## Asian Age ND 25.02.2014 p-13

# Panic after fire breaks out in IIT Delhi lab

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 24

A fire broke out in the chemistry laboratory in the IIT Delhi campus on Monday morning, gutting property worth several lakhs of rupees and leading to panic amongst students.

The fire broke out in the fourth floor of Block 5 in the campus at around 11.30 am, when most of the students were inside the classrooms.

"Most of us were in panic. We all were in classrooms when suddenly there was a pungent smell in the air and few minutes later, there was flame coming out from the chemistry lab and later a few blasts were heard," according to Alok Shukla, a research scholar in plasmonic physics at IIT Delhi. His classroom was just below the chemistry lab.

There is a large number of inflammable equipment



The chemistry laboratory at IIT Delhi

in the lab, but there is no confirmation about the source of the fire. The students, who were working on experiments in the laboratory, had tried their best to douse the fire.

IIT-Delhi registrar Rakesh Kumar said that the institute would investigate the matter and denied that the fire started because of "wrong experimentation." He, however, said that the fire was facilitated by the presence of chemicals in the laboratory. The IIT Delhi security officials had confined the fire to the room only, he added.

### Times of India ND 25-Feb-14 P-3



Fire broke out in one of the chemistry labs on Monday morning

# Fire at IIT-D lab, panic on campus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

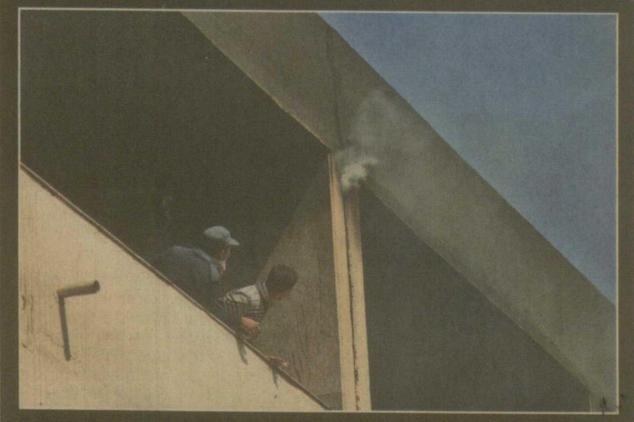
New Delhi: Chaos ensued at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi campus after a fire broke out in one of the chemistry labs on Monday morning.

Though no injuries were reported, the fire and the minor explosions created panic among students and staff members, police said. The food-chemistry lab was also the work-space of much-awarded chemistry professor, HM Chawla.

Police said the fire may have been caused due to a short circuit. The fire, which was confined to one block, broke out around 11.15am. It took five fire tenders 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control. "Surrounding buildings were cleared as a precautionary measure. Witnesses said there were three blasts in the initial few minutes." an officer said.

"We think there may have been some problem with the battery but are not sure of what exactly caused the fire," said IIT Delhi registrar, Rakesh Kumar.

# FIRE IN IIT DELHI CAMPUS, NO INJURIES REPORTED



NEW DELHI: Panic gripped the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi campus after a fire broke out in a room attached with the chemistry laboratory on Monday morning, fire department officials said.

The blaze broke out at around 11.25am in room number 421 on

the third floor in block-5 of IIT Delhi campus building.

Though nobody was injured in the fire chaos broke out among the students, faculties and other staff who panicked because of the minor explosions that occurred inside the room and the attached chemistry lab.

# L-G okays what AAP rejected, IP University to get new V-C

**Atul Mathur** 

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung has given a goahead to his government to finalise the new vice-chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University from among the panel of three academicians shortlisted during the Congress regime.

The Aam Aaadmi Party had earlier objected to the threemember panel and asked the department of higher education to invite fresh applications for the post.

AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who was the minister of higher education, had asked his department to start the process of selecting V-C, afresh, could not be contacted.

Sources said the L-G has now asked the department to finalise the selection of the new V-C as soon as possible. "We have started working on it and hope to complete the process soon," a senior Delhi government official said.

A committee of four academicians — V-C Delhi university. director of Indian Institute of Management (Lucknow), director of Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi) and vice-chancellor of National Law University — had earlier

THE AAM AADMI PARTY HAD ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER FRESH APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST

shortlisted the names of three academicians among whom the V-C of IP University was to be finalised.

Sources said Delhi government's higher education department has now called for the annual confidential report and the vigilance report of the shortlisted candidates.

Founded in 1998, the IP University has given affiliation to several technical and professional colleges in Delhi. Anup Singh Beniwal, who is dean of University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is currently the officiating vice-chancellor of the University.

Sources said Delhi government could not complete the process of appointment of VC before the term of DK Bandhopadhyay got over in December 2013. By virtue of being the longest serving dean, Beniwal took over charges from Bandyopadhyay as an interim VC.



in a building at Indian Institute of ni campus on Monday morning. No ported in the incident. ficials, the blaze was reported from boratory adjacent to a hostel in the ceived a call at 11.25 am that a fire n a high-rise building on the campus. icinity said they heard the sound of Mail Teday.



# Fire breaks out at IIT, nobody hurt

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A fire broke out in a room at the Indian Institute of Technology, which was precariously close to a chemistry laboratory. The Monday morning incident, however, left no one injured.

The blaze was seen on the third floor of Block V in academic area.

Fire department officials said that they received a call at 11:25 am, informing that a fire had broken out in a high-rise building in the IIT Delhi campus. Five fire tenders were rushed to douse the fire. And the firefight lasted for one-and-a-half hour.

"The fire was primarily confined to one block and much of the lab equipments kept in the room were gutted," said an official.

The building was vacated when the fire broke out and everybody in the building were brought to the lawn, said an eyewitness.

Supreet Singh Bahga, an assistant professor tweeted after the fire broke out, "Seems like safety issue with a lab... something catching fire and exploding in series."



Firemen douse the flames at the IIT building on Monday. PTI

Students who were there at the site said that they saw a plume of smoke and heard two to three loud cylinder blasts at the time of the fire.

The Delhi Fire office said that there was no blast in the chemistry lab and all the gas cylinders in the lab were intact. The cause of the fire is still unknown, but it is believed that a short circuit might have led to the fire. The police said that they are investigating the reasons behind it.

There was panic even in the boys' hostel located next to the building, said a police officer.

# विभिस्ट्री लैब में खड़ी कार में भी आग लाखों का नुकसान

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। हौजखास स्थित आईआईटी की केमिस्ट्री लैब में सोमवार सुबह आग लग गई। आग लगने से आईआईटी कैंपस में हड़कंप मच गया। मौके पर पहंची फायर ब्रिगेड की पांच गाडियों ने आग पर काबू पाया। लैब में आग लगने का कारण केमिकल रिएक्शन माना जा रहा है।

इस घटना के कुछ समय बाद आईआईटी कैंपस में ही एक पेड़ के नीचे खडी मारुति एस्टीम कार में भी आग लग गई। दोनों ही घटनाओं में किसी के हताहत होने के समाचार नहीं है। वसंत विहार थाना पुलिस दोनों घटनाओं की जांच कर रही है। आग से लाखों का सामान खाक हो गया। दक्षिण जिला अधिकारियों के अनुसार सोमवार सुबह करीब 11.30 बजे ब्लाक-5



की तीसरी मंजिल पर स्थित केमिस्टी लैब में आग लगने की सचना मिली थी।

आईआईटी अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों का कहना था कि लैब में रखे इंवर्टर में आग लगी होगी। इसके बाद आग लैब में रखे केमिकलों तक पहुंच गई और भयावह रूप ले लिया। आग लगने की सूचना के बाद ब्लाक-5 को खाली करा लिया गया

था। केमिस्ट्री लैब की आग काबू होने के कुछ देर बाद ही आईआईटी कैंपस में खड़ी एक मारुति एस्टीम में आग लग गई।

आग लगने के समय चालक ने कार में रेडियो चला रखा था। इंजन से धुआं निकलने के बाद वह कार से बाहर निकल गया। पेड़ और पत्तों की वजह से आग ज्यादा फैल गई। आग से कार पूरी तरह जल गई।



आईआईटी में लगी आग, गैलरी टेखिए: www.delhincr.amar ujala.com

# आईआईटी की केमिस्ट्री लैंब में लगी आग

नेशनल दुनिया

नई दिल्ली।राजधानी के हौजखास में स्थित प्रतिष्ठित शिक्षण संस्थान भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आई आईटी) में सोमवार को आग लग गई। आग संस्थान की केमिस्ट्री लैब में लगी थी।

घटना की सूचना के बाद पुलिस और दमकल विभाग की गाड़ियां मौके पर पहुंच गईं, जिसके बाद आग पर काबू पाया गया। इसके अलावा आग की दूसरी घटना आईआईटी के गेट के बाहर हुई, जहां एक कार में अचानक आग लग गई।

सूचना के बाद दमकल विभाग के कर्मचारियों ने मौके पर पहुंचकर कार की आग पर काबू पाया। पुलिस से मिली सूचना के अनुसार दोनों हादसों में कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ है। पुलिस से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार पुलिस को सोमवार दोपहर करीब 11.25 बजे सूचना मिली थी कि आई आईटी कैंपस की केमिस्ट्री लेब में आग लग गई है। सूचना के बाद पुलिस और दमकल विभाग की गाड़ियां मौके पर पहुंच गई। मौके पर पहुंचकर दमकल विभाग के

कर्मचारियों ने जल्द की आग पर काबू पा लिया।

घटना में किसी के हताहत होने की सूचना नहीं है। पुलिस फिलहाल आग लगने के कारणों का पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रही है। वहीं आग लगने की दूसरी घटना भी आईआईटी कैंपस



### हादसा

- संस्थान के गेट पर एक कार भी जलकर खाक
- दोनों घटनाओं में कोई नहीं हुआ हताहत

के गेट के बाहर हुई, जहां एक स्टीम कार में आग लग गई। पुलिस और दमकल विभाग को 1.05 बजे सूचना मिली कि एक कार में आग लगी है। सूचना के बाद दमकल विभाग की दो गाड़ियां मौके पर पहुंच गईं।

दमकल विभाग के कर्मचारियों ने जल्द ही आग पर काबू पा लिया। पुलिस ने बताया कि इस हादसे में कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ है। पुलिस का कहना है कि कार में आग शॉर्ट सर्किट के कारण लगी थी।



HINDUSTAN ND 25-Feb-14

# आईआईटी कैंपस में आग लगने से मचा हड़कंप

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

आईआईटी कैम्पस में सोमवार को आग लगने की सूचना से पूरे कैम्पस में हड़कंप मच गया। घटना में कोई भी घायल नहीं हुआ है। फायर ब्रिगेड की पांच गाड़ियों ने आधे घंटे में ही आग पर काबू पा लिया।

सुबह तकरीबन साढ़े 11 बजे आईआईटी दिल्ली कैम्पस में आग लगने की सूचना मिलते ही पूरा पुलिस महकमा सिक्रय हो गया। कैम्पस में बड़ी संख्या में मीडिया-पुलिस और फायर विभाग के कर्मचारी झटपट पहुंच गए। बिल्डिंग को पहले ही खाली करा लिया गया था। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के मुताबिक आग कैम्पस की तीसरी मंजिल में केमेस्ट्रि लैब के बगल वाले कमरे में लगी थी। देखते ही देखते बिल्डिंग का बड़ा हिस्सा आग की चपेट में आ गया। फायर विभाग के लोगों ने आग लगने के पीछे कमरे में रखे केमिस्ट्री लैब के कई रसायनों एवं अन्य सामानों को कारण बताया।

मुख्य अग्निशमन अधिकारी एके शर्मा ने बताया कि फायर बिग्रेड ने महज आधे घंटे के भीतर आग पर काबू पा लिया। आग लगने के पीछे कुछ लोग सिलेंडर फटने

## अफरातफरी

p-3

- किसी के घायल होने की खबर नहीं एक के बाद एक तीन धमाके हुए थे
- आवाज सुन पास स्थित ब्वॉयज हॉस्टल के सभी छात्र बाहर आ गए

को भी वजह बता रहे हैं। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों ने बताया कि यहां थोड़ी-थोड़ी देर में लगभग तीन धमाकों की आवाज आ रही थी। आवाज सुन पास स्थित ब्वॉयज हॉस्टल के सभी छात्र बिल्डिंग से बाहर आ गए।



आईआईटी कैंपस स्थित इसी बिल्डिंग में सोमवार की सुबह आग लगी थी। • एजेंसी

# What IISc Plans to Do with His ₹220 crore

It was a meeting of minds: an Indian Institute of Science professor wanting to create a larger, independent centre for brain research and a corporate leader wanting to fund such an endeavour. The result: a research centre that is one of its kind in India, reports Hari Pulakkat



The result: a research centre that is one of its kind in India, reports Hari Pulakkat

The sylvan campus of the sylvan campus of sheemed (ISO) in of a hospital. It will be a nor profit society jointly owned to search. But being a government institution, it has always fortnerch within ruse that often slow down work, let our generacy of the society some control of the set spike and the country like IITs have been looking to breakfree from these restrictions, by setting up entities that other slow down work, let or entires that other slow down work, let or entire that often slow down work, let of the work of the work of the warehold to the sold the country like IITs have been looking to the work from the country like IITs have been looking to the country like IITs have been look

## IIT prof 'hyped' cell radiation, daughter sold protective shields

PAGE 1 **ANCHOR** 

Kumar denies conflict of interest, claims daughter's business disclosed MIHIKA BASU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24

COMMITTEE set up by A the department of telecommunications has raised a red flag over the ethical conduct of an IIT-Bombay pro-fessor for blowing out of propor-tion the effects of mobile phone tion the effects of hoose priors tower radiation on humans and on the other hand promoting his family's business of products that claim to reduce the impact

The professor, Girish Kumar, is at the electrical engineering department of the institute.

DoT constituted the com-

organisations, following a January 10, 2012 directive by the Luc-know bench of the Allahabad High Court. The court was hear-Fign Court. The court was hearing a writ petition on issues related to electro-magnetic field (EMF) radiations.

Kumar, one of the 13 members of the committee, said he

did not agree with the report and added that the committee was

biased.
"The committee observed that his daughter, Neha Kumar, is selling radiation shielding solutions through her company NESA Radiation Solutions Private Ltd. On one hand, he is spreading misinformation and alising and blowing out of pro-portion the effects of EMF radi-

ation, and on the other hand, he is promoting his family's busi-ness in related products (which do not even follow any national or international standards), thus throwing professional ethics to the winds," the report said.

Kumar has been fighting for safer norms and a reduction in the power transmitted by cellphone tower antennae for over five years now. Citizens' groups in South Mumbai and prominent residents such as Prakash Munshi and actor Juhi Chawla

port which claimed the short-term and long-term affects of ra-diation included memory loss, sleep disruption, headache, de-pression, irritability, poor con-centration, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, DNA damage, irreversible infertility and prostate cancer. The report said that as part

of professional ethics, professionals made disclosures about their commercial or business interest or the commercial or business interest of close relatives

lishing any report or newsletter. Kumar, chairman of Wilcom Technologies Private Ltd, which offers radiation shield as one of its products, also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter titled 'Cellphone/Tower Radiation Haz-

that Prof (Girish Kumar) has not made any such disclosure about the studies being conducted by him or reports submitted by h CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IIT-Bombay prof 'hyped' radiation

on the newsletter being published by him on the issue of health effects from EMF radiation. Though initially Prof Kumar had agreed to submit a proper disclosure on his work related to EMF radiation, but he later refused to give any such disclo-sure. However, he has stated that the in-

sure. However, ne nas stated that the in-formation given in his newsletter be con-sidered as his disclosure," the report said. The report said the other members of the committee were of the view that the information was unclear and incomplete. It said Kumar should have categorically disclosed his family's commercial interest in companies involved in manufacturing or dealing with EMF shielding products. or dealing with EMF shielding products. Members of the committee include professors from IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Belhi, IIT-Koorkee and experts from ICMR, AIIMS, department of science and technology and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, besides representatives from DoT.

"I have always maintained that removing towers is not the solution, unless one is willing to live without mobile phones," Kumartold The Indian Express when reached for comment.

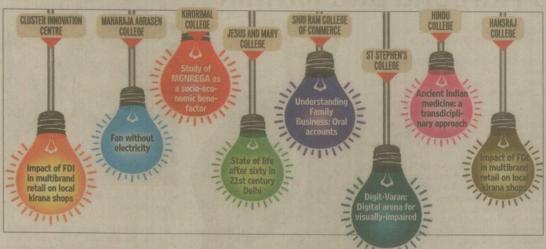
when reached for comment.
"My presentation at every forum suggests three solutions to reduce EMF hazard, if there is a cell tower near your residence/office. The first solution talks of ted power and the second is on removal of the tower. The third option is given as shielding solutions. If my first suggestion on reducing the power transmitted is im-plemented, there will be no need to have shielding solutions in the first place and then the company too will have to close down. So then where is the conflict of in-terest? Even in my emails to the committee, which included my newsletter, I had mentioned that my daughter has a com-pany on shielding solutions."

In the report, the committee said that Kumar had circulated an email to all members, which casts aspersions and ascribes bias against them, which was strongly objected to by the members. Most members, the report noted, were of the view that it amounted to undermining the premier institutions and disagreed with the professor's "prejudiced stance" at the very outset. "Kumar refused to at-tend and participate in the meetings of the committee, despite pursuance by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and did not attend the first meeting...The committee members have taken due note of emails dated January 14 and 15, 2014, sent by Kumar to them, where there is an attempt by Kumar to involve the judges of the high court, Allahabad, into the discussions even before finalisation of the senort. All other memnalisation of the report. All other mem-bers disassociate themselves from such activities of Kumar," it said.

# Science can grow without killing

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission has made a commendable decision in discontinuing laboratory dissection of animals for experimental purposes in life science subjects, particularly zoology. The new order, in which UGC asks the universities and all the funded and non-funded academic institutions to stop lab dissection of animals at the undergraduate level, is estimated to save more than 17 million creatures per academic session, a huge number by all means. In this age of digitally enhanced knowledge of anatomy and morphology, where computer simulations of organ systems and electronic as well as plastinated models of specimens are available, killing animals for the sake of knowledge sounds barbaric and utterly devoid of ethical principle of basic non-violence. The UGC, on its part, has cited its willingness to adhere to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in addition to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. This ruling is not only a timely intervention to stop merciless slaughter of animals at the altar of 'education, it also is a wakeup call for academic institutions to develop more ethically sound and uncompromising models of teaching, without practicing violent methods to do just that. Lab dissection of animals is a crude way of obtaining knowledge, because of which medical schools use human cadavers, yet had no reservation about killing animals, until now. The new order will not only save animal lives but also free up a chunk of grant that could be judiciously reallocated to support college education.

# DU: INNOVATION CENTRAL



## **NOVEL IDEA** Unique projects in DU colleges are giving a new meaning to creative ideas

Gauri Kohli

orking towards environment sustainability, developing waste management techniques, creating opportunities for women's empowerment through value-added products, digital reconstruction of lost art and craft and much more... Delhi University students from 59 colleges are redefining innovation through 251 unique projects.

Aimed at encouraging innovative thinking, these projects have engaged some of the brightest minds in the university to come up with real practical solutions to some everyday problems. What's more, the university is providing funds of ₹10 lakh for each project.

Proposals were invited in January 2012 for the scheme, called 'Innovation Projects

It was 'designed...to enhance learning experience through student participation, and each project had teams of three teach ers, 10 students in addition to a mentor from outside the institution.

"The scheme was structured to encourage and support hands-on research by college teachers and students.

Teachers get research opportunities and provide interdisciplinary exposure to students as they work across streams such as chemistry, biology, economics, and the social sciences. The best thing is that they are encourage trans-diciplinarity and research at the undergraduate level, says Professor Madan Chaturvedi, director, Cluster Innovation Centre, and dean research (life sciences) at University of Delhi.

Students are encouraged both through generous funding from the university, and structural support provided by the colleges, to conduct research outside of the classroom. For many students, this experience has been enriching in more ways than one.

One of the biggest outcomes of these projects is that the university planning to encourage students to develop entrepreneurial projects.

"A business incubator funded by the ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises is in the process of being established. This will incubate some of these projects that have the potential to be converted into business models," adds Chaturvedi.

Elaborating on the success of the university's initiative, Professor Malashri Lal, dean, academic activities and projects at DU, says, "We received over 400 applications in the second year of this scheme We are also getting attention from some foreign universities who are looking for

## SOME PROJECTS ROM 2013-14

The following are certain innovative projects developed

### Acharya Narendra Dev College

Development of low cost computer-controlled science laboratory using sensors,

### **Cluster Innovation Centre**

### Delhi College of Arts and Commerce

Creating a more enabling environment for differently-abled students in universities in Delhi through a dropout prevention pro-

### Hansraj College

## Jesus and Mary College State of life after 60 in Delhi

Kirorimal College Study of MGNREGA as a socio-economic



Students come up with practical solutions to everyday problems