

## Newspaper Clips January 17, 2015

Millennium Post ND 17/01/2015 P-4

# Fresh trouble brews for DU Vice-Chancellor

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh could be in fresh trouble with the HRD ministry forwarding to the President a letter written by Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury highlighting alleged irregularities by the V-C in the varsity's functioning.

Singh has been at the centre of controversy ever since the row over the four year undergraduate programme (FYUP) broke out, with HRD ministry under Smriti Irani directing him to roll back the programme in June last year as it had no approval from the President who is the Visitor to Central universities.

In his letter, Yechury has also mentioned about a 'white paper' released by Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) alleging grave illegalities, academic erosion and administrative breakdown due to abuse of office by the V-C.

The V-C, whose tenure ends in October this year,

is also accused of having diverted funds to the tune of Rs 150 crore from funds meant for OBC students to purchase 62,600 laptops.

HRD ministry officials said that the Minister has forwarded Yechury's letter along with a host of other documents to Rashtrapati Bhavan in December last year but was yet to receive a response.

"We have received no communication from the President after the Ministry sent the documents to the President last month," said a senior HRD ministry official.

Sources however said the Rashtrapati Bhavan was closely monitoring the developments in Delhi University and was examining the charges against Singh.

They said that Rashtrapati Bhavan is believed to have asked for further information on the allegations against him from the ministry.

Yechury, had in November, led a delegation of university teachers to the

President, to protest against Singh's continuation in office.

DUTA had released a white paper in August last year accusing Singh of administrative and financial irregularities.

The teachers' association has also been demanding a visitorial enquiry into the allegations and had sought the intervention of the President, who is the Visitor of Delhi University.

Taking cognisance of the white paper submitted by DUTA, the HRD ministry had asked the varsity to send a point-wise response to the allegations made in the document.

A committee, which was set up by the ministry to look into the alleged diversion of funds, is understood to have found the V-C guilty in its report submitted to the ministry.

DUTA had also alleged that there has been an illegal diversion of funds over Rs 100 crore from the university's School of Open Learning.

Times Of India ND  
17/01/2015 P-10

# HRD to offer handsome perks to woo US scholars

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**New Delhi:** The HRD ministry is fine-tuning an attractive package for more than 1,000 scholars from United States who will come to India for short-term teaching under the Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN).

Sources said the US wasn't able to come to an agreement on GIAN since it does not have a central body that could carry out the work of sending faculty to Indian institutions. The US also said its universities are totally autonomous. However, GIAN has already been endorsed by the US government, a point made in the Indo-US joint statement in September.

In order to make it attrac-

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**To make it attractive for visiting scholars, HRD ministry has expanded the scope of GIAN. Scholars will come across disciplines and not be confined to science and technology**

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tive for visiting scholars, HRD ministry has expanded the scope of GIAN from what was conceived earlier. Scholars will come across disciplines and not be confined to science and technology. Roughly Rs 8 lakh per teacher will be spent on accommodation and remuneration. Sources said, "This figure is open to review." Teachers will be in India for a semester.

HRD is also ensuring that GIAN does not turn into a club of self-serving academics who end up inviting friends and relatives from US. "A proper system of checks and balances will be introduced," a source said, adding there could be a nodal agency in India – likely to be UGC to process the requests for particular faculty.

*For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)*

## Politics thicker than IIT brand

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150117/jsp/nation/story\\_8868.jsp#.VLqUJsm9\\_IU](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150117/jsp/nation/story_8868.jsp#.VLqUJsm9_IU)

**New Delhi, Jan. 16:** An expert panel whose advice had run counter to a poll promise by Narendra Modi has been made to fall in line, its terms of reference changed from "whether" to "how".

The issue was whether to convert the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, into an Indian Institute of Technology. Modi had promised such an upgrade while campaigning for the general election in Dhanbad in April.

In August, the five-member committee, constituted by the previous UPA government to look into the longstanding local demand, advised against such a move saying it would dilute the premier tech schools' brand image. It cited past unhappy experience with similar conversions.

But Union human resource development minister Smriti Irani was unimpressed. Her ministry revised the panel's terms of reference, asking it to suggest ways of upgrading the mining school into an IIT without going into the question of whether it should be upgraded.

In its second report, handed in recently, the committee said the Dhanbad institute could be turned into an IIT after all its teachers earned PhDs - which about 10 per cent of them are yet to do.

It recommended that they earn their PhDs from the IITs themselves, and also suggested an infrastructure upgrade.

Former IIT Mumbai director Ashok Mishra headed the committee, which included current IIT Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthy and former IIT Jodhpur director Prem Kalra.

Their first report had said that engineering colleges previously upgraded into IITs had failed to adapt to the raised standards of academic and research output and, instead, continued to betray their past work culture.

Two institutes - the Institute of Technology under Banaras Hindu University and the University of Roorkee - had been converted into IITs in the past 15 years.

A senior official at the mining school said the institute paid its teachers on a par with IIT faculty till seven years ago and, like the premier tech schools' faculty, all its teachers were PhDs.

But in 2008, the ministry asked it to implement a lower salary scale that was followed by the National Institutes of Technology at the time.

That scale allowed the appointment of MTech holders as teachers. So, between 2008 and 2014, the institute appointed about 50 teachers who were MTech holders but lacked doctorate degrees.

In 2014, the ministry asked the mining school to revert to the IIT pay scale.

"Of the non-PhD faculty members appointed between 2008 and 2014, some have acquired doctorate degrees and the remaining 35 are doing so," the institute official said.

But he said the suggestion that they all get their PhDs from the IITs was "discriminatory". Some of the faculty members are doing their PhDs in the mining school itself, he said.

"We get the students to do high-quality research. They have to get their papers published in internationally reputable journals. It will be discriminatory to ask all the non-PhD faculty members to earn their PhDs from the IITs," the official said.

The Dhanbad institute, a centrally funded one, was set up by the British in 1926 and was accorded deemed-university status in 1967, nine years after the status was granted to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

It has 18 departments including most branches of engineering and offers BTech, MTech and PhD programmes. Known for advanced research in mining and minerals, the institute admits undergraduate students through the JEE Advanced, like the IITs.

## **IIT-B centre designs affordable, shared serviced homes**

TNN | Jan 16, 2015, 11.36 PM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/IIT-B-centre-designs-affordable-shared-serviced-homes/articleshow/45916407.cms>

MUMBAI: Housing should be provided as a service rather than a product. This point is being driven home at the exhibition on "4D Living" at IIT-B's Industrial Design Centre.

The prototype of the affordable housing unit showcased at the exhibition displays how living can be made affordable by sharing spaces and facilities in a crowded city like Mumbai. The centre addressed the housing problem faced by lower-income segments, especially migrants.

In the proposed 4D living unit, migrants who seek better living but can't afford it can reside in shared and smart serviced living. In these units, services such as daycare, laundry, kitchen, toilet and government banks can be shared by the residents, while service providers can get paid for the services rendered. Users can be charged based on the service plans and they can choose the payment option, either pre-paid or post-paid. This, said Ameya Athavankar, one of the consultants on the project, will reduce the cost of living for each household by 20%.

Later, as the income of the migrants increases, they can seek ownership of the spaces and resources. In every 15 years, the building can go for de-densification, allowing upward mobility, said professor Uday Athavankar. It will be a perfect mix of ownership and rental, which reduces financial burden by sharing resources. He said "such a design works only if there is a business model in place" and works best for SRA scheme.

After four years of planning and design, and visiting slums across the country, the centre came up with the two variants of 3D and 4D living spaces which are both affordable and sustainable.

The 3D home, designed by three IIT-B students, is fit for a family with stowaway couches, chairs and movable walls. Gautham Verma, one of the students, said their project allows people to make optimum use of every inch of the space. The idea can be incorporated to accommodate a family of six in a 100 sqft space, he added.

## **IIT-M Lad to Compete With the Best**

CHENNAI: A student from IIT Madras who has won the Global Student Entrepreneur Award (GSEA) for his entrepreneurial venture will soon compete against contestants from 20 other countries. Kishore Natrajan, who operates HyperVerge Inc will get a chance to win \$150,000 in cash. The Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) is a global competition for undergraduate and graduate students who own and operate businesses. Founded in 1998 by Saint Louis University, GSEA is now an Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) program. EO is

a global business network of more than 10,000 business owners in 144 chapters and 46 countries. Founded in 1987, EO enables small and large business owners to learn from each other.

The final round held in Chennai witnessed 20 minute business pitch presentations by two finalists to a panel of judges including R G Chandramogan, Chairman & MD, Hatsun Agro Products. The students were questioned on the business prospects and returns on their company, and how they would deal with their competitors. While Kishore's product was a technology that uses image recognition for auto-tagging of photos, the other finalist Gopal Krishna presented an affordable 3-D printer. "There was overwhelming response from Student entrepreneurs from India. Kishore Natrajan stood out with his concept, he is definitely an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs and we are here to support such young talent," said Sudhakar, Director, GSEA South Asia.

## IITs unsure of rural plan's execution

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/150117/nation-current-affairs/article/iits-unsure-rural-plan%E2%80%99s-execution>

**HYDERABAD:** With much fanfare, the Narendra Modi government had announced the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, exhorting Indian Institutes of Technology to transform rural India.

Officials of most IITs, including the one in Hyderabad, have visited villages close-by to understand the ground situation there, but are perplexed because they are unsure what the government wants them to do. With zero funding and no direction, the IITs do not know how to bring about a transformational change in rural India.

IIT Hyderabad is adopting about two to three villages and has already made visits to two: Utharpally and Aliyabad. IIT-H faculty described one of the villages as an administrative failure with no one from the official government machinery present in the village.

"In Aliyabad, the sarpanch was not there. He lives in the city and visits the village once in a while. None of the officials, who are supposed to be there, were present. The village is in a pathetic condition. There are no roads, houses are kuchcha, there is no way to drain out waste water. It is a total administrative failure. And this is a village that apparently won some model village award in 2007," said Dr T. Shashidhar, assistant professor of civil engineering at IIT-H and coordinator of the Unnat Bharat programme.

But the Union HRD Ministry has so far failed to explain to IITs what it immediately wants them to do with the villages they adopted. The main issue is funding. "Costs will be met from ongoing projects and by converging available resources, to begin with," the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan framework says.

"Till now, the HRD Ministry is also not clear on what they want us to do and what they want to achieve though they have plans to do it in a big way. There is no clear direction. All IITs are feeling the same way. Till now there is no funding from the ministry. So we are just using established technology," a senior IIT-H faculty member said.

## Foundation stone to be laid on Saturday for IIM, Vizag

Visakhapatnam, Jan 16:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/education/foundation-stone-to-be-laid-on-saturday-for-iim-vizag/article6794068.ece>

The foundation stone would be laid on Saturday near Gambhiram village on the outskirts for the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) by the Union HRD Minister, Smriti Irani. Chief Minister N. Chandra Babu Naidu and Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu are scheduled to attend the function.

The function was earlier scheduled for January 5 but it had to be postponed due to a controversy over compensation to be paid to the farmers and others losing land for the project. But it was resolved with the intervention of State HRD Minister G. Srinivasa Rao.

Admission of students will begin from the academic year (2015-16) itself and the IIM will be temporarily housed in Andhra University and subsequently shifted to Gambhiram after the campus construction.

The district authorities have identified more than 400 acres of government land in the Gambhiram mandal for the setting up of the educational institute.

## Govt identifies land for IIT in Jmu

Central team to inspect, approve site

ABHINAV VERMA

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Jammu, Jan 16: The Jammu and Kashmir government has identified land for Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) sanctioned for the state last year.

Sources informed Greater Kashmir that after sanctioning IIT for the state, Divisional Commissioner Jammu had been asked to identify land at two different places in Jammu province.

Sources said the central government had made land identification by the state as a pre-condition for allowing the IIT to start the courses. "The centre did not permit the state government to start courses from rented accommodation before the identification and approval of the land", sources said.

They said that earlier the central government had also pulled up the state authorities for "their failure to identify the land despite lapse of six months."

"We have identified two locations in Samba and Kathua districts," Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shantmanu said, adding that 600 kanal land has been identified in each of the two districts as per the guidelines of the union government.

He said a central team will visit the state to inspect the land for the proposed IIT.

"After the inspection, the team would approve one of the sites for the construction of the institute", he added. About the commencement of the courses from new session, he said it would be decided by the central government.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir was among five states including Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, which were sanctioned IIT institutes.

"Except Jammu and Kashmir, the remaining four states have already identified the land and forwarded the communication to union government, following which latter has also permitted these states to start courses in new IITs", sources said.

Pertinently, as per estimates, each IIT would entail an investment of around Rs 1,800 crore. The 16 existing IITs now offer 10,000 B Tech seats. The strength is likely to go up to 10,500 next year with the establishment of the new IITs in the country.

## Central team visits site for proposed IIT in Kerala

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Central-team-visits-site-for-proposed-IIT-in-Kerala/articleshow/45925074.cms>

PALAKKAD (Kerala): A five-member team deputed by the Centre on Saturday inspected the site identified by the Kerala government for the proposed IIT to be set up in Palakkad district and said a decision on the matter would be taken within two weeks.

The team led by K Amarjith Singh, additional secretary in the department of technical education, visited the site at Kunissery village panchayat in the district.

A long-pending demand of Kerala, the state government had identified over 1,200 acres in Kunissery for developing the campus of the IIT.

After the visit, team members held a meeting with education minister PK Abdu Rabb, opposition leader VS Achuthanandan, who represents the Malamapuzha seat in the assembly where the site is located, and elected representatives of the district.

Singh said the team would submit a report and a decision taken on the matter within a fortnight. **Govt working on Swaminathan committee report, says Union agriculture minister**

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

KARNAL: Union agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh on Friday said that the NDA government had started paving way for implementation of various recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee report to convert agriculture into a profitable vocation.



*HT PHOTO* Union agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh addressing a gathering of scientists at NDRI complex in Karnal.

The minister was talking to reporters after addressing at the inaugural function of the twoday workshop-cum-brainstorming session on 'Optimising talent search for the national agricultural research and education system' at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) here organised by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), an apex body involved in the recruitment of scientists in the country.

He said that ensuring soil tests at farmers' doorsteps and providing irrigation facilities were among other steps okayed by the Centre.

Similarly, the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' would be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month to ensure water supply to farmers throughout the year, he said.

“Nearly 200 recommendations have been stated in Swaminathan formula and the NDA regime has already started working on them. We are committed to providing various opportunities to farmers to earn profits like any other professional venture,” the minister said.

The minister reiterated the NDA's commitment to starting a horticulture university in Haryana in consultation with the state government.

He said that the NDA government had already released ` 568 crore to provide soil health cards (SHCs) to 14.5 crore farmers in the next three years.

In his inaugural address, the minister urged the gathering comprising heads of various agricultural research institutes and eminent scientists among others to give their opinions to improve the process of recruitment and promotions of scientists to strengthen the agricultural scenario.

Singh said that his ministry would tap the northeastern (NE) states for bringing in the second green revolution in the country as the fruits of the green revolutions did not reach these seven sister states. Pointing out the potential of blue revolution in the NE states, the minister said that it could be realised by systematically developing fishing industry in the country.

## SCIENTISTS PANEL HEAD BATS FOR ALL INDIA AGRICULTURE SERVICES

Chairman of Agriculture Scientists Recruitment Board ( ASRB) Gurbachan Singh has voiced to start all India agriculture service on pattern of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to attract young talent.

In an interview to Hindustan Times here on Friday, Singh said, besides, giving new dimensions to the agricultural sector, all India service would open new venues in research and development in fields allied to the farming.

ASRB has a mandate to appoint all scientists and directors working under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). There are 99 research institutes and 641 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) whose recruitments are done by the ASRB.



# 'Brilliance' myth keeps women out of science

Steve Connor

**W**omen are less likely to become scientists and engineers because they are taught to believe that these professions require innate intellectual brilliance rather than sheer hard work, a study has found.

The academics behind the research suggest that a misconceived idea of brilliance is holding back girls from taking subjects like physics, engineering and mathematics in favour of "softer" subjects such as humanities, languages and social sciences.

They believe the findings are mirrored in popular representations of brilliance, with innate genius represented by fictional male characters such as Sherlock Holmes, while female intelligence is frequently shown as the result of hard work as exemplified by Hermione Granger.

The researchers support their conclusions with findings from a survey of 1,800 graduate students and university teachers from 30 academic disciplines showing that women are significantly under-represented in subjects where their teachers put a premium on the need for innate brilliance.

"We're not saying brilliance, or valuing brilliance, is a bad thing. And we're not saying women are not bril-



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## DECODING GENDER GAP

liant or that being brilliant isn't helpful to one's academic career," said Professor Andrei Cimpian, a psychologist at the University of Illinois in Champaign. "We are also not arguing that women are less brilliant than men. There is no convincing evidence that men and women differ intellectually in ways," Professor Cimpian said.

"According to our hypothesis, female under-representation is not the result of actual differences in intellectual ability, but rather the result of perceived or presumed differences between men and women," he said. "We found that women were indeed less likely to obtain PhDs in fields that idolize brilliance and genius," he added. THE INDEPENDENT