Newspaper Clips
February 19, 2013

Pioneer , ND 19/02/2013 p-2

Plea on biased enquiry: HC seeks reply from CVC, Centre, IIT-Kharagpur

AMIYA KUMAR KUSHWAHA ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High court on Monday sought a reply from Central Government, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and central vigilance commission (CVC) on a plea of whistleblower Professor Rajeev Kumar seeking interim relief alleging biased enquiry conducted by institute against him.

Kumar was suspended on May 13, 2011 on charges of misrepresenting and defaming the institute. Kumar had allegedly made allegation of mass copying amongst students as well as about irregularities purchase of laptops by institute.

Justice Rajeev Shakdhar has asked Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and IIT Kharagpur and central vigilance commission (CVC) to file a reply on Kumar's plea and fixed the matter for March 21 for further hearing. The court's order came while hearing the plea seeking revocation of suspension and requesting to grant him interim relief. He said that if the interim relief is not granted then it would severely hurt the petitioner and if it is granted, it would not prejudice the respondents.

The petitioner also sought from the court to direct IIT Kharagpur for following order of MHRD for staying the proceedings. Kumar told court that institute did not comply with the directives of MHRD, though the said directives are in accordance with IIT Kharagpur's statutes and their own resolution. "IIT Kharagpur did not stay the proceedings, the petitioner's applications, were not processed for consideration of the Reviewing Authority," he said alleging bias inquiry was held against him.

KUMAR WAS SUSPENDED ON MAY 13, 2011 ON CHARGES OF MISREPRESENTING AND DEFAMING THE INSTITUTE

"Out of vengeance for his whistle-blowing, the petitioner is being victimized by making him academically dysfunctional by his employer, IIT Kharagpur by a suspension order May 13, 2011 and a charge sheet was filed against him on May 16, 2011. Charges in the charge sheet are those on which the petitioner blew the whistle. The charge sheet is false, frivolous and motivated," Kumar said in his plea filed by advocate Pranav Sachdeva. Kumar informed court that disciplinary proceedings are being conducted without following any statutory rules and standard procedures. Kumar also informed court that it was done with the sole aim to further victimize the petitioner by denying fairness and natural justice.

On Monday, The Pioneer published a news reagarding the excessive payment made by the Inquiry Officer (IO) of the case related to IIT whistleblower Professor Rajeev Kumar. A retired judge of Calcutta High Court, the IO was paid Rs7 lakh for five inquiry meetings. The HRD Ministry has taken cognisance of the act by the institute which has defied the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) order dated July 31, 2012.

Rashtriya Sahara ND
19/02/2013 p-5

जेईई के लिए स्लॉट व डेट के चयन का मौका अब 22 तक

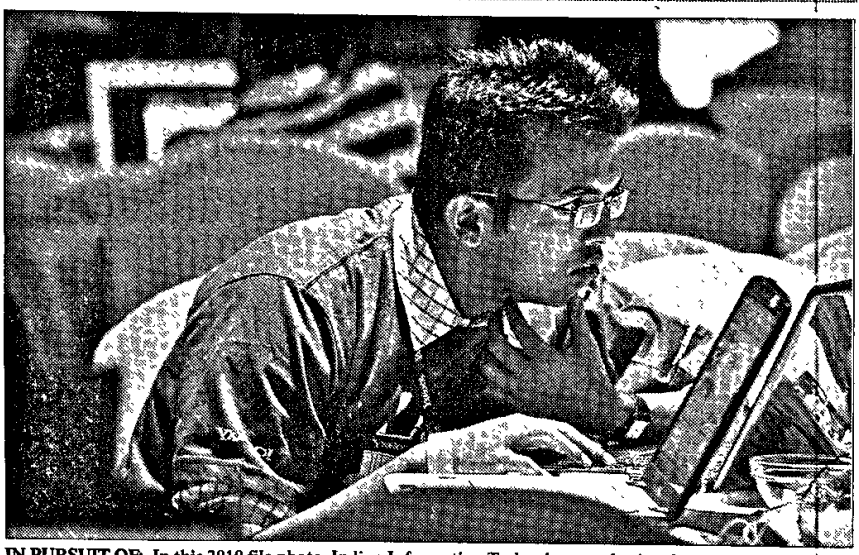
नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। इंजीनियरिंग कोर्सेज में दाखिले के लिए होने वाली केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड की संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) के लिए स्लॉट व तिथि के चयन की डेट को बढ़ा दिया गया है। बोर्ड ने जेईई की ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के स्लॉट व तिथि के चयन की डेट को 15 फरवरी से बढ़ाकर 22 फरवरी कर दिया है। स्लॉट का आवंटन फर्स्ट कम फर्स्ट सर्व के आधार पर किया जाएगा। जिस समय भी आवेदक परीक्षा के स्लॉट व तिथि का चयन करेगा, उस समय जो भी स्लॉट व तिथि उपलब्ध होगी, उसका आवंटन कर दिया जाएगा। जेईई मेन 2013 की ऑनलाइन परीक्षा 8 अप्रैल से शुरू होगी और 25 अप्रैल 2013 तक चलेगी। जेईई की ऑफलाइन परीक्षा की तिथि पहले ही 7 अप्रैल घोषित की जा चुकी है। इस परीक्षा में सफल होने वाले विद्यार्थियों को रैंक वाइज देशभर के एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी, डीटीयू और अन्य तकनीकी संस्थानों में दाखिला दिया जाएगा।

आईपी में एडमिशन प्रोसेस कल से : गुरु गोविंद सिंह इन्द्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय के सेशन 2013-14 में दाखिले के लिए आवेदन प्रक्रिया बुधवार यानी 20 फरवरी से शुरू होगी। विश्वविद्यालय फिलहाल प्रोफेशनल पाठ्यक्रमों व बीटेक में आवेदन प्रक्रिया शुरू कर रहा है। आवेदन फॉर्म इंडियन बैंक की 26 शाखाओं में मिलेगा। विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेशनल कोर्सेज में एबीए, बीबीए, बीसीए व बीएड आदि शामिल हैं।

Financial Chronicle ND 19/02/2013 p-11

New delivery mechanism in higher education

Arun Nigavekar



IN PURSUIT OF: In this 2010 file photo, Indian Information Technology professionals work on their laptops during an 'Open Hack Day' programme organised by the global search engine Yahoo! in Bangalore AFP

At present, the developed nation's education system is facing storm of new process of delivery of education. It is truly a mass education through mega-class. Colleges and professors have rushed to try a new form of online teaching known as MOOCs — short for 'massive open online courses'. The courses raise questions about the future of teaching, the value of a degree, and the effect technology will have on how colleges operate. Struggling to make sense of it all?

MOOCs are classes that are taught online to large numbers of students, with minimal involvement by professors. Typically, students watch short video lectures and complete assignments that are graded either by machines or by other students. That way, a lone professor can support a class with hundreds of thousands of participants. The idea of online courses is not new. In the fall season of 2008, three professors in the US launched online courses to any one participate; an open-education course taught by David Wiley, then a professor at Utah State University and now at Brigham Young University, Alec Couros, information and communication technology coordinator for the School of Education at the University of Regina, in Saskatchewan, launched a course called "Open, Connected, Social." 200 students joined the same and more than 2,000 people have signed up to be informal students in an online course on "Connectivism and connective knowledge" taught by Stephen Downes, a senior researcher at the National Research Council of Canada, and George Siemens, associate director of research and development at University of Manitoba's Learning Technologies Centre. What started as a small experiment is now catching up with education world rapidly across the globe.

MOOCs embody a convergence of technology and culture that is creating new energy around e-learning. On the technology side, the tools enabling web-based instruction are more effective and reach greater scale than ever before. E-learning technologies that are widely used in MOOCs include high-quality indexed video, data capture and analytics and delivery platforms that combine the qualities of social networking sites like Facebook with the content delivery, discussion, and grading functions of the traditional learning management system.

From a cultural perspective, communication, collaboration, and knowledge discovery via the web have become commonplace. Sites like TED, Khan Academy, iTunes, and YouTube, which house rich collections of instructional material, have paved the way for MOOCs. Business models have also now emerged. The platforms that have taken to MOOCs are Stanford spinoff, under title Coursera, focusing on elite institutions and faculty from University of Virginia, Duke University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Illinois, Harvard, MIT, and Berkeley experiment (edX) that offer the best of all three institutions free online, an entity called Udacity that disseminates select MOOCs in partnership with individual professors and Udemy that allows anyone to create and offer a course, whether free or for a fee. However, there is no standard business model for how MOOCs will generate revenue. Venture capital and philanthropy have funded platform providers such as Coursera and edX.

The academicians in several countries have raised serious doubts about the education delivered through MOOCs. It is true that students around the world gain access to previously inaccessible and unimaginable content from some of the world's renowned universities and professors from MIT, Harvard and Stanford. These students can grow inspired by the possibility of absorbing information through online lectures and platforms. But the question is, are we discounting the central component of effective teaching — the relationship forged between student and teacher? MOOCs make a key assumption that the students enrolling in these courses have a certain degree of motivation and are reasonably adept self-starters as learners. For students who know what they want and when they want it, in terms of online content, MOOCs are a fabulous new option to build and construct personalised learning ecosystems. Unfortunately, for many learners, MOOCs lack the possibility of mentorship and close guidance that comes through the building of a meaningful relationship between student and teacher. The fact will always remain that great teachers inspire through their passion for their subject and their ability to communicate and connect with students in face-to-face interactions and relationships. But many critics of MOOC say learning is a complex social and emotional process that promotes critical thinking and it would be difficult to change the traditional ways of learning through a total technology driven learning process without teachers' contact or access to mentors. Technologists argue that this is best option for knowledge hungry youth across the globe particularly developing countries.

In India, the MOOC wave has not yet swept the higher education institutions. However, it would soon happen. We have several aspects that are yet not well addressed, the most important being providing of affordable and reliable connectivity and hardware support. Moreover, the Indian pedagogy of learning is still in the process of evolving with use of ICT in education. The larger challenge our teachers and technology people should work out the data of content that excites the youth. We need to look at the MOOC experiment with very open mind without losing Indian perspective.

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Hindustan Times ND 19/02/2013

P-5

DU's progs closer to engg degree

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NEW DELHI: With Delhi University's undergraduate programme turning into a four-year honours degree programme from the coming academic session, B Sc (honours) Computer Science and B Sc (honours) Electronics will move a step closer to an engineering degree.

A traditional engineering degree, B Tech, is four years long. "The new programme will have more emphasis on practical learning. We will also make the syllabus more up to date. The overhaul makes both these courses closer to an engineering degree. Companies such as Wipro and Infosys have been recruiting our students and this change will surely bring in more companies," said a senior university official.

According to university officials, Delhi University has the power to start new programmes such as B Tech without taking approval from external bodies. Courses passed in the Academic and Executive Councils will be considered accredited. The university is already running a four-year B Tech Humanities course that is research based.

"We have said for a very long time that pursuing a B Sc (honours) degree in Computer Science or Electronics from Delhi University is a much better idea than to pursue a B Tech degree from any random private college. With the change in the programme duration, nomenclature and content, we are sure that many more students will opt for the new programmes," said a teacher from the Computer Science department.

THE UNIVERSITY HAS CHANGED ITS B SC HONOURS COURSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRONICS INTO A FOUR-YEAR COURSE

Under the new four-year programme, there will be 42 papers in the four years, out of which 20 papers will be from the student's chosen discipline, five from discipline-based application papers, 11 foundation papers which will be same for all and 6 papers from the second discipline of the student's choice.

Times of India ND 19/02/2013
P19

Scientists 'implant' sixth sense in lab rats

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The "sixth sense" — hunches that foretell the future, has now been created in the lab. Scientists have for the first time ever, implanted "sixth sense" into lab rats that made them detect invisible infrared light — a breakthrough that could one day enable humans to communicate directly with electronic devices by a simple thought and greatly help those completely paralysed.

Miguel Nicolelis, a neuroscientist working at Duke University is working on the "man-machine interface" implanted detectors for invisible infrared light into a rat's brain — the part that processes information related to the sense of touch. When the light was shone, the animals started to preene their whiskers, confirming that they could touch the light.

According to Dr Nicolelis, "The team created a new sense in rats by allowing them to touch infrared light that mammals cannot detect."

He added, "We were able to make normal adult rats touch otherwise invisible light. We need to revise our theories on how the adult brain works and what its potential is to recover from damage or to acquire new senses. Our plan is to continue testing the limits of brain capabilities and its potential to self-adapt to changes in the external world in animals. No plans yet for human trials."

Business Standard ND 19/02/2013 p-8

AICTE, UGC consulting lawyers on IIPM issue

AICTE to issue notices to state govts; says may file FIR against unapproved institutes

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 18 February

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) are consulting their respective legal departments on taking action against the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM). This follows the blockage of 73 uniform resource locators (URLs) that relate to content against the management institution.

Academic communities are also considering a signature campaign, as well as writing to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to intervene in the matter. "We want to ask why the Ministry of Human Resource Development didn't take action against IIPM earlier and allowed thousands of students to be duped," said the director of a Noida-based business school.

Last week, a Gwalior court had ordered various web pages be blocked after an IIPM business partner complained "defamatory material" on the institute was published on these pages.

Arindam Chaudhuri, head of IIPM, said, "With respect to UGC links, I should say UGC and AICTE are organisations full of bribe-seeking, corrupt officials where, even at the top, they have a track record of being caught red-handed and jailed. The standard of education they have created in the nation is shameful, to say the least. IIPM is proud to have no affiliation with them."

AICTE Chairman Shankar S Mantha said, "Whatever Chaudhuri is saying is nonsense. Today, AICTE has e-governance. It is a transparent and responsible organisation. Something that happened in the past has no relevance today. It does not mean IIPM creates its own system and discounts existing ones."

He added on AICTE's website, it had declared all IIPM branches were unapproved.

"We are talking to our lawyers to see what legal action can be taken against IIPM," a senior UGC official told *Business Standard*.

Harivansh Chaturvedi, director of Birla Institute of Management and Technology and alternate president of the Education Promotion Society of India, said UGC and AICTE should have cracked the whip on IIPM long ago. "I fail to understand how a B-school that is neither registered with AICTE nor permitted by UGC can be allowed to operate and flourish and take students for a ride," he said.

AICTE said it would write to state governments soon on unapproved institutions operating in their respective states. "We will file an FIR (first information report) against these institutes, if need be," Mantha said.

Hindustan Times ND 19/02/2013
P-11

Education plans face fund crunch

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NEW DELHI: Five years after the UPA launched a plethora of big-bang education schemes targeted at young India ahead of the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, a desperate funds crunch is preventing a repeat in the last full-fledged budget before the 2014 polls.

Finance minister P Chidambaram has conveyed to HRD minister MM Pallam Raju that the budget he delivers in Parliament on February 28 may not promise any significant increase in allocation for education, top government officials have confirmed to HT.

In fact, India's education budget may even be snipped, as the government tries to juggle social sector priorities like the food bill, with a burgeoning fiscal deficit that threatens the country's investment ratings.

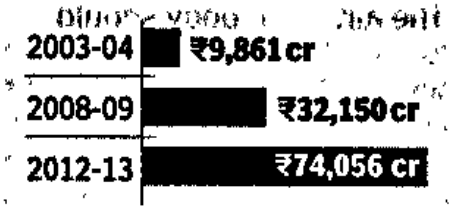
"We'll just be happy if there's no cut in our budget," Raju said last week when asked about his expectations from the budget.

Over the past decade, India's central education budget has increased by 750%, from ₹9,861 cr in 2003-04 when the Manmohan Singh government first took office, to ₹74,056 cr in 2012. Singh described the 11th Five Year Plan as an "education plan."

Ahead of the 2008-2009 elections, the UPA government had announced the establishment of 8 new IITs, 8 new IIMs, a scheme to subsidize education loans, and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

STARING AT TRIMMED SHARE

UNION EDUCATION BUDGET



What the UPA launched in 2008, ahead of 2009 Lok Sabha polls

8 new IITs, 8 new IIMs, education loan subsidy scheme, secondary education universalization scheme

What the UPA is planning in 2013, ahead of 2014 polls

Consolidating existing higher education schemes under new name, Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

Times of India ND 19/02/2013 P19

New US brain wave: Unlocking the mind

A 10-Year-Long Study To Do For Brain What The Human Genome Project Did For Genetics

John Markoff

The Obama administration is planning a decade-long scientific effort to examine the workings of the human brain and build a comprehensive map of its activity, seeking to do for the brain what the Human Genome Project did for genetics.

The project, which the administration has been looking to unveil as early as March, will include federal agencies, private foundations and teams of neuroscientists and nanoscientists in a concerted effort to advance the knowledge of the brain's billions of neurons and gain greater insights into perception, actions and, ultimately, consciousness. Scientists with the highest hopes for the project also see it as a way to develop the technology essential to understanding diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, as well as to find new therapies for a variety of mental illnesses. Moreover, the project holds the potential of paving the way for advances in artificial intelligence.

The project, which could ultimately cost billions of dollars, is expected to be part of the president's budget proposal next month. And, four scientists and representatives of research institutions said they had participated in planning for what is being called the Brain Activity Map project. The details are not final,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MIND READING

and it is not clear how much federal money would be proposed or approved for the project in a time of fiscal constraint or how far the research would be able to get without federal financing. In his state of the union address, Obama cited brain research as an example of how the government should "invest in the best ideas".

"Every dollar we invested to map the human genome returned $140 to our economy — every dollar," he said. "Today our scientists are mapping the human brain to unlock the answers to Alzheimer's. They're developing drugs to regenerate damaged organs, devising new materials to make batteries 10 times more powerful. Now is not the time to gut these job-creating investments in science and innovation."

The initiative, if successful, could provide a lift for the economy. "The Human Genome Project was on the order of about $300 million a year for a decade," said George M Church, a Harvard University molecular biologist who helped create that project. "If you look at the total spending in neuroscience and nanoscience that might be relative to this today, we are already spending more than that. We probably won't spend less money, but we will probably get a lot more bang for the buck." Scientists said they hoped that federal financing would be more than $300 million a year. NYT NEWS SERVICE

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Prof leaves VC with an itch, held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vadodara: Vadodara's M S University law faculty head Ghanshyam Solanki was arrested on Monday for allegedly smearing itching powder on vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh's chair during a national seminar a day earlier. Singh had to leave the seminarmidway.

"Forensic tests on the chair revealed that somebody had smeared it with itching powder. Further investigations revealed the teacher's involvement," police commissioner Satish Sharma said.

Solanki was booked for obstructing a public servant in discharge of public functions and causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means. He confessed to using the powder but claimed that it was not meant for Singh. His real target was the law faculty in-charge dean professor S S Bhattacharya.

MSU officials said Solanki may have done so as his application for promotion was rejected recently. "It is shameful and unbelievable. I had never expected this to happen. Normally, we do not except a teacher to get involved in such acts," Singh said.

"We have taken it very seriously and such incidents will not be tolerated," officer on special duty (registrar) Amit Dholakia said.

Nadabh