

## Newspaper Clips

January 1, 2011

Hindu ND 01/01/2011 P6

# Sudhir Sopory is new JNU Vice-Chancellor

Aarti Dhar

**NEW DELHI:** President Pratibha Patil in her capacity as the Visitor of all Central Universities on Friday gave her assent to the appointment of Sudhir K. Sopory as the new Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University.

He succeeds B.B. Bhattacharya, whose term ended in June 2010. Professor Sopory is a senior scientist of molecular biology at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The Human Resource Development Ministry has already issued a notification regarding his

appointment.

Professor Sopory, who taught at the JNU some years ago, competed with Professor Mattoo; Deepak Nayyar, the former Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University who now teaches economics at JNU; and R. Ramaswamy from the Department of Physical Sciences, JNU, for the top post.

The three-member committee which shortlisted the names was led by K. Kasturirangan, the former ISRO chief and included P. Balaram, Director of the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), and economist Nitin Desai. The committee visited the JNU campus to interact with the faculty, students and

non-teaching employees to assess the profile of an ideal Vice-Chancellor that each stakeholder had in mind.

Distinguished academics, educationists and researchers were requested to recommend suitable names.

Meanwhile, the Ministry is yet to notify the appointment of Amitabh Mattoo as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Jammu Central University. His appointment received the Presidential nod last week. The President has asked the State government to ensure law and order on the campus.

There was some opposition to Professor Mattoo's appointment delaying approval by six months.

# Hindustan Times, 01.01.2011

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## shortstories

### PM's advisor upset over Sibal's move

**BANGALORE:** A top science adviser to the Prime Minister on Friday made known his displeasure over the government's announcement that would substantially increase intake in engineering colleges at a time when he believes the number of admissions is already high. Prof CNR Rao, an eminent scientist and chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, said this year, admissions at engineering colleges in India topped seven lakh, 10 times the

Hindustan Times, 01.01.2011 p-8

# CBI to probe fake IIT institute

## ht IMPACT

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal has ordered a CBI probe into the scam involving top Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur administrators and faculty who ran a fake institute using the IIT campus and brand.

Sibal ordered the first CBI probe against IIT officials and faculty on Thursday evening, aiming to ensure an impartial and thorough probe into the scam first exposed by HT on October 20, top government

### SIBAL ORDERS CBI PROBE AGAINST IIT OFFICIALS AND FACULTY, ACCUSED OF RUNNING AN ILLEGAL INSTITUTE

sources said.

The CBI will take over the probe from the West Bengal police at a time when over a dozen former and current IIT Kharagpur professors, the current registrar, and — as mentioned in the HT report yesterday — even the new chief vigilance officer are under the scanner.

The chief accused, IIT aerospace engineering professor and seasoned administrator Amit Kumar Ghosh has also

been caught in a sting operation by a student, confessing to cheating students and seeking a compromise. Ghosh is out of custody on bail, and has named two former IIT directors — Shishir Dube and Kasturi Lal Chopra — as complicit in the scam, though both have denied the charge.

Students of the fake Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) have been demanding a CBI probe, arguing that the complexities of the case — the biggest scam to hit the premier engineering schools — require the attention of the premier investigative agency.

Ghosh ran the IEE using his IIT office and official seal, the police suggest.

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## Tata funds research exploring use of water as auto fuel

**Bangalore:** India's top industrialist Ratan Tata has funded a research project in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to use hydrogen from water as an alternative fuel to drive cars, an eminent scientist said on Friday.

"Tata has given \$15 million to fund the research being conducted by MIT professor Daniel Nocera on using water as auto fuel. The project involves generating hydrogen by splitting water and storing it in a safe can to drive an automobile," noted scientist C N R Rao told reporters at a press meet here.

Tata and Nocera, who owns the patent, plan to set up a start-up for building a prototype can that can store hydrogen in a compressed form and fit it into a car for using as an alternative fuel cost-effectively.

"As it is Tata's dream to run his cars on water ultimately, he is funding the project so that he will have control on the innovative technology. He will also be associated with the start-up to develop the prototype, which will have a catalyst to warm up the water and create hydrogen as a fuel," Rao said on the eve of 2011 being celebrated as the International Year of Chemistry. The Pune-based Tata Motors Ltd is a leading manufacturer of passenger vehicles in major segments, including India's least expensive car Nano. [IANS](#)

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## What'll we do with all these engineers? PM's adviser

**Bangalore:** A top science advisor to the Prime Minister on Friday made known his displeasure over the government's announcement that would substantially increase intake in engineering colleges at a time when he believes the number of admissions are already high.

Prof C N R Rao, an eminent scientist and chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the PM, said this year, admissions at engineering colleges in India topped seven lakh, ten times the number in the US, where only 70,000 students are enrolled for such streams annually.

"What do we do with all these engineers (in India)?" Rao, a scientist of international repute, asked. "They are not trained; they can't be used". Rao initially declined to comment on HRD minister Kapil Sibal's announcement on Thursday which is estimated to increase engineering seats substantially, remarking: "I have nothing to do with education what he does".

Earlier, he said though admissions to engineering colleges are increasing, what is also needed is rising enrolment in other subjects such as economics, poetry, philosophy, botany and biology. ■

# Adding Values To Life

Over the new decade, let's invest in our moral well-being even as India prospers economically

Chetan Bhagat



Happy New Year or, rather, happy new decade! Writing a column at the onset of a new decade is daunting. One has to summarise the last 10 years and predict the next 10 in a limited space. However, the events that happened and the events that might happen are being covered enough. For me, the onset of the new decade is a good chance to reflect at how Indian culture changed, and should change in times to come.

A decade is a long time in an individual's life. Whether it is having a child, getting married, finishing your education or changing your job or cities, things must surely be different for you now from what they were in 2000.

However, 10 years isn't a long time when it comes to nations and societies. Cultures change for sure, but the shift in people's thinking, outlook and worldview is gradual. Our culture isn't just our food, arts and traditions. In a broader sense, culture defines us: who we are as people, how we aim to live our lives, what is acceptable or unacceptable behaviour and who in society is rewarded or punished. Most important, our culture contains the implicit rules by which we live - our values. Just as an example, one might say the United States values wealth, competition,

individualism and religion. These are pretty much core to the essence of American society and culture.

When we think of Indian values, we normally think of personal values - such as family, religion and respect for elders. These things are notably Indian. However, ask someone to articulate Indian community values, and there won't be a clear answer: Do we value wealth or education? Do we value democracy where people have a greater say in how they are governed, or do we believe in power in the hands of a select few to whom the laws don't apply? Do we value honesty, or do we value getting a job done anyhow? Do we believe

**“Lack of good values is why scams happen, nepotism exists and the government doesn't care about its people. Core values are vital to any society”**

in frugality, or do we want to show off our wealth? Do we value our local communities, or do we value being part of India?

These questions have no easy answer. There are conflicting responses to any of these questions in the India we see around us today. Scholars, unable to account for this, make profound statements like 'there are many Indias within India'. Some romantic types even call it



Create the soil for a national flowering

'the beauty of India, where everything is unpredictable'.

I call it confusion. Values cannot be unpredictable, they are consistent, even in volatile times. The past decade was spent by Indian society in a muddled set of values. It is hoped in the next 10 years we do a 'values clarification', especially for the new generation. A clear set of values helps tell people what their lives are for and what is worth working for. Values tell people what is good and important. They bind society. Social scientists believe that without values, a society could disintegrate, a risk often present in India. Religious heads believe that without values, human life is meaningless and all the worldly pleasures will not lead to any

satisfaction. Yes, a lack of good values is why scams happen, nepotism exists and the government doesn't care about its people. Core values are vital to any society and human being.

So why are we in such a confused state? Where have we gone wrong? Are Indians less moral, despite being the most religious in the world? No, we are perfectly fine people. The land where Buddha and Gandhi became icons, purely by the strength of their values, means ours is a society that understands goodness. The reason there is no concrete set of Indian values yet is that the concept of India itself is new.

Just over six decades ago, there was no India. We had a collection of princely states, with kings and queens, which the British ruled at gunpoint.

When the latter left, we loosely stitched these together, cut off a large chunk with partition and labelled the result India. The only common value all these kingdoms shared was their wanting the British out. After that was achieved, another revised set of values was never fully agreed upon. In 60 years, India mixed, modernised and defined itself somewhat, but there is still a long way to go. Today, different subsets of society have their own set of values, which frankly doesn't help much at a national level and leads to what we have now: confusion.

As we enter the new decade, there will be prescriptions on how many roads, airports and power plants we need to build. Along with this infrastructure, we must spend time building our values. Leaders, opinion makers and all of us in our dinner table discussions should continue to bring up this single question: What should an average Indian live, work and strive for in his life?

At present, there is no easy answer. There is also deep cynicism. But if we keep looking, and contribute to the quest for the right answer, we will find it. The answer to this fundamental question will determine our Constitution, our laws and where we will go as a society and nation in times to come. India will grow economically in the next 10 years. But if we focus on our collective values too, it will truly be a happy new decade.

*The writer is a best-selling novelist.*

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# In '10, stem cell research broke new ground

Washington: Two US companies this year broke new ground by winning regulatory approval to start the first experiments using embryonic stem cells on humans suffering from spinal cord injury and blindness.

The potent but hotly debated cells can transform into nearly any cell in the human body, opening a path toward eliminating such ills as Parkinson's disease, paralysis, diabetes, heart disease, and maybe even the ravages of aging. And more human experiments are on the way as scientists refine new methods to get around the controversy that surrounds embryonic stem cell research, which involves the destruction of early human life.

"After a decade of intense controversy, the field is finally ready to start proving itself and to actually start helping patients suffering from a range of horrific diseases," said Bob Lanza, chief scientist at Advanced Cell Technology. His company was cleared in November by Food and Drug Administration to begin testing a therapy derived from embryonic stem cells to treat a rare form of blindness that strikes in childhood, known as Stargardt's disease.

Clinical trials are expected to start in the coming months, and results could be known within six weeks. In October, Geron Corporation announced it had begun the first-ever test of human embryonic stem cells in a patient suffering from spinal cord injury. In all about a dozen patients are expected to participate in the year-long study. The primary aim of both ACT's and Geron's studies is to gauge safety, not necessarily to restore mobility or vision.

The major concern with stem cell therapies is that the transforming cells could form tumors. But if the methods appear safe, both firms aim to expand their trials to wider populations in hopes of curing paralysis and blindness. Twelve years ago, US scientist James Thomson's team isolated human embryonic stem cells for the first time, and the



THE BIG FIX

## Get your genome sequenced in mins

British scientists claim to be developing a new technology which could ultimately sequence a person's genome in mere minutes, at a fraction of the cost of current commercial techniques. A team at Imperial College London has already patented an early prototype technology which they believe could lead to an ultrafast commercial DNA sequencing tool within ten years, the *Nano Letters* journal reported. The research suggests that researchers could eventually sequence an entire genome in a single lab procedure, whereas at present it can only be sequenced after being broken into pieces in a highly complex and time-consuming process. **PTI**

field has been cloaked in controversy ever since.

Former president George Bush outlawed federal funding for the research because it involves the disposal of human embryos, a ban that President Barack Obama reversed shortly after taking office in 2009. But in August of this year, judge Royce Lamberth blocked US government funding for embryonic stem cell research after ruling in favor of a coalition of groups.

While the funding has since been permitted to go ahead pending appeal, the legal wrangling has left some scientists wary of the future. To get around the problems associated with embryonic stem cell research, scientists in 2010 forged new paths toward creating induced pluripotent cells, which can transform into skin, blood or heart cells. **AFP**

Times of India ND  
1/01/2011 P-22

## New virus threatens phones using Android

**Washington:** A virus infecting mobile phones using Google's Android operating system has emerged in China that can allow a hacker to gain access to personal data, US security experts said.

A report this week from Lookout Mobile Security said the new Trojan affecting Android devices has been dubbed "Geinimi" and "can compromise a significant amount of personal data on a user's phone and send it to remote servers." The firm called the virus "the most sophisticated Android malware we've seen to date."

"Once the malware is installed on a user's phone, it has the potential to receive commands from a remote server that allow the owner of that server to control the phone," Lookout said.

"Geinimi's author(s) have raised the sophistication bar significantly over and above previously observed Android malware by employing techniques to obfuscate its activities." The motive for the virus was not clear, according to the Lookout, which added that this could be used for anything from "a malicious ad-network to an attempt to create an Android botnet."

But the company said the only users likely to be affected are those downloading Android apps from China. AFP

Times of India ND 1/01/2011 P-21

# 35 cases in 20km: Ohio's child cancer mystery

**Clyde (Ohio):** Every time his kids cough, Dave Hisey's mind starts to race. Is it cancer? Is it coming back? His oldest daughter, diagnosed with leukemia nearly five years ago when she was 13, is in remission. His 12-year-old son has another year of chemotherapy for a different type of leukemia. And his 9-year-old daughter is scared she'll be next.

Hisey is not alone in fearing the worst. Just about every mom and dad in this ru-

Since 1996, 35 children have been diagnosed — and three have died — of brain tumors, leukemia, lymphoma, and other forms of cancer — all within a 20-km-wide circle

ral Ohio town gets nervous whenever their children get a sinus infection or a stomachache lingers. It's hard not to panic since mysterious cancers have sickened dozens of area children in recent years.

Since 1996, 35 children have

been diagnosed — and three have died — of brain tumors, leukemia and other forms of cancer — all within a 12-mile wide circle that includes two small towns and farmland just south of Lake Erie. With many of the diagnoses coming be-

tween 2002 and 2006, state health authorities declared it a cancer cluster, saying the number and type of diagnoses exceed what would be expected statistically for so small a population over that time.

After three years of exhaustive investigation, no cause is known. Investigators have tested wells and drinking water, sampled groundwater and air near factories and checked homes, schools and industries for radiation. They

also set up a network of air monitors across eastern Sandusky County, finding cleaner air than in most places around Ohio, the health department said. Nothing unusual was detected. Not even a hint.

Without any answers as to what's attacking their children, parents are left to question whether living within a known cancer cluster area is endangering their kids. Perhaps surprisingly, only a handful have moved away. AP

Times of India ND 1/01/2011 P-21

# Americans turn to tech to control their impulses

**New York:** Dan Nainan can't trust himself to work at computer without clicking on distractions, so he uses an internet-blocking program to shut down his web access twice a day. "I'm sorry, but try as I might, I could never, ever do this on my own," said Nainan who's struggling to finish a book. "I wish I could, but I just don't have the discipline."

Nainan's system of two, two-hour blocks is one example of how Americans are trying to control their impulses using technology that steps in to enforce good behavior. In the new year, many tools are now available to help people stay in line, including a GPS-enabled app that locks down texting once a car gets rolling and a program that cuts off credit-card spending. Another device monitors your workout and of-



**PLAYING MOM:** The Slow Down app slows down if you're driving at the speed limit and stops altogether when you've exceeded it

fers real-time voice feedback.

Have we entered an era in which electronics serve as mother, cop and coach because we can't manage our own desires? Yep, said Ann

Mack, a trend-watcher for JWT Intelligence, an arm of the marketing giant. Tools to cope with temptation are everywhere. Some car owners are voluntarily using a technology developed for convicted drunk drivers — ignition locks attached to in-car breathalyzers.

A handful — including "Don't Dial!" — will cut off your access to phone numbers for up to 24 hours, the former allowing you to name a friend as gatekeeper. Another app, Slow Down, alters the tempo of your music, depending on your driving speed, on an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch. Using GPS, the music slows if a preset speed limit is exceeded and stops completely if you're over the limit by more than 10 mph. You can have your tunes back when you slow down. AP



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# Soon, a universal phone charger

**London:** Frustration of your mobile phone running out of charge, and not being able to get your hands on a compatible charger, will be a *pas de*. A universal charger for all mobiles is coming early in 2011.

The world's 14 most prominent mobile manufacturers have been sent details by the European Commission of a new standard connection, after they agreed to sign up to it in June 2009. The technical specifications are based on micro-USB connector that many mobile manufacturers have already begun to use. Samsung, Apple, Nokia and Research in Motion, the maker of the BlackBerry, are among those that have agreed to adopt it, The Daily Telegraph reported.

The micro-USB jack is already

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© Ragnar Schmuck/fstop/Corbis

becoming common as manufacturers have made the shift in preparation. The Commission anticipates first devices whose chargers meet the precise details of the new standard will appear early next year.

European Commission vice-president Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entre-

preneurship, said, "Now it is time for industry to show its commitment to sell mobiles for the new charger. The common charger will make life easier for consumers, reduce waste and benefit businesses. It is a true win-win situation."

In a statement, the Commission said that "Incompatibility of

chargers for mobile phones is not only a major inconvenience for users, but also a considerable environmental problem. Users who want to change their mobile phones must usually acquire a new charger and dispose of the old one, even if it is in good condition."

The common charger is cross-compatible with data-enabled mobile telephones of different brands. "I think most will own up to having a drawer at home stuffed full of redundant chargers. Now, wherever you are, the frustration of your phone running out of juice, and not being able to get your hands on a compatible charger, will be a thing of past," agreed Jonathan Leggett, director of the mobile phone comparison website Top10.com. AGENCIES

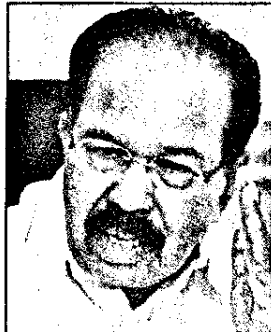
# Govt moves to strip Bar council of edu role

## Feels Lawyers' Body Not Equipped To Decide Matters Relating To Education

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

**New Delhi:** The UP government is keen to bring in a new legislation to set up a National Commission for Higher Legal Education and Research, which will take over the traditional role of Bar Council of India (BCI) as the body to grant recognition to law colleges and specify the academic curriculum.

The move is not prompted by the recent arrest of a BCI member by CBI on charges of taking bribe to grant recognition to a law college. Rather, the government feels that the statutory body created to enforce code of professional conduct and ethics for the one-million strong lawyers is ill-equipped to decide matters



**DRAWING THE LINE:** Backing the move, law minister Veerappa Moily said education should be left to professionals

relating to higher legal education and research.

"Education is a complex subject and fixing up of cur-

riculum for legal education and research is even more complex. Hence, we thought of bringing in a bill to create a national commission comprising of renowned professionals and jurists to give a fillip to legal education and research. Education should be left to professionals," law minister Veerappa Moily told TOI.

The Bill, which has been finalised recently, specifies the role of the Commission and at a first glance conveys that BCI would no longer have anything to do with legal education. It says, the Commission shall specify:

- Norms and standards of academic quality for accreditation and benchmarking of higher legal educational in-

stitutions, which means criteria for quality control

- Norms and processes for declaration of a law university or an higher legal educational institution empowered, by or under any law, to award any degree or diploma, to commence its academic operations. This is vital since no law college could commence operation without the Commission's nod

- Norms of academic quality for a law university or law school

- Regulate the entry and operation of foreign law educational institutions

The Bill mandates the Commission to undertake research to identify future directions and processes in higher legal education and to

assess future knowledge manpower requirements in different fields of law for meeting the needs of the bar and the Bench, courts, arbitration and conciliation.

It will advice and facilitate the states or a body of institutions in establishing a law university in accordance with the norms and standards specified by it. The government proposes to task the proposed Commission to chalk out future of entire legal education.

The Commission is also expected to maintain the directory of academics for leadership positions in law for appointment as vice-chancellor, director or head of a legal educational and research institution.

Times of India ND 1/01/2011

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# No MBA entry without a test

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Pulling up states that admitted management aspirants on the basis of graduation scores, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has ruled that a student can't be enrolled in a post-graduate management programme without entrance exam marks.

Several states including Maharashtra, opened their gates to students who hadn't taken any entrance exam. In 2010, close to a mind-boggling 6,351 MBA seats remained untaken despite the state government throwing all entry norms out of the window and allowing students who didn't take the common entrance test to get into the Masters programme. Initially, there were 11,000 vacancies and then the government opened the gates to everyone. Despite that, thousands of seats lay unfilled.

The MBA programme, which has seen a major expansion with the opening up of new colleges, has also nev-

er before witnessed more than a few hundred seats going vacant. Currently, there are 24,995 seats in Maharashtra's 366 management colleges. Across India, there are close to 4 lakh MBA seats. The notification comes weeks before a slew of management entrance tests are to be conducted, and AICTE has ruled that the MBA or the PGDBM programme would have to be two-year long.

Although there were several suggestions that the AICTE allow institutes to offer a one-year MBA course, like in the UK, an expert task force ruled against it. To bring about some parity among management graduates, the council would develop a model curriculum for all management schools, as also fees charged by B-schools would have to be approved by the fee fixation committee of each state. Lastly, admission to the courses shall not start before 31 March of the academic year; the session will begin from June 1 to May 31 of succeeding year.

Statesman ND 1/01/2011 P-5

# Inadvertent snapping of connectors caused *GSLV* failure, says Isro

BANGALORE, 31 DEC: The Indian Space Research Organisation has attributed the failure of *GSLV-F06* flight of 25 December, with a *GSAT-5P* Satellite onboard, to the untimely and inadvertent snapping of a group of 10 connectors which were located at the bottom of the Russian Cryogenic stage.

The Preliminary Failure Analysis Team which was set up by Isro chief, Prof Radhakrishnan, to study the causes of the flight's failure, has said that some of these connectors carried command signals from the onboard computer in the equipment bay to the control electronics of the four L40 strap-ons of the first stage.

These connectors, according to an Isro release, were to be separated only after a command was issued at 292 seconds after lift-off. The premature snapping, however, led to stoppage of continuous flow of control commands to the first stage control electronics which, in turn, led to a loss of control and

break up of the vehicle.

The team, however, said that the exact reason or cause for the connectors to snap would need to be analysed to know whether it could be attributed to external forces like vibration and dynamic pressure.

The Isro release said its chairman had now constituted a Failure Analysis Committee to carry out an in-depth study of the flight data of *GSLV-F06* as well as the data from the previous six flights of *GSLV*. In addition, it would seek to establish reasons for the failure of *GSLV-F06* flight besides recommending corrective actions on the *GSLV* vehicle including the remaining one Russian Cryogenic stage. The committee, chaired by former chairman Isro, Dr Madhavan Nair, has 11 experts drawn from within Isro and outside.

The Isro chief has also constituted a review and strategy panel to look into the future of the *GSLV* programme and the assured launch for *INSAT/GSAT* series, *INSAT-3D* and

*Chandrayaan-2*. Similarly, it would look into realisation and operationalisation of indigenous Cryogenic Stage in addition to the strategy for meeting the demands of communication transponders in the immediate future. Dr K Kasturirangan, former chairman Isro and now member, Planning Commission, would chair the seven-member committee. The two committees have been requested to submit their reports by the end of January 2011. Subsequently, the reports would be presented to eminent experts including Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Prof. MGK. Menon, Prof Yash Pal, Prof. UR Rao, Dr K Kasturirangan, Dr G. Madhavan Nair, Dr R. Chidambaram, and Prof. R. Narasimha.

Besides, another panel chaired by Dr SC Gupta, former member of the Space Commission, would be guiding and facilitating an internal exercise by the Isro chief to gear up for the complex and challenging space missions ahead. **sns**

Financial Express ND 01.01.2011 P-17

# IIM-L rejigs international programme for executives

**Kirtika Suneja**

New Delhi, Dec 31: In a move that will encourage mid-level executives to take up management education, the Indian Institute of Management Lucknow's (IIM-L) Noida campus has reduced the number of terms of its flagship one year International Programme in Management for Executives (IPMX).

As a part of the review of the IPMX programme, which will enter its fourth year in 2011, the institute has re-

duced the number of terms from six to four this year.

"The programme is now to be spread across four terms instead of six and the courses will be for a duration of 10 weeks and not six like before. The fourth term is the international module which happens at one of IIM Lucknow's partner institutes located globally," said Archana Shukla, dean, IIM Lucknow Noida campus and chairperson, IPMX.

The one year full time residential post graduation pro-

gramme is meant for senior and mid-level executives to prepare them for leadership roles. The size of the ongoing third batch in IPMX is 48 and next year number will increase to 70. The average work experience of the batch is nine years and GMAT scores are accepted for admission in the programme.

The overseas partners are not fixed and the overseas module of IPMX was held at Canada's McGill University earlier and this year, it was held in ESCP Paris. The insti-

tute is looking at the options across the world including US and China for these international modules. The revamp programme also includes introduction of new features like workshop modules on subjects like CSR, greening strategy on environmental laws and infrastructure laws. "These are areas where whole courses can't be constructed around them but are relevant to the industry. Moreover, such modules make the candidature of students stronger," added Shukla.

Business Standard ND 01/01/2011 P5

# SIBAL'S NEW YEAR GIFT MAY FIND FEW TAKERS

KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai, 31 December

**K**apil Sibal's New Year gift may not cheer many management and engineering institutions. The human resource development minister yesterday allowed an additional 200,000 engineering, 80,000 management and 2,200 architecture seats.

But data obtained from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) showed that in 2010, around 60,000, or 30 per cent of the existing 200,000 management seats remained vacant. This is the highest vacancy ever in management education, with institutions even accepting money and selling seats to students without entrance test scores.

Ditto with engineering institutes, where nearly 530,000 seats or 40 per cent of the total 1.32 million seats remained unoccupied.

S S Mantha, officiating chairman of AICTE, however, refused to accept the figures. "Management and engineering seats do go vacant every year. But the numbers cannot be that high."

Mantha explained that on request of over 2,000 B-schools, AICTE has allowed institutes to increase the seats by 120 in every AICTE-approved institution. This, however, is subject to the infrastructure facility avail-



able at the institute. "We have to find eligible students for these institutes. This will only be possible if we have increased number of seats," he said.

But the academic community and test-preparing institutes are not enthused. In 2010, many regional B-schools in the northern, north-eastern and southern parts of the country admitted students who were ready to pay a hefty fee to sidestep the admission criteria.

These new management schools charge anywhere between ₹4,00,000 and ₹6,00,000 for a two-year management programme. The institutes are supplied students by consultants for a commission — anything between ₹15,000 and ₹60,000 per student. The cost of such ad-

## WHAT SIBAL PROPOSED

- Corporate sector to be allowed to start AICTE-approved courses under the Company's Act
- 5 per cent engineering seats to be reserved for economically backward sections
- Institutes in rural areas will have to be housed in 10 acres, in other areas it can be 2.5 acres
- Engineering institutions will be allowed vertical expansion
- Institutes can have more than one engineering/architecture/pharmacy or management institutes on a single campus
- Fixed deposit receipt paid by institutes to AICTE will be converted into money deposit
- Institutions with more than one batch shall be eligible to get two courses
- Institutions can be allowed evening courses for skill development

missions is adjusted in the fee.

"New B-schools do not have placement records to lure students with, so they recruit a liaison officer who approaches many coaching institutes and graduate colleges to get students. Students will not join institutes if they do not see a good return on investment. AICTE has facilitated the mushrooming of substandard B-schools in the country and this move will do no good to the sector," said a manager from an MBA test-preparing institute. At engineering institutes, many seats have gone vacant for streams like instrumentation not known to be popular with students.

AICTE officials, however, said this move is in the interest of increasing the gross en-

rollment ratio (GER), which at present is 0.4 per cent against 82 per cent in the US and 75 per cent in Russia. "We have done this to achieve a gross enrollment ratio (GER) of 30 per cent by 2020. We have since long been seen as a regulator. We want to tell people it's not a licence raj. This will provide an option to institutes (good ones) if they wish to increase the seats or not," said a senior official of AICTE. To achieve a GER of 30 per cent, India would need another 700 universities and 25,000 colleges. AICTE, in 2010, had received 2,176 applications from various states and individuals to open technical institutes. In the last one year, AICTE received around 12,100 applications seeking other approvals.

Hindustan Times, 02-Jan-11

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NEW REGULATIONS

# Soon, private varsities may go national

## PLAN Universities set up through Acts of Parliament will get UGC recognition

**ht SPECIAL**
**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The University Grants Commission plans to recognise private universities set up through Acts of Parliament for the first time under new regulations that remove a statutory obstruction to setting up private varsities nationally.

Private universities can be established either by an Act of Parliament or by a State legislation under the new regulations for private varsities finalised by the UGC, top government officials have told HT.

The current regulations require a private university to be set up only through State Acts. The finalised regulations are now being vetted by the HRD ministry, the sources said.

The move comes at a time when the government is keener than ever before to attract private investment in higher education to meet its ambitious target of 30% gross enrolment ratio in higher education by 2020. India's GER in higher education currently stands at 12.4%.

Current UGC regulations on private universities, brought in 2003, specify that "each private university shall be established by a separate State Act" and shall "operate ordinarily within the boundary of the state" though in exceptional cases

The requirement of a State Act was in tune with the policy at the time (2003)... That perspective has changed...our rulebooks must reflect the change

HRD OFFICIAL

additional campuses can be allowed. The new regulations allow the establishment of private universities through Acts of Parliament too.

"The requirement of a State Act was in tune with the policy at the time which did not encourage private players to set up national universities. That perspective has changed and our rule books must reflect the change," a senior HRD ministry official said.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal has publicly stated that the government wants private participation in establishing 14 Innovation Universities proposed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh focused on cutting-edge research to help India emerge a global knowledge hub.

The government is arguing that despite unprecedented public expenditure on higher education, it alone cannot provide the number of colleges required to meet India's GER target. Several top industrial houses have shown interest in setting up universities.

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## 50% must in Class XII for engg aspirants

**Bharat Yagnik | TNN**

**Ahmedabad:** If you are a Class XII (science) student, you will have to score at least 50% marks to be eligible to apply to any engineering or pharmacy college. The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) in its approval process handbook 2011-12 released online has said that minimum qualification for admission to engineering and pharmacy colleges will be 50% marks.

This eligibility qualification is expected to have a huge bearing on students pursuing science stream in Gujarat who were so far eligible for admission in engineering and pharmacy courses at 35%, the minimum pass marks. This also means that irrespective of students' score in Gujarat Common Entrance Test (Gujcet), the students in the state will have to score an aggregate of 50% in physics and maths as compulsory subjects along with chemistry and biology.

The new eligibility criteria will also impact engineering and pharmacy colleges in the state considering that of the 39,000 existing seats, this year only 19,000 seats were filled by students who had scored 50% and above marks. The rest 20,000 who had secured admission in these professional courses had scored less than 50%.