

Newspaper Clips

February 22, 2011

**Hindustan Times, ND
22-Feb-11**

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CAT toppers petition Delhi HC against IIMs

NEW DELHI: Over 70 Common Admission Test (CAT) toppers on Monday filed a writ petition in the Delhi high court seeking a stay on the second stage of admissions at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Most of these students figure in the top 1% of CAT scorers but have not received calls from the IIMs because of pre-test criteria that the premier

B-schools hid till after the results were announced on January 12.

As was reported first by HT on February 9, three IIMs have changed eligibility criteria after the test, and five other IIMs have ascribed weightage to class X, XII and undergraduate marks which were hidden till CAT results were announced.

HTC

Hindustan
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LAW COLLEGE AFFILIATION ISSUE UNDER CBI SCANNER

Sumit Saxena

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NEW DELHI: The CBI has begun investigating the slew of affiliations, which Bar Council of India (BCI) awarded in past five years to various law colleges across.

The investigating agency arrested BCI vice-chairman, R Dhanpal Raj from his residence in Tamil Nadu following the probe in the affiliation granted to GlobalLawCollege, based in Ghaziabad.

According to sources familiar with investigations, the CBI officials have recovered in excess of ₹75 lakh in the raids made at the officials of BCI arrested in case.

"The scam reaches beyond this one law college. We are examining the affiliation process adopted for law colleges in past five years," said a source. The court remanded Raj in police custody till February 25, 2011.

The FIR mentioned was registered against Bar Council of Delhi member RS Rana as he entered into a criminal conspiracy

He allegedly demanded money from Manish Tyagi for conducting an inspection of a law college and giving a favourable report for recognising the college. The CBI had laid a trap and arrested Rana with ₹1 lakh cash in hand.

Special judge OP Saini said, "The transcription of telephonic conversation states there is direct demand from the accused. It is further submitted that Raj along with Rana inspected GlobalLawCollege and demanded bribe for giving a favourable report."

The court noted that as per the transcription placed on record, R Dhanpal Raj was actively involved in the conspiracy and demand of money.

"Witnesses have also corroborated the role of accused R Dhanpal Raj that accused bluntly demanded ₹15 lakh," said the judge. Last week, the Supreme Court rejected R Dhanpal Raj anticipatory bail petition.

Spending on education a total write-off?

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

Is the government doing enough to provide good quality education to children? Budget speeches and political propaganda would have us believe that increased government spending on education in the past few years and the Right to Education Act (RTEA) is propelling an education revolution. But the reality appears to be different.

A recent report of the District Information System of Education (DISE) says that 29% of elementary schools did not have a pucca building in 2009-10, up from 27% in 2007-08. Over 49% schools did not have boundary walls, only a slight improvement over two years ago when the proportion was 50%. Girls had a separate toilet in only 59% of schools, again only slightly better than 50% in 2007-8. There is improvement in drinking water and number of classrooms, but the situation is still grim.

Although there are no comprehensive surveys to test learning levels of children, an NGO



Investing In The Future

Proposed annual spending per school for RTE		Rs 22 lakh	
Annual spending on Kendriya Vidyalayas		Rs 1.02 cr	
COMBINED STATE AND UNION GOVT EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION			
	Combined expenditure (Rs Cr)	As share of total expenditure (%)	As share of GDP (%)
2000-01	82879.2	12.3	3.94
2004-05	97374.8	11.8	3.01
2008-09	189324.7	11.6	3.40

Source: Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability

Pratham which has been regularly testing samples of students in rural areas revealed in its 2010 report that 53% of class 5 students could read a simple text. That's down from 58% in 2007. Only 36%

of children could do simple division compared to 42% in 2007. Desperate parents are shifting their kids to private schools where enrollment is up from about 20% in 2007 to 24% in 2010. The num-

ber of class 8 students taking private tuitions is also up from about 22% in 2007 to 31% in 2010. Most alarming is the fact pointed out in the DISE report that net enrollment ratio dropped from about 98% in class 5 to 58% in class 8.

Obviously all is not well. Government expenditure — both, state and central combined — on education has grown over the years, from about Rs.97,375 cr in 2004-05 to Rs.1,89,325 cr in 2008-09, according to data compiled by the Center for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA). As a share of total government expenditure, the spending on education is stagnating at about 11.6%, while as a share of GDP it has increased only marginally from 3.01% in 2004-05 to 3.4% in 2009-10.

CBGA studies show that the government is being very tight fisted in its approach towards actually implementing the RTE Act. A meeting of state education secretaries in January last year had worked out that Rs 1.82 lakh crore

will be needed to ensure that every child between 6 to 14 years gets good education, as per the act. This was to be given to the states over 5 years starting 2010.

The nearest to quality school education in the government sector is the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs). According to CBGA, the government spent about Rs 2002 crore for 981 KVs in 2010-11. That works out to about Rs 2.04 crore per KV every year. Assuming that half this amount would be spent on elementary education — the rest going for higher classes — CBGA arrives at about Rs 1 crore

for good quality elementary education per school. So, how much is the govt. willing to spend through the SSA for implementing RTEA? Just Rs 22 lakh, as per CBGA calculations. As the CBGA study points out "the first step towards making a dent in improving the education outcomes is possible only if the budgetary outlays are substantially increased". Is the government listening?

**PROMISES
TO KEEP**

Ink-jet printers inspire skin-making machine

Washington: Ink-jet printing technology has inspired scientists to look for ways to build sheets of skin that could one day be used for grafts in burn victims, experts said.

One technique involves a portable bioprinter that could be carried to wounded soldiers on the battlefield where it would scan the injury, take cells from the patient and print a section of compatible skin. Another uses a three-dimension-

al printer combining donor cells, biofriendly gel and other materials to build cartilage. The 3-D printer was shown at work, building a prototype of an ear during a half-hour demonstration at a Washington science conference.

Hod Lipson of Cornell University in New York said it worked much like an ink-jet printer. "It spits out plastic to gradually build an object layer by layer... after a couple of

One technique involves a portable bioprinter where an injury can be scanned, cells taken from the patient and a then print a section of compatible skin

hours you end up with a real physical object that you can hold in your hand," he said.

"Just imagine — if you could take cells from a donor, culture them, put them into an ink and recreate an implant that is alive and made of the original cells from the donor — how useful that would be in terms of avoiding rejection," said Lipson.

"That is where we are going. Let's see how far we can go." Studies using the technology in animals have shown promise, particularly with

printed cartilage, which is relatively simple in its construction and is tough so it can withstand the rigors of printing.

"There are very severe limitations," Lipson said. "We are right now limited to cells... that can handle being printed." Scientist James Yoo of Wake Forest University in North Carolina said his team's approach to printing skin has shown positive results in repairing skin in mouse and pig models. AFP

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e-paper

HC terms AIIMS strikes illegal

Orders Administration To Identify And Punish Doctors Who Protested In 2006

Abhinav Garg | TNN

New Delhi: In a ruling of far reaching consequence, the Delhi high court on Monday declared a series of strikes undertaken by agitating AIIMS doctors in 2006-2007 illegal. The court directed the hospital administration to identify the participants so that they could be punished.

"Health of citizens is wealth of a nation" a bench of Chief Justice Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna observed while making it clear that "doctors, residents, interns, para medical staff and any other person connected with AIIMS could not have gone on strike". The court noted that if they do so in future it would be viewed as contempt of court.

While HC's verdict can be seen to apply to every doctor at a government hospital in Delhi, the court explained why it chose to focus on AIIMS. The court said AIIMS and its doctors play a "significant, meaningful and pregnant role in the field of medical education, research and delivering of sophisticated latest treatment facilities to patients." The court emphasized that the patients at AIIMS deserve uninterrupted high-quality treatment.

The bench ordered the management of the premier



IN THE DOCK: The HC noted that if doctors strike work in future, it would be viewed as contempt of court

institute to identify doctors who had participated in four strikes — a 17-day strike in protest against OBC reservation in educational institutions in 2006, a two-day demonstration in 2007 against the removal of its then Director P Venugopal, a two-day strike on the issue of refusal of then health minister Ramadoss to sign degrees and certificates of students and lastly in 2007, a strike against an amend-

The HC took a dim view of the stand taken by AIIMS authorities that they had no idea who all participated in the strike since no such record was maintained

ment that fixed the retirement age of AIIMS director: "The president of AIIMS

shall constitute a high-powered committee to conduct an inquiry to find out who were the persons who participated in the earlier strikes and thereafter on such identification, proceed against them as per law," the bench added, on a PIL seeking action against the doctors who had participated in the strike and refused to give treatment to patients in the hospital. The PIL was filed by SC and ST Medi-

cal Association of Delhi.

The court took a dim view of the stand taken by AIIMS authorities that they had no idea who all participated in the strike since no such record was maintained. The hospital argued it had no way of identifying the perpetrators as the some from the batch of student protestors might have already finished their education and left the institute.

"The authorities of the AIIMS cannot get away by taking a specious plea or a mercurial stand that though there was a strike, yet they are not aware who were actually involved in the strike," the court said while directing the president of the institute to constitute a committee to find out the erring doctors.

"It is obligatory on the part of the authorities of the AIIMS to see that no one involved in the institution shows any kind of deviancy by taking recourse to strike, protests or demonstrations and he who engages himself in such activity would be liable for disciplinary proceeding and also for contempt of this court," the court reminded everyone, saying no authority can resort to strike as a way to espouse a cause nor coerce anyone to abstain from treating patients.

Times of India ND
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'Wristwatch' to tell BP more accurately

Can Better Pinpoint Those At Risk Of Heart Attacks, Strokes

London: British scientists claim to have developed a new wristwatch-like device which could 'measure' your blood pressure more accurately than the traditional arm cuffs.

Researchers behind the "wristwatch" said the gadget would make it easier for doctors to better pinpoint those at risk of heart attacks and strokes. High blood pressure, which kills thousands of people every year worldwide, is often dubbed "the silent killer" as it remains symptomless until it is too late.

Researchers who have tested the wristwatch, developed with funding from the Department of Health, said they found it comfortable to wear.

Professor Bryan Williams of Leicester University, who tested the wristwatch with scientists from Singapore, said, "I am under no illusion about the magnitude of the change this technique will bring about. It has been a fabulous scientific adventure to get to this point and it will change the way blood pressure has been monitored for more than a century," he was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail. Williams hoped the over £100 device, developed with funding from the Department of Health, would be available within two to three years. Ver-

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FINGER ON THE PULSE

sions for home use are also expected. The traditional arm cuffs in use in doctors' surgeries and hospitals measure the pressure of blood flowing through the upper arm.

But while this is easy to measure, it doesn't always tally with what is going on in the larger arteries close to the heart and brain, where damage can be fatal. This can lead to false positive readings, which leads to patients being given pills unnecessarily, and false negatives, in which warning signs are missed. But the new device combines the blood pressure reading from the upper arm with data from a sensor placed over the pulse in the wrist. ¶¶

Times of India ND
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End of the road for blogs as teens drift to FB, Twitter

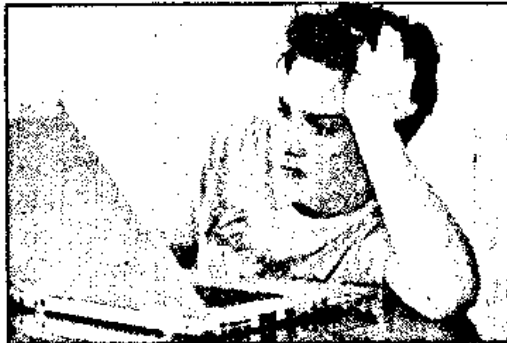
Verne G Kopytoff

San Francisco: Like any aspiring filmmaker, Michael McDonald, a high school senior, used a blog to show off his videos. But discouraged by how few people bothered to visit, he instead started posting his clips on Facebook, where his friends were sure to see and comment on his editing skills.

people who wanted to express themselves online. But with the rise of sites like Facebook and Twitter, they are losing their allure for many people — particularly the younger generation.

The Internet and American Life Project at the Pew Research Center found that from 2006 to 2009, blogging among children ages 12 to 17 fell by half; now 14% of children

© Tomas Rodriguez/Corbis



LOGGED OUT: Between 2006 and 2009, blogging among children aged 12 to 17 fell by half, says a survey

"I don't use my blog anymore," said McDonald, who lives in San Francisco. "All the people I'm trying to reach are on Facebook." Blogs were once the outlet of choice for

those ages who use the Internet have blogs. Among 18-to-33-year-olds, the project said, blogging dropped two percentage points in 2010 from two years earlier.

Former bloggers said they were too busy to write lengthy posts and were uninspired by a lack of readers. Others said

they had no interest in creating a blog because social networking did a good enough job keeping them in touch with friends and family. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Times of India ND
22/02/2011 P-17

A nasal spray that can beat all types of flu

Washington: Scientists have developed a nasal spray which they claim could be a synthetic universal vaccine for flu, using a genetic region that is common to all strains of the virus. An international team, led by University of Adelaide, has successfully trialled the synthetic universal flu vaccine in mice, the 'Journal of General Virology' reported.

"Current flu vaccines rely on health authorities being able to predict what the forthcoming viral strain is going to be, and reformulating the vaccines each year accordingly. This is extremely time consuming, labour intensive and expensive, and it's something that a universal vaccine could overcome. "A simple and totally synthetic universal vaccine — one that

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PUFF AWAY SNIFFLES

is not derived from an influenza virus and does not require annual reformulation — would have clear advantages in health clinics to control and prevent the spread of flu," lead scientist Dr Darren Miller said.

For the research, the scientists used specific peptides delivered to the noses of mice. The peptides trigger an immune response to a tiny region of the flu virus that is present in all influenza A and B viruses, which effectively neutralises the virus.

The test vaccine provided mice with 100% protection against a laboratory strain of virus (H3N2) and 20% protection against a highly pathogenic virus (H5N1, or "bird flu"), which is consistent with the protection levels achieved with commercially available anti-influenza drugs. "This is a positive response and one that shows promise for further testing both in laboratory and clinical settings," said Dr Miller. ■

Business Line ND

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IIMC golden jubilee

Kolkata, Feb. 21

The Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIMC), the country's oldest IIM now celebrating golden jubilee, has decided on several initiatives and programmes as part of the celebration. These include publication of a commemorative volume, production of a documentary film on the institute and holding mega events towards the end of 2011 / early 2012. The offices of the Prime Minister and President have been approached for their presence. There will also be special conferences and conclaves on management for sustainable tomorrow and future of media during the later part of 2011 and golden jubilee reunions in some major cities in India and abroad. This was announced at a think tank session held here on Sunday, according to an IIMC release. - **Our Bureau**

Edinburgh varsity in talks to train professionals in clean energy

Shubhra Tandon
Mumbai, Feb. 21

Foreseeing a huge demand for trained professionals in areas of clean energy and carbon control in Indian companies, the University of Edinburgh is in discussions with several public and private sector companies to explore their skill requirements. It is looking to forge partnerships with leading Indian institutes for research and development in these fields too.

The university, which is offering courses on carbon management and environment law among others, is seeing a shift in mindsets of companies towards hiring professionals explicitly trained in clean energy and related issues. The interest can be attributed to efforts to curtail energy use and in turn control their costs.

SKILL REQUIREMENT

"We are seeing interest in Indian companies picking up employees with specialisation in these areas... They are beginning to see the need for professional skills not just in their own organisations but also within their supply chains as this really helps them reduce energy use and therefore reduce costs. So the conversations that we are having with companies on this is an important element in professional skills learning

► *'There are emerging regulations around the world requiring companies to meet certain standards on how to reduce energy use.'*

over the next four to five years," said the Director of Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change, Dr Andrew Kerr.

He added that one of the reasons why companies would have requirement for trained professionals in these areas more than before is because they are going global, and "there are emerging regulations around the world requiring companies to meet certain standards on how to reduce energy use and how to reduce carbon emissions."

"India is likely to need \$100 billion invested up to 2020 and over \$500 billion invested by 2030 in low carbon energy technologies to meet energy needs and to meet emissions reduction expectations," said Dr Kerr, quoting figures from International Energy Agency (IEA) World Energy Outlook 2009, a global energy think tank.

"There will be a need for professional skills to support these huge investments and our role will be working with

partners, for developing and delivering those skills," he added.

IIT-BOMBAY IN TALKS

University of Edinburgh officials met their counterparts at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, recently to explore strengths around different areas such as climate change, educational learning and research and on ways in which both could work together to develop some of these ideas.

The university has also had initial discussions with the Tata Group among other companies to explore what their skills requirements are around the emerging technologies in areas of green energy. Other companies that the university would like to engage in talks with include Reliance and Mahindra groups.

"In the finance field we would also like to hold discussions with Indian banks to understand their requirement and thoughts on finance to green investments," said Dr Kerr. It will be shortly starting a new course in carbon finance too.

The University of Edinburgh has also opened a liaison office in Mumbai with the aim of simplifying communication and collaboration between the university and partners in Indian education, business and the Government.

MINT ND 22/02/2011

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IISc scientists design needleless injection

▶ FROM PAGE 1

IISc designs India's first needleless drug device

By BHARGAVI KERUR
bhargavi.k@livemint.com

BANGALORE

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a pen-shaped, needleless drug delivery device, the first such in India that will use supersonic shock waves for painless delivery of medicines into the body.

Aerospace, molecular and cell biology researchers at the institute have combined their expertise to develop the prototype of the device that is expected to start selling in two-and-a-half years, after human trials are completed, said Dipshikha Chakravorty, a faculty member at the department of microbiology and cell biology at IISc and a co-author of the research paper. The device will cost \$200 (around ₹9,000) and can be reused, reducing the cost.

Companies and researchers across the world are working on needleless drug delivery systems, including nasal inhalers and skin patches, which will provide a painless, economical and more effective

TURN TO PAGE 2▶

way of administering drugs. Around 12 billion injections are used globally, IISc said, citing figures compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO). The market value of transdermal delivery, or injecting drugs through the skin, is estimated to increase to \$31.5 billion in 2015 from \$21.5 billion last year, according to Research and Markets, a researcher.

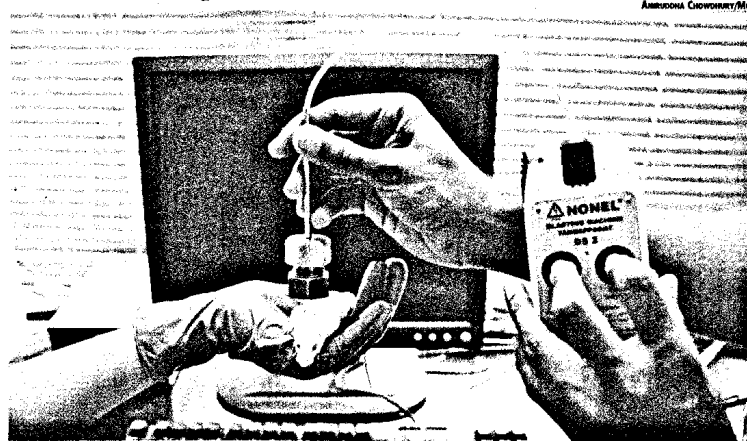
The device has applications in the medical world such as effective insulin intake and cancer cell treatment, among others.

"If these scientists are truly successful with their technology, they will get the Nobel Prize," said C.V. Krishnaswamy, a renowned Chennai-based diabetologist. "They will be helping some 150 million diabetics around the world."

So far, oral insulin has not really been a success and there have been no improvements on a "jet injector" attempt made in Italy and America decades ago, said Krishnaswamy.

IISc is the only organization that has developed a non-invasive, needleless drug delivery device in the world using a supersonic shockwave technology, said Gopalan Jagadeesh, a faculty member at the institute's department of aerospace engineering.

US-based **Bioject Medical Technologies Inc.** is also making such a device, but is using a different gas-based technology to create energy dissipation, he said. The device is still being developed. Yet another US-based firm, **Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc.**, has developed a so-called gene gun.



Painless method: Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science demonstrate the drug delivery system.

Each year, unsafe injections cause an estimated 1.3 million premature deaths, the loss of 26 million years of life, and an annual burden of \$535 million in direct medical expenses, according to WHO estimates. In four out of six parts of the world, more than 30% of immunization injections are unsafe, it said. In poorer nations, the possibility of HIV transmission through contaminated injections is also very high.

"Nasal inhalers and patches are the needleless drug delivery system that are coming up in a big way in the market," said Dipta Choudhary, programme manager of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology for South and West Asia at **Frost and Sullivan**. "The need is for those who have to use injections every day like insulin."

At IISc, the researchers generated micro-blast waves—through a tiny controlled ex-

plosion—that travelled at supersonic speed, creating high pressure and temperature, which, in turn, ejected the vaccine filled in a miniature model device into the skin without damage.

"Two years ago, we started looking at generating tiny amounts of explosion at the lab to create a mini-Pokhran," said Jagadeesh, referring to the test site where India conducted its first nuclear weapon detonation. "We have used the mechanical impulse, which is loaded in the shock wave, to transfer that momentum of a drug particle without the use of needle to inject into the system."

The IISc team that included Jagadeesh, Chakravorty, Divya Prakash G., Rakesh S.G., Uday Sankar Allam, M. Gopala Krishna and Sandeepa M. Eswarappa published the paper in the *Clinical and Vaccine Im-*

munology journal last week.

Explaining the concept, Jagadeesh said: "Any sudden release of energy will invariably result in the formation of a shock wave, since it is one of the efficient mechanisms of energy dissipation observed in nature." Earthquakes and tsunamis are natural examples of such uncontrolled energy dissipation.

During clinical trials, a vaccine for typhoid-causing salmonella bacteria, developed by the department of microbiology and cell biology, was given to mice using the device. The results showed that the vaccine entered the upper layer of the skin without destroying the antigen-generating cells that provide protection to the body, thus maximizing the effect of the vaccine. These are otherwise ruptured when poked with a needle.

"There were no visible inju-

ries like bleeding, oedema or any other reactions at the site of vaccination on the skin," said Chakravorty. "This means it is completely painless."

The prototype delivery device consists of an ignition system, explosive material-coated polymer tube, metal foil, drug-holding chamber and a cavity holder.

The device will limit infections at healthcare centres and will be cheaper than existing options such as disposable syringes. A shot will cost about ₹5, said Chakravorty.

"The other available drug delivery systems have their own limitations like cost, cross-contamination, pain and bleeding," he added. "The device is very cheap and the market potential appears to be huge."

The researchers have also discovered that vaccine given through this device provides better protection than when administered orally. The dose required was also 100-fold less compared with oral dosage.

"We are now looking at human trials and are in the process of tying up with some companies," Chakravorty said. "It will take two-and-a-half years from now."

Pune-based **Serum Institute of India Ltd** started selling a ready-to-sniff intra-nasal vaccine, **Nasovac**, last July priced at ₹158 a dose. It is available in a five-vial pack for ₹790.

"The researchers have made a good beginning and the device has several medical applications," said M.S. Shaila, a faculty member at the department of microbiology and cell biology at IISc, who is not involved in the research, but is aware of the programme.

Tribune ND 22/02/2011 P-12

AICTE fee hike irks pvt institutions

AMBIKA SHARMA

THE Union Government's target to enhance the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education from the existing 11 to 15 per cent by the end of the XI Five-Year Plan appears to be a tall order. According to the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, this would require opening of 1,500 odd-universities having a cluster of colleges under them to achieve this target.

Though maintenance of quality is an important issue, the central regulatory authority All-India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) recent move to enhance the processing fee of various technical institutes by 200 to 500 per cent for new professional colleges would deter opening new institutes.

In accordance with the new fee structure, an engineering college would have to deposit a Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of Rs 90 lakh as against the earlier amount of Rs 35 lakh. Similarly, for MBA, pharma and other colleges, the FDR has been enhanced from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 35 lakh. This hike, ranging from 200 to 500 per cent, would put a spanner in the expansion process of a large number of private institutions and the move aims to be deterring private institutes from opening new colleges.

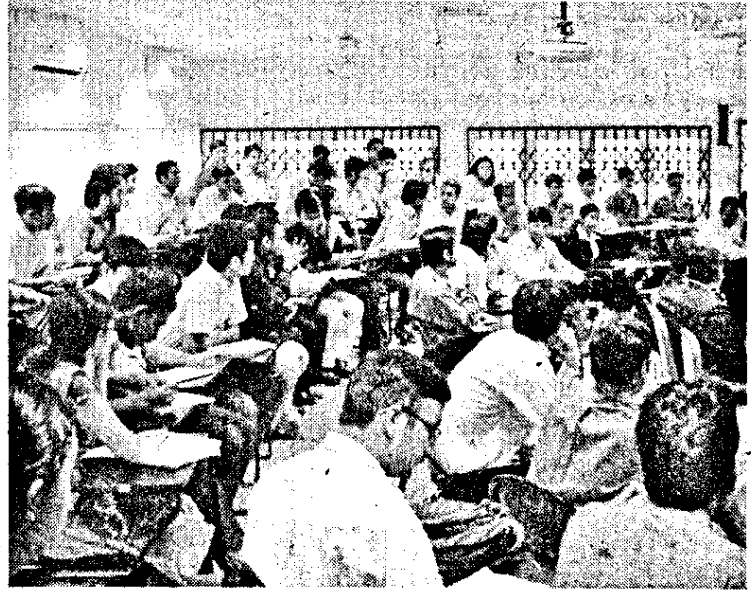
An MD of an education group at Solan opined, "This step will halt the process of expansion because it is an indirect way of deterring expansion activities. No doubt it will ensure that the existing colleges

benefit, but instead of this indirect curb, the AICTE should dwell on improving quality."

He added that the notification had been forwarded to the state government, so that they could revise fee structure of these professional courses. This move has drawn flak from the managements of educational institutions who feel that the cost recovery from students is already in the range of 40 to 50 per cent and hence, generating additional resources from fee would be difficult. Moreover, they would have to convince state governments to effect an abnormal fee hike which would put a strain on students. The AICTE's move is also contradictory to the government policy of expanding higher education in rural and backward areas.

Dr Anshu Kataria, chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh, while resenting this fee hike, said this would put a halt on all expansion activities in the private sector that wish to expand in other disciplines. With the processing fees to be paid by an institution to start a new project also being increased to Rs 7,50,000 from the earlier amount of Rs 1,00,000, new institutes would have to rethink expansion, Dr Kataria added.

Interestingly, at a recent national conference of Vice-Chancellors held by the University Grants Commission on "Development of Higher Education: Expansion, Inclusion and Excellence", the Vice-Chancellors had opined that the GER of 20 per cent should be achieved at the end of the 11th Five-Year Plan instead of 15 per



The proposed fee hike, ranging from 200 to 500 per cent, would put a strain on students

cent as proposed by the government. They had also laid stress on the need for setting up new institutions and enhancing the capacity of the existing ones to achieve the objective.

The Vice-Chancellors had also unanimously stated that the new universities should be set up away from metropolitan cities and state capitals in backward and rural areas where the GER is lower than the national average. This objective would, however, fail to be achieved with the AICTE enforcing such norms, as it would deter new professional colleges.

This move is also contrary to the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, which had

proposed that most of the new universities would need significant initial financial support from the government. Instead, the move would put a severe burden on institutes to spare funds in the form of FDRs of one crore as against the earlier amount of Rs 35 lakh for opening an engineering college.

Lack of institutes of higher education is also leading to a higher dropout rate in the country and the lone way to check this is to ensure opening of more institutes in the rural and backward areas. However, this could only be achieved by relaxing stringent norms and facilitating new professional institutes.

Hindu ND 22/02/2011 P-13

Road map for Nalanda University discussed

University will start with seven schools, primarily in humanities

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Governing Board of the new Nalanda University on Monday laid down a road map to make the institution functional tentatively by 2013. The recruitment of faculty would be done one or two semesters before the first batch is enrolled so that they have a role in finalising the course structure.

The University will start with seven schools, primarily in humanities, but will include departments of Information Sciences and Technology, Business Management in Relation to Public Policy and Development and Ecology and Environment, in addition to Languages and Literature; Religion and Philosophy; Historical Studies, International Relations and Peace Studies; and Buddhist Studies.

First meeting

This was the first meeting of the Governing Board, which was earlier functioning as the Nalanda Mentor Group, and was attended by Gopa Sabharwal, who has just been appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Nalanda University, to be set up just about 10 km away from the historic location of the Nalanda university in Bihar.

"We will try and enrol the



External Affairs Minister S.M.Krishna, flanked by Nalanda Mentor Group head Amartya Sen and Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo, prior to a meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday.

— PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

- **University, an academic venture and not a diplomatic exercise: Sen**
- **"We will develop the University only as a secular institution but religion will also be included"**

students as soon as possible and as soon as infrastructure comes up at the site," Amartya Sen, chairperson of the

Governing Board told journalists after the meeting. The meeting also discussed the statutes that would govern

as a secular institution but where religion will also be included," Professor Sen said clarifying that the university was an academic venture and not a diplomatic exercise just because several Asian countries had contributed for its development.

Foreign Minister of Singapore George Yeo – who is also on the Governing Board – said the entire issue of setting up the University is an "exciting exercise" and the institution would help in the over all development of the region which is backward. He also sought an international airport near Nalanda and said the Buddhist tourist circuit would get a boost once the institution became functional.

Global tenders

Announcing that the Governing Board had decided to go for global tenders, Dr. Sabharwal said 446 acres of land for the project had been acquired for the purpose. "Our aim would be to develop a state-of-the-art university," she explained adding that history showed that 200 villages around the old Nalanda University supported the institution and now was the time to do the reverse as the University would help in the development of these villages that would be traced and identified during the process of "interaction" with the region.

the University and the institutions relations with other universities. He said the focus at the beginning would be only on humanities due to the less cost involved. As we expand, we will include other subjects as well, he explained.

"In keeping with the extraordinary traditions of the historic University, we will develop the University as only

Telegraph Kolkata
20.02.11 | p-5

Teacher scan on Orissa IIT

**BASANT KUMAR
MOHANTY**

New Delhi, Feb. 19: The Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, is in the glare because of violation of norms in the appointment of faculty.

At the centre of the controversy is institute director M. Chakraborty. Documents with **The Telegraph** show that Chakraborty flouted eligibility norms in the appointment of two assistant professors. He also violated government guidelines to appoint a faculty member past the age of 65 as the dean (faculty).

The Central Vigilance Commission has registered a case against these alleged irreg-

ularities and forwarded complaints to the human resource development ministry.

Set up in 2008, IIT Bhubaneswar was originally mentored by IIT Kharagpur. So, IIT Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya served as director of IIT Bhubaneswar till a regular director was appointed.

In August 2008, IIT Bhubaneswar advertised for the post of assistant professors. The ad stated that all applicants had to have PhD degrees with a first class or equivalent in all preceding degrees, as well as at least three years of teaching/research/industrial experience.

However, Sabyasachi Pani, an applicant for the post of as-

sistant professor of mathematics, did not have a first class or equivalent at the Class XII level. But he was appointed.

Briefly in early 2009, Chakraborty, who was deputy director of IIT Kharagpur, took over as the institute's officiating director when Acharya stepped down because of student unrest.

During that period, Chakraborty asked for applicants' files and noted that Pani "may be called for interview as he is fulfilling shortlisting criteria". Accordingly, Pani was called for an interview and selected. But several candidates who had got first classes throughout their careers were rejected.

In May 2009, Chakraborty was appointed as the first director of IIT Bhubaneswar. A selection panel headed by him appointed Rajan Jha as assistant professor of physics. But documents show Jha had less than three years of research/teaching experience when he was appointed.

Chakraborty also appointed S.C. De Sarkar, who was above 65, as the dean (faculty). According to the guidelines, the Visitor's approval should have been obtained before em-

ploying faculty members past 65.

"The allegations are being investigated," a ministry source said.

Chakraborty could not be contacted for comment. IIT Bhubaneswar chairperson P. Rama Rao said he had received the complaints forwarded by the HRD ministry.

"We have also given our reply to the ministry on these complaints. You can get that information from the ministry," he said.

Ahmedabad Mirror 20.02.11 p-2

'IIM-A has been fair in shortlisting candidates'

About 75 CAT toppers are planning to file a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the second stage of admissions at IIMA, state media reports. The candidates say they did not receive interview calls because the institute made changes in the eligibility criteria after the test was conducted. These criteria — Class X, XII and undergraduate course

marks — eliminated the CAT toppers from the second stage of IIM admissions despite aggregate and sectional CAT scores being way beyond the cut-off that was set. In a telephonic interview with *Tanushree Bhatia*, IIMA's admissions chairperson *Diptesh Ghosh* explains the procedure for shortlisting candidates for personal interview and asserts there has been no foulplay

Q: In a reply to an RTI query you have said that the eligibility criteria for shortlisting candidates for personal interview was changed on January 12, much after the test was conducted. What was the need to do so?

A: A 50 per cent in undergraduate course is only the minimum percentage required to be eligible to take CAT test. Traditionally, after the CAT test, an IIMA committee sits and decides the criteria for the next level, which is the personal interview. You have to understand that the competition is cut-throat. Suppose, we have a large pool of candidates scoring 99 percentile.

How do we select the candidates for interview? We obviously have to look at their marks in class X, XII and undergraduate course. So, we take into consideration two components to shortlist them: The academic component which is the CAT score and the application rating that looks at the class X, XII and graduation marks.

Q: Why didn't you disclose the application rating criteria earlier?

A: CAT scores are considered for admissions to 200 institutes. Therefore, we can only set the minimum eligibility criteria for the CAT test.

The criteria for final selection of candidates will differ from institute to institute. In its CAT bulletin, IIMA had clearly mentioned that CAT is only the first level of the selection process. IIMA and other institutes set a second level of criteria after looking at the pool of candidates who have cleared CAT.



Diptesh Ghosh

Q: But when have the students who have scored 50 per cent in undergraduate course, your eligibility criteria for CAT, ever made it to the IIMs? Why not raise the minimum percentage of marks to 70 per cent or 80 per cent?

A: Let me give you an example. Say, we set a cut-off of 70 per cent in class X, XII and undergraduate courses. Then, an MBA aspirant who has scored 68 per cent in class X, 90 per cent in class XII and 90 per cent in undergraduate course will not be eligible to take CAT.

As per the current eligibility criteria for CAT, we are allowing a candidate to compensate for less marks in class X with marks scored in class XII and undergraduate courses.

Q: Can Application Rating change every year?

A: Application rating can and does change every year because student profiles too keep changing.

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APPLICATION RATING (AR): 2011-2013

PRE-BACHELOR'S DEGREE					
Rating Score	1	2	4	6	8
Percent in 10th Std.	< 60	60-69	70-79	80-89	≥90
Percent in 12th Std.	< 60	60-69	70-79	80-89	≥90
BACHELOR'S DEGREE					
Rating Score	3	5	7	9	12
% in Commerce, Management, Agri-Engg, Architecture	< 55	55-64	65-69	70-74	≥75
% in Engg/Tech/	< 65	65-75	76-89	90-94	≥95
% in Arts, Law, Medicine and others	< 53	53-56	57-60	61-64	≥65

SHORTLISTING CRITERIA FOR IIMA PERSONAL INTERVIEW

General Category: 540 candidates whose percentiles in each section were 94 and above, and who had an overall percentile of 99 and had an Application Rating of ≥ 21 were considered for personal interview.

NC-OBC Category: 193 NC-OBC candidates whose percentiles in each section were 84 and above and who had an overall percentile of 94 and an Application Rating of ≥ 19 were considered for personal interview.

SC Category: 108 SC candidates whose percentiles in each section were 75 and above and who had an overall percentile of 80 and an Application Rating of ≥ 17 were considered for personal interview.

ST Category: 55 ST candidates whose percentiles in each section were 50 and above and who had an overall percentile of 80 with an Application Rating of ≥ 16 were considered for personal interview.

DA Category: 21 DA candidates whose percentiles in each section were 65 and above and who had an overall percentile of 80 with an Application Rating of ≥ 16 were considered for personal interview.