developed ways to fight the diseases there, he said in an interview. When modern humans mated with them, they got an injection of helpful genetic immune material, so useful that it remains in the genome today. This suggests that modern humans needed the archaic DNA to survive. The downside of archaic immune material is that it may be responsible for autoimmune diseases like diabetes, arthritis and multiple sclerosis, Parham said, stressing that these are preliminary results.

Although little is known about the Denisovans – the only remains so far are the pinky bone and the tooth, and there are no artifacts like tools – Reich and others suggest that they were once scattered widely across Asia, from the cold northern cave to the tropical south.

The evidence is that modern populations in Oceania, including aboriginal Australians, carry Denisovan genes. Reich and others suggest that the interbreeding that led to this phenomenon probably occurred in the south, rather than in Siberia. If so, the Denisovans were more widely dispersed than Neanderthals, and possibly more successful. But the questions of how many Denisovans there were and how they became extinct have yet to be answered. Right now, as Reich put it, they are "a genome in search of an archaeology."

NYT News Service

Decan Herald ND 10.02.12 P-4

Foreign students want slice of RTI pie

Like Indians, they wish to use Right to Information law to get answers from Delhi University

Sugandha Pathak

NEW DELHI: Foreign students at Delhi University feel that exclusion of foreigners from the Right to Information Act makes them helpless when they want to seek answers from DU authorities.

They think that an RTI application has a better chance of getting a meaningful reply – to issues ranging from tenure of a hostel warden to broken gym equipment – than a direct query to the administration. But unlike their Indian classmates, they don't have access to this tool.

According to deputy dean of foreign student affairs Veena Mishra, over 15,000 foreign students study in DU. In the last academic session, they came from 70 different countries, but most of them are from India's neighbourhood and Africa.

Discrepancies in facilities

Foreign students said they wish to get information through RTI on 'discrepencies' in hostel facilities, infrastructure of their departments and utilisation of the money they are paying as fees.

"At the International hostel for men, the gym has two dumb bells, and two broken exercising cycles. The computers are so old that it takes an hour for them to start," said a student from Iraq.

"Then, the hostel's internet is extrèmely slow, while the hostel next to us has decent speed. According to hostel rules computers cannot be replaced before eight years. I want to file an RTI asking exactly how old these computers are and about the internet speed since that's the only way for us to keep in touch with our families," he added.

The students are not allowed to get a different internet connection.

IRAQI STUDENT: Hostel rules suggest computers cannot be replaced before eight years. I want to file an RTI to know how old these computers are and about the internet speed

Foreign students said Indian students are reluctant to file RTIs about 'serious concerns' as they don't want to get into trouble with University authorities.

"There is so much going on in my department. We pay good amount of money as our fees but the infrastructure of my department is crumbling. When I asked an Indian student to file an RTI on my behalf, he was scared as the person's name and address will be on the form. Students don't want to risk it when it comes to their future," said Dai Sung Han from South Korea, pursuing his Masters in Buddhist Studies.

While there is no grievance redress cell for foreign students, Veena Mishra said every department has a counsellor and every hostel has officials to address their concerns.

"The students can directly approach us. If there are problems regarding college administration, we can help," she said.

There weren't many complaints and in no case was the matter so serious that the complainant's identity needed to be concealed.

But foreign students feel if they raise questions directly, the authorities might take offence and create problems for them in getting their degree.

"It is not that they don't listen to our problems and they do try to solve the minor issues. But we avoid discussing grave problems with them thinking that it may lead to trouble," said an hosteller from France.

He said everyone knew that the warden and the provost have a tenure of only two years, but it gets extended by years.

"Why? Can we ask these questions to the administration directly?" he said.

DH News Service

Business Line, ND 10/02/2012 P-24

Scientists crack satellite telephony security code

Indo-Asian News Service
London, Feb 9

Satellite telephony is believed to be impregnable and perfectly fool-proofed against eavesdropping. But, researchers now have cracked the encryption algorithms of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), which is used globally for satellite phones, and revealed significant weaknesses.

In less than an hour, and with simple equipment, scientists found the crypto key which is needed to intercept telephone conversations. Using open-source software and building on their previous research results, they were able to exploit the security weaknesses.

In some regions of the world, standard cell phone communication is still not available. In war zones, developing countries and on the high seas, satellite phones are used instead.

Here, the telephone is connected via radio directly to a satellite. This passes the incoming call to a station on the ground. From there, the call is fed into the public telephone network. So far this method, with the ETSI's encryption algorithms A5-GMR-1 and A5-GMR-2, was considered secure.

For their project, the interdisciplinary group of researchers from the Horst G Institute for IT-Security at the Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), Germany, used commercially available equipment, and randomly selected two widely used satellite phones.

A simple firmware update was then loaded from the provider's Web site for each phone and the encryption mechanism reconstructed, according to a university statement.

Based on the analysis, the encryption of the GMR-1 standard demonstrated similarities to the one used in GSM, the most common mobile phone system.

"Since the GSM cipher had already been cracked, we were able to adopt the method and use it for our attack," explained Benedikt Driessen, from the Embedded Security at the RUB.

To verify the results in practice, the research group recorded their own satellite phone conversations and developed a new attack based on the analysis.

"We were surprised by the total lack of protection measures, which would have complicated our work drastically," said Carsten Willems, also from RUB.

Encryption algorithms are implemented to protect the privacy of the user.

"Our results show that the use of satellite phones harbours dangers and the current encryption algorithms are not sufficient", emphasised Ralf Hund of RUB.

■ First accurate satellite study

■ All previous surveys based on ground-based estimates

HIMALAYAN glaciers are melting far more slowly than predicted, according to a new satellite study from the University of Colorado Boulder. .

Previous estimates of ice loss in the high Asia mountains have ranged up to 50 billion tonnes a year, said the university's Professor John Wahr.

The actual figure is a mere four billion tonnes, according to a survey using data from Nasa satellites. Previously, it had been claimed that Himalayan glaciers would have melted to a fifth of current levels by 2035, leading to sea level rises and drought.

Those predictions used ground-based measurements, whereas the new study measured the effect of gravity on twin Nasa satellites

## Results really were a surprise says scientist

to give an accurate measure of the mass of ice being lost.

"The results in this region really were a surprise," said Wahr.

"One possible explanation is that previous estimates were based on measurements taken primarily from some of the lower, more accessible glaciers in Asia and were extrapolated to infer the behaviour of higher glaciers. But unlike the lower glaciers, many of the high glaciers would still be too cold to lose mass, even in the presence of atmospheric warming," he said.

"What is still not clear is how these rates of melt may increase and how rapidly glaciers may shrink in the coming decades,"

NASA data says glaciers in Himalayas melting far SLOWLY than predicted
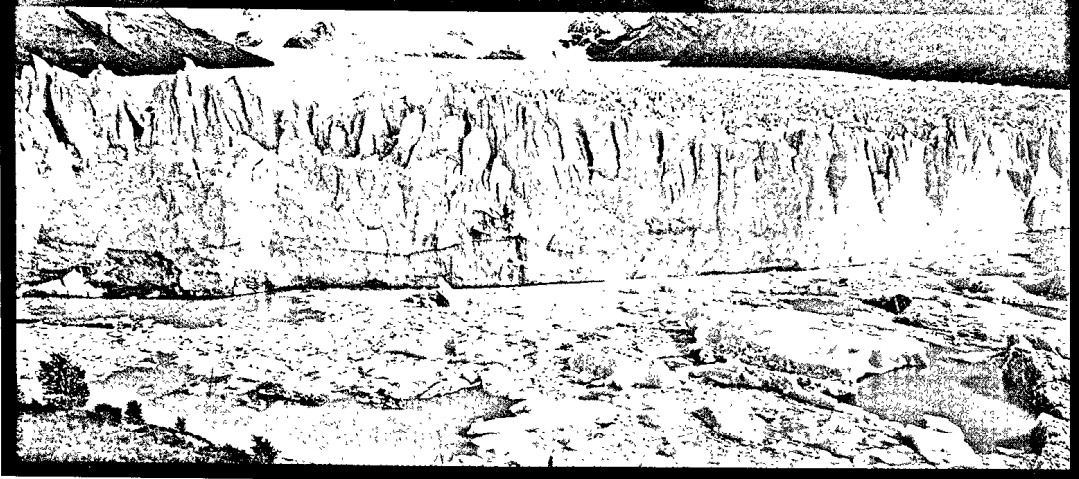
said Professor Pfeffer.

Around the world, melting has been overestimated. Earth's glaciers and ice caps are shedding roughly 150 billion tonnes of ice annually — up to 30 per cent lower than predicted.

"It had been suggested by hard-green campaigners, and regrettably endorsed by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the Himalayan glaciers might disappear by the year 2035, leading to imminent drought and starva-

tion for billions, a claim since widely rubbished," says Lewis Page of science site *The Register*.

"The new GRACE readings would seem to be further confirmation of that prediction's foolishness," he said.

The researchers used satellite measurements taken with the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) to calculate that the world's glaciers and ice caps had lost about 148 billion tonnes of ice annually from 2003 to 2010.   *Daily Mail*

GLACIERS ARE KEEPING THEIR COOL

■ Previous estimates of ice loss in the high Asia mountains have ranged up to 50 billion tonnes a year

■ The actual figure is a mere four billion tonnes, according to a survey using data from Nasa satellites

■ The loss of ice from glaciers and ice caps is up to 30 per cent lower than predicted

■ The researchers used satellite measurements taken with the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE)

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Author :
Location :
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Honoured

IIT Kharagpur alumni association honoured its alumni Harish Hande, who has been conferred with the Magsaysay Award for the year 2011, and Jaideep Sarkar, who is at present the private secretary to the prime minister.

Hande was awarded for his pioneering work of providing solar power in thousands of houses in villages and slums.

Social networking may be a boon for new-age choices

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

The next time your parents order you to log off Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, and focus on studies instead, it may be a good idea not to listen to them. When it comes to preparing for newage careers, Facebook may do a better job than your textbook.

Ask Jaideep Bir. This 28-year-old entrepreneur quit his job in a dotcom a few years ago to start his own social media marketing company that uses social networks such as LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook to market products and brands. Today, his clients range from large multinationals to education institutions for which he has designed fan pages on social media sites.

"We also work offline, distributing RFID (radio frequency identification) cards to people who attend events conducted by various brands. The RFID card automatically updates your location on Facebook, so that all your friends know you are attending the event. This helps publicize the brand," says Jaideep.

He is just one among a growing number of Indians opting out of conventional careers and treading the path less taken. Like Himani Khurana, who stumbled upon a career in jazz, ballroom and contemporary dance while studying English at Lady Shri Ram College. While most professionals learn dance from the age of five, Himani began at 20, when she joined a class near her college. What started out as a hobby turned into a career. "I had the opportunity to work with dancers from overseas and even went abroad to pursue dance," says Himani.

Serendipity has had a hand in several career choices. Take for instance artist O P Rathore, the voice behind a host of advertisements, both for the government as well as corporates. Rathore chanced upon the field 20 years ago when he lent his voice to a radio promo on the freedom struggle. "The promo did very well and people wanted to know whose voice it was. That's how I started getting more contracts. I never thought I would end up making a career of it," he says.

While selecting a career has, traditionally, been a weighty affair, youngsters are now experimenting with their lives till they zero in on a field that interests them. Simar Sukhija, who runs a nail bar in Delhi, specializes in decorating nails and offers everything from manicures to nail extensions.

Though video games and mobile phone applications may be the bane of the average middle-class parent, creating them is now a lucrative career option, often paying better than the good, oldfashioned careers.

While entrepreneurship doesn't quite fit in with the traditional Indian dream of a stable career, some, like Rishabh Gupta, took the plunge. "Turning entrepreneur has been a childhood dream. I have always been in awe of folks like Richard Branson," says Gupta, an economics graduate from Delhi University.

After an MBA from Manipal, Rishabh figured he had no experience of how to run his own business, and so he joined the corporate sector to gather work experience. "But after switching three jobs in two years, I figured this was not my calling. I decided it was time to turn entrepreneur," says Gupta, who joined hands with a friend and began a company that links young people with corporates.

While the idea initially revolved around summer internships, it has now expanded to several areas involved with equipping students for the corporate sector. "We have roped in students as brand ambassadors on campus for various companies, and are using social media to spread the word. We also get young people to work part-time for corporates on areas such as presentation and cleaning up digital content. These jobs are are a perfect fit for youngsters seeking exposure to the job market," adds Rishabh.