

# Newspaper Clips

January 20, 2011

Hindustan Times, ND 20-Jan-11 p-17

# Skip UG, do PG with diploma from polytechnic?

**ON CARDS** Sibal meets state counterparts today to discuss a proposal recommended by a ministry panel

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**NEW DELHI:** Chances are high that advanced diplomas from polytechnics could be treated at par with standard undergraduate degrees from universities. The process for this is set to kick start when the human resource development ministry (HRD) unveils a proposal before the states on Thursday.

Finalised by an HRD ministry panel, the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) outlines a strategy that will allow students of non-formal education institutes to enter formal higher education without spending years playing catch-up.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal is expected to discuss the NVEQF blueprint on Thursday in his meeting with state education ministers.

Under the proposed NVEQF,

## CHANGE WE NEED?

- Under the proposal, students who obtain an advanced diploma from recognised polytechnics will be at par with those holding traditional university undergraduate degrees

- At present, a student with a polytechnic diploma cannot apply for jobs requiring an undergraduate degree as a qualification

students who did an advanced diploma from recognised polytechnics will be treated qualified at par with those holding traditional university undergraduate degrees, sources in the ministry said.

At present, the non-formal and formal systems of education work parallel to each other with no intersection, meaning that students of one system can-

not shift mid-way to the other. The NVEQF will change that, a source explained.

A polytechnic student who obtains an advanced diploma after first obtaining a basic diploma at present cannot apply to jobs requiring an undergraduate degree as a qualification.

These students also need to study and obtain an undergraduate degree before they can apply for a postgraduate programme at present.

Under the proposed NVEQF, these students will no longer need to obtain UG degrees to study PG courses or to be eligible for jobs requiring UG degrees as a qualification.

The qualification framework also proposes linkages between Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics, and between students of vocational courses in classes XI and XII, and students of formal education in high school.

# Mom's marrow to treat babies in womb

## In A First, Experts Transplant Stem Cells In Fetuses To Cure Blood Diseases

**London:** Scientists, including an Indian-origin researcher, claim to have developed a "miracle" stem cell treatment which uses mothers' bone marrow to cure deadly blood diseases in babies who are still in the womb.

Stem cell transplants into unborn babies have long been a Holy Grail for doctors. Now, Amar Nijagal and colleagues at California University have carried out a research in which they took bone marrow cells from a pregnant mother and injected them into the developing foetus. And, the donor cells



MIRACLE CURE

were accepted by the foetus' growing immune system without the need for any kind of drugs.

The experiment, carried out on animals, is the first time that scientists have been able to successfully transplant a mother's stem cells into her offspring before birth, the Daily Mail reported.

"This research is really exciting because it offers us a straightforward, elegant solution that makes foetal stem cell transplantation a reachable goal. We now, for the first time, have a viable strategy for treating congenital stem cell

disorders before birth," Tippi MacKenzie of the University of California, who led the study, was quoted as saying.

The new research, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, found that a mother's immune response prevents foetuses from accepting donor blood stem cells. Up to 10% of the foetus' blood cells came from the mother, it showed. When the researchers transplanted stem cells from the mother, the foetus accepted them.

"As long as the transplanted stem cells are matched to the mother, it does not seem to

matter if they are matched to the fetus. Transplanting stem cells harvested from the mother makes sense because the mother and her developing fetus are prewired to tolerate each other," said Nijagal.

The scientists now plan to see if the transplanted stem cells work in babies.

Many genetic diseases can be diagnosed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. And, according to the scientists, if the treatment is successful in humans, the implanted cells could replenish the baby's supply of blood-forming cells. ■

Times of India ND 20/01/2011 P-13

# IIT undergrad course to be research-oriented?

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** A high-powered committee under T Ramaswamy, secretary, department of science and technology, has recommended that the IIT curriculum at the undergraduate level should change from uniform syllabus to system-based curriculum selection, making it research-oriented.

The IIT Council will discuss the report on Friday. The committee said course content at the undergraduate level does not inspire students to take up research in India. Its report expresses concern at the low level of IIT undergraduates opting for research and says at least 10-15% of them should be brought to do doctoral research in the next five years.

At master's and doctoral level, the report says, IITs should align the curriculum to meet industrial needs without complications. "Since

master's and doctoral research activities are generally specific to the institutions and range of faculty strength, alignment to suit location specific needs may be more easily realised," it says, suggesting an interactive portal could be established between IITs

## SHIFTING FOCUS

and industrial chambers. The portal should have problems faced by industries and students may be asked to select research problems for master's and doctoral level research programmes.

The committee has also recommended setting up of a Research Support Technical Cadre. Creation of such a cadre, the report says, will allow IITs to undertake research projects that require continuity. At present undergraduate and research students have to provide R&D support.

The committee has also said that research councils of nine members be set up for each IIT before the next academic year. The council will play an advisory role in selection of research priorities.

Ramaswamy is yet to give the report on reforms in IIT-Joint Entrance Examination. Sources said the committee is working on a percentile-based scheme to bring all state boards on par. The scheme is based on the percentile-based merit list, formed across all the state boards, for department of science and technology's Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scholarships that go to the top 1% students (up to 99 percentile).

IIT faculty members, however, say such a scheme is good for an INSPIRE merit list, where the decision is either 'qualified' or 'not-qualified'.

## Electronic devices pose definite risk to planes

Please don't forget to switch off your mobile phone and other gadgets when the flight purser tells you to do so while on board an aircraft, for experts say that electronic devices could cause a crash. According to the experts, the operation of cellphones and other portable electronic devices could create a "perfect storm" of interference with sensitive aircraft instruments to cause a crash – and older aircraft are especially vulnerable. Most personal devices transmit a signal and all emit electromagnetic waves which, in theory, could interfere with the plane's electronics. At the same time, older planes might not have the best protection against the latest devices.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 20, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 13;



# Virus with 40% fatality rate sneaks into India, kills 3

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: The deadly Crimea Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus, that kills around 40% of those it infects, is present in all parts of India except Jammu & Kashmir.

However, the virus noted by the Union health ministry as "a bio-safety level IV agent" has been present only in animals whom it does not infect. Bio-safety level IV implies a virus being the most dangerous type. According to WHO's latest map on the geographic distribution of CCHF, "virological or serological evidence and vector presence of CCHF" is universally present across India except J&K.

However, for the first time in India, infection caused by this virus has been reported in humans in Gujarat. Known to be transmitted among animals through ticks, the virus has till now killed three people in the state. Speaking to

### CONGO KILLER



▶ Humans get infected with CCHF from direct contact with blood or infected tissues

▶ CCHF virus is transmitted to animals through ticks

▶ Symptoms are fever, aching muscles, nausea, vomiting, sore throat, diarrhoea

▶ Mortality is approximately 40%, death occurs in the second week of illness

▶ In 75% of cases, signs of haemorrhage appear within 3-5 days of illness

TOI, director-general of the Indian Council of Medical Research Dr V M Katoch said, "Research done by National Institute of Virology, Pune, found the virus in animals in several parts of India including Rajasthan. Antibodies against the virus were clearly identified. However, humans have never got infected in India. Natural cycle of this virus is from animal to animal."

Calling the human cases "accidental hosts", Dr Katoch said, "We have to just ensure that the injections used on those infected, or their urine, hospital wards, beds and clothes are properly isolated as it can be contagious only for those in contact with such substances." Dr Katoch, however, said that "maybe infections by CCHF have been happening and has not been picked up till

now. It was just by chance that NIV was contacted by alert state doctors and CCHF was diagnosed. The expert team must find its source." The ministry report with TOI, says, "There is serological evidence of this infection being present in India in animals who do not get the disease."

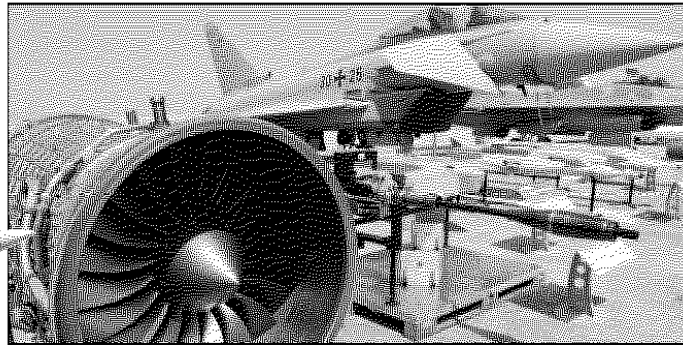
The health ministry received a report from the NIV director on January 18 on the lab investigation of clinical samples of a nurse admitted in Shalby hospital, Ahmedabad, with high grade fever, nausea and vomiting. She was admitted in the same hospital on December 31, 2010 and died on January 3, 2011, of heavy bleeding and multi-organ failure. The attending doctor had also died with the similar sickness. NIV carried out molecular tests for a variety of haemorrhagic fever agents like Nipah, CCHF, KFD, HANTA, Ebola, Marburg and Thottapalayam.

Times of India B`lore 19.01.2011 P-2

# IITians to give academic edge to air show

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** This is just the tonic IITs and Aero India needed. The 2011 edition of Aero India will have students and faculty



An aircraft engine on display during a previous aero show

from at least five IITs presenting their ideas on cutting-edge concepts in aerospace and aircraft development.

IIT-Kanpur is expected to participate, given that it has a strong

aerospace department. Students may make presentations on aerofoils and delta-wing and build a model of an aircraft wing. Those of IIT Mumbai are expected to make presentations

on miniature aerial vehicles, composites and propulsion related to power and engines. Propulsion is a popular field as engine development in India requires urgent intellectual in-

put. IIT Delhi and IIT Chennai have plans to make presentations on aerospace at the event.

Defence officials confirmed that IITs had approached them to participate in the Aero India. "Many engineering students are coming to the show and we can expect exclusive sessions on aerospace," officials said.

"We want our students to get first-hand feel of the aero show. This will be the second time IIT students and faculty will attend the event," defence officials said.

Students and faculty may also be given a ride on one of the largest transport aircraft as part of a live experience. In the 2009 show, the director and officials of NAL and DRDO were flown in C-130J Hercules transport plane.

Times of India Hyderabad  
19.01.11 p-5

## IIT student's suicide due to personal reasons: Report

**Kanpur:** IIT-Kanpur student Madhuri Sale, who belonged to Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh, and committed suicide in the campus two months ago, took the extreme step owing to personal reasons, a three-member committee probing her death said on Tuesday. The fact-finding committee, however, did not divulge details of any specific reason for the suicide of the final-year B Tech student in civil engineering.

Madhuri Sale had committed suicide on November 17, last year because of reasons which were entirely personal, a statement released by IIT Kanpur said. Sources in the institution said that Madhuri was in love with one of her classmates and disappointment in the relationship might have led to her suicide, a claim that IIT authorities have not commented upon. The committee also suggested a slew of measures to keep in check student suicides in the campus including promoting an open space for more interaction among students and appointment of a woman counsellor for girl students. PTI

Times of India B`lore

19.01.2011 P-17

## New IITs hit by poor facilities, says Sibal

**Hyderabad:** The eight new IITs that were permitted to be set up in 2008 do not have the necessary infrastructure and are not up to the mark, making it difficult for these institutes to retain their faculty, Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal said on Tuesday.

“These new IITs are functioning in temporary campuses and are unable to attract new faculties. Due to the same reason we are finding it difficult to retain faculties. We need commitment from state governments for at least 500 acres of land without any liabilities attached to it,” Sibal said on the sidelines of the Geospatial World Forum.

The minister blamed the state governments for not allotting the required land for setting up permanent campuses. Each institution should have at least 90 teachers from all disciplines. According to reports, most of these IITs do not have the required number of teaching staff. Sibal said the ministry is holding talks with the state governments on the issue of land allocation.

“It is not only the IITs which are suffering. Even the new central universities announced by the Centre are finding it difficult to get land in states,” Sibal told reporters.

In 2008, the Union HRD ministry had announced setting up eight new IITs and seven IIMs along with 30 central and world class universities in the country. AGENCIES

Business Line ND 20/01/2011 p-24

# Scientists closing in on Alzheimer's tests

Reuters

Chicago, Jan. 19

US researchers are closing in on tests that can detect biological signs of Alzheimer's disease, an advance that would improve diagnosis and help in the search for treatments for the mind-robbing disease.

A team at Eli Lilly and Co's newly acquired Avid Radiopharmaceuticals said on Tuesday its imaging agent was highly accurate as detecting a protein linked with Alzheimer's disease in a late-stage clinical trial.

And a study led by Dr. Kristine Yaffe at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center suggests a blood test could predict if a patient is at risk for dementia years before symptoms occur.

## MAPPING OUT BIOMARKERS

Both studies, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, focus on biological signs of disease, or biomarkers. They are part of a broad effort by research-



Patients observe World Alzheimer's Day in Bangalore (file photo). — K. Gopinath

ers to detect early Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia.

Alzheimer's affects 26 million people globally and costs \$604 billion to treat. It is diagnosed by symptoms, and only confirmed by examining the brain in an autopsy after death.

Avid is leading a three-way race with General Electric Co and Bayer AG to be the first to

market an imaging agent that can detect Alzheimer's while people are still alive. This week an advisory panel of the US Food and Drug Administration is reviewing Avid's bid to use the compound to rule out Alzheimer's disease.

Avid's drug, known as Florbetapir F18, works with positron emission tomography, or PET scanners. The chemical sticks to and highlights depos-

its of beta amyloid, a protein that forms clumps in the brains of people with Alzheimer's.

The company's trial involved gravely ill patients who consented to an autopsy when they died. It aimed to prove that the same clumps of amyloid that showed up on brain scans were present at autopsy in the people who had Alzheimer's.

"It was highly successful," said Dr. Daniel Skovronsky, founder and chief executive of Avid, which was acquired by Eli Lilly in December for up to \$800 million.

The PET scans matched autopsy results 96 per cent of the time in 29 people.

If approved, the team said the drug would be used to exclude Alzheimer's from other potentially treatable causes of memory loss like stroke, tumors or depression.

## BLOOD TEST?

Yaffe's findings are the latest example of a potential blood

test that could be used to screen for early signs of Alzheimer's disease.

Several teams have found that low levels of certain forms of beta amyloid in spinal fluid suggest it is accumulating in the brain, but that involves a spinal tap. Yaffe wanted to see if they could find a similar relationship in the blood.

They studied 997 older, healthy adults who were given blood tests and tests to assess their cognitive ability. The team found that older adults with lower levels of beta amyloid had a higher risk of mental decline over nine years.

But, people in the study who had built up a so-called cognitive reserve by being well-educated and staying mentally active were less likely to develop dementia, the team found.

Yaffe said the findings suggest it may be possible to detect people who are at risk for dementia. And, like many other studies, it suggests mental training activities might be a way to keep dementia at bay.

Pioneer, ND 20-Jan-11 p-12

## Can Sibal unravel JEE reform riddle?

MOUSHUMI BASU ■  
NEW DELHI

The fourth IIT council meet, scheduled on Friday and to be chaired by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, has fuelled speculations on the proposed IIT JEE reforms.

Whether it would be the percentile-based INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) scholarship model of the Department of Science and Technology, as proposed by the Ramaswamy committee, or the normalisation scheme based on mean and standard deviation of the XIIth standard marks along with an aptitude test, as per the Acharya committee recommendations, that would eventually be adopted as the evaluation index is a matter that would be known only after the meeting.

Set up in February 2009

with four IIT directors to suggest JEE reforms, the Acharya committee had submitted an interim report for admission based on the weighted sum of normalised XIIth standard marks along with the SAT (aptitude test) score. This was followed by the setting up of a single-member committee in September 2010 manned by Dr Ramaswamy, Secretary DST and Member, Board of Governors, IIT Kharagpur to study the percentile score as a merit index in place of normalised marks.

While the experts have felt that neither of the two procedures would actually work in case of IIT JEE, they have also kept their fingers crossed on the agenda of transparency in the Joint Entrance Examinations stressing on its discussion during the meeting, especially after RTI exposures on a series of bunglings and

discrepancies conducted in these examinations since 2006.

Questioning the ultimate efficacy of the percentile-based system, experts argued that it may be good for an INSPIRE merit list, where the decision is binary i.e. "qualified" or "not-qualified" and it does not make any difference if a student is at the top of the list or at the bottom.

But in case of engineering admission, the merit list competition is very tough where each and every rank matters for both choice of college as well as choice of engineering discipline.

"Going by the huge number of applicants from the various states of the country, the percentile scores would end up having ties amidst hundreds of candidates, over smallest of fractions of marks, reaching upto several decimal places," an expert said.

However, the Acharya committee recommendations that were already rejected by many stakeholders including certain IIT Faculties State Board Chiefs, did not go down well with the experts.

They pointed out that the XIIth standard marks cannot effectively be normalised and add-on-tests for IIT are likely to lead into an indiscriminate race amongst other institutes.

The normalisation procedure was thus not feasible and could "bring many anomalies with each State board having its own standards for conduct of examinations that vary widely", they added.

According to them, the only solution that emerges in the present situation may be to have a single examination covering Maths, Physics and Chemistry and an aptitude test, for two sets of merit list for State and national levels, respectively.

Ahmedabad Mirror 19.01.11 p-6

# IIMA students set up CAT interview helpline for aspirants

At [www.askthestudents.org](http://www.askthestudents.org), students of first year PGP will answer queries on interview process, submission of documents and life at IIMA

AHMEDABAD MIRROR BUREAU

IIMA students have set up an online helpline which was conceptualised last year to help candidates shortlisted by the institute for the interview process. The basic idea is to offer guidance to those shortlisted for the premier B-school's selection process.

Last year, the online portal saw a flurry of queries since its launch. In just five days of its launch, 'Ask the Students' had received hundreds of e-mails from CAT applicants picked for interviews for admission to IIMA.

The mentorship shall be through the web portal: [www.askthestudents.org](http://www.askthestudents.org).

The students shall respond to the frequently asked queries on this blog. The more personal queries will be replied to the candidates personally. While the mentorship programme for the Post Graduate Programme in Management would be co-ordinated by Parampreet Singh Bhasin, Pratik Mukherjee, Rahul Madhavan, Rohit Gupta, Raghul Manoharan and Nishanth Parlapalli, the same for PGP-Agri Business Management would be done by Abhinav Bhalla.

The co-ordinators have been chosen from diverse backgrounds to ensure a fair treatment of queries pertaining to various domains.

Parampreet Bhasin, PGP1 student said: "While the same portal was used last year, this time the students intend to come up with an FAQ document as well. It would be prepared based on the common queries received over the last few years."



These students are mentoring the candidates who have received interview calls

Media cell secretary Glen D'Silva, said, "We had started this system for the first time last year and the responses from the candidates were really encouraging. We are happy that the PGP-I students have taken up the initiative this year as well and we hope a lot of candidates will benefit from this."

The usual queries leading up to the second stage of admissions include those about the essay and interview process, steps to be taken in case of clash of interview dates, submission of supporting documents such as degree certificates, caste certificates etc. or in general, about life at IIMA.

The students would also invite feedback from the aspirants to facilitate a smooth mentorship process.

The most common queries relate to logistics, travel and accommodation.

Glen said: "This is solely a student initiative programme and the replies would be based on student experiences of the process last year and are in no way indicative of the process this year."

"When we got our interview calls, we had many apprehensions. There was no such helpline at that time," D'Silva had said.

Indian Express Mumbai 19.01.2011 P-7

## CBI puts IIT-Bhubaneswar in the dock

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

**S**URPRISE inspections by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at IIT, Bhubaneswar, in November last year, have established that prima facie all allegations against the institute on improper purchases of equipment are true. The CBI, it is learnt, has recommended to the Union Human Resource Development Ministry that the matter be referred to them in the light of their findings.

The institution's director and four faculty members have been alleged to

have played a role in the flouting of government rules while making these purchases. *The Indian Express* first reported how complaints made last year to the ministry claimed that the IIT bought six types of high-tech equipment from one single Indian agent, skipping the tender system, despite the fact that there are a number of manufacturers of the same equipment. As per government norms, purchases should be tender-based bidding processes to get a fair price.

Continuous Surface Wave system meant for soil testing and Ground Penetrating Radar sensors and software were bought through the In-

dian agent and lab testing firm, M/s AIMIL. Shake Tables used for seismic research were also sourced on proprietary basis, despite the fact that there are 10-12 manufacturers of this equipment. Pile Testing equipment from Holland-based Profound TNO was bought through AIMIL. Non Destructing Testing equipment worth Rs 4.6 crore was bought from Copenhagen-based Germann Instruments through the same agent, though there are 15 manufacturers of the equipment. Material Testing equipment was sourced on proprietary basis through AIMIL, though there are some 30-40 Indian and

global manufacturers of the same. Cyclic Triaxial Testing Machine was sourced from the UK based M/S GDS instruments through AIMIL.

CBI has revealed that no open tender was invited and that the equipment was bought from a single source, terming them proprietary items. The tender inquiry was directly sent by the user department to the supplier without any assigned justification of doing so. The inspections have revealed that no approval of the director is on record for sending such a tender inquiry to the supplier. No proprietary article certificate was taken from the procuring officer or

prior approval taken from competent authority prior to sending a tender inquiry to the supplier, which is in contravention of the single tender inquiry method as per government rule.

Set up two years ago, the IIT has come under the scrutiny of two parallel inquiries being initiated by the CBI and ministry's vigilance wing. The IIT has claimed that these purchases were made to furnish its laboratories and it followed the same procedure as its mentor institute, IIT, Kharagpur. The CBI has said that IIT, Bhubaneswar, could not produce any document to corroborate the same.

Deccan Herald  
B'lore 19.01.11 p-7

## IIT student's suicide due to 'personal reasons'

**KANPUR, PTI:** IIT-Kanpur student Madhuri Sale, who committed suicide in the campus, took the extreme step owing to personal reasons, a three-member committee probing her death said on Tuesday.

The Fact Finding Report, submitted this evening, however, did not divulge details of any specific reason for the suicide of the final year B.Tech student in civil engineering.

"Madhuri Sale, had committed suicide on November 17, 2010, because of reasons which were entirely personal," an IIT statement said.

Sources in the institution said Sale was in love with one of her classmates and disappointment in the relationship may have led to her suicide, a claim that IIT authorities have not commented upon.

The committee also suggested a slew of measures to keep in check student suicides in the campus, including promoting an 'open space' for more interaction among students to share their problems and appointing a woman counsellor in the counselling cell for girl students.

IIT-K Registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar said a separate woman counsellor was already there in the campus.

The 'open space' concept would be looked into, he said.

Sale's suicide came to light when her friends suspected something wrong as she did not respond to repeated knockings. When they peeped inside her room, they found her hanging.



# डेढ़ हजार में लैपटॉप बांटने के लिए वेंडरों का साक्षात्कार

महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना 'साक्षात' के लिए चयनित वेंडरों ने जमा नहीं की बैंक गारंटी, सरकारी ने फिर से जारी किया टेंडर

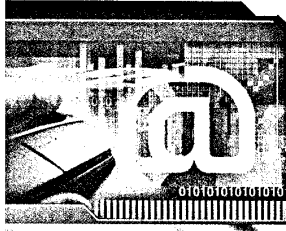
हरदिसरमन जुक्त। गुलवीन ओलरख  
नई दिल्ली



## कीमत से ज्यादा लागत

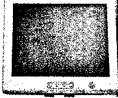
सूचना तकनीकी के जांचकर्तों का कहना है कि उपकरण की लागत 35 डॉलर से ज्यादा पड़ेगी। किसी भी सलायन को बीर सॉल्यूटी के सरकारी की तब कीमत पर आपूर्ति करना मंजूर नहीं होगा। बाजार में केवल माइक्रोप्रोसेसर और स्क्रीन की कीमत ही 35 डॉलर से ज्यादा है।

कि 35 डॉलर को लैपटॉप परियोजना समयानुसार चल रही है और अब इसे 2010 के मध्य में लॉन्च करने की योजना है। प्रवक्ता ने बताया, 'एचसीएल का दावा था कि 2011 में जनवरी के आसपास इसे लॉन्च किया जाएगा।' एक सरकारी सूत्र ने बताया कि आयात शुल्क और लॉजिस्टिक खर्च को छोड़कर वेंडर को लैपटॉप के पुर्जों की लागत ही 5,700 रुपये पड़ रही थी। हालांकि, सरकार को योजना 1,500 रुपये में लैपटॉप की बिक्री की थी। परियोजना में करीब से जुड़े सूत्र ने बताया, 'लागत को लेकर मतभेद बढ़े होने से वेंडर का टेंडर रद्द कर दिया गया।' इस महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना में लैपटॉप के उपकरणों की गारंटी और कोरिया के नए सलायनों से सोर्सिंग के लिए सरकार आईआईटी के पुराने छात्रों से मदद लेने की योजना बना रही है। सूचना तकनीकी के जांचकर्तों का कहना है कि उपकरण की लागत 35 डॉलर से ज्यादा पड़ेगी। किसी भी सलायन को बीर सॉल्यूटी के सरकारी की तब कीमत पर आपूर्ति करना मंजूर नहीं होगा। गार्टेनर इनक के आईटी एनालिस्ट विशाल भटनगर ने कहा, 'बाजार में केवल माइक्रोप्रोसेसर और स्क्रीन की कीमत ही 35 डॉलर से ज्यादा है।'



35 डॉलर में लैपटॉप देने की शुरुआत इस साल 15 जनवरी से होगी थी। प्रोजेक्ट के तहत लैपटॉप देने के लिए एचसीएल इन्फोसिस्टम को वेंडर चुना गया था।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के एक आंतरिक मेल में कहा गया है कि परियोजना के लिए चयनित वेंडर ने कुछ अतिरिक्त मांगें रखनी शुरू कर दी, जिन्हें स्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता था।



महज 35 डॉलर में लैपटॉप देने की सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना 'साक्षात' की राह मुश्किल लग रही है। परियोजना के लिए चयनित वेंडर से 60 करोड़ रुपये की बैंक गारंटी नहीं मिलने के बाद सरकार ने परियोजना का शुरुआती टेंडर रद्द कर दिया है और अब नया टेंडर जारी किया है। 35 डॉलर में लैपटॉप देने की शुरुआत इस साल 15 जनवरी से होगी थी। परियोजना से जुड़े सूत्रों ने बताया कि 35 डॉलर में लैपटॉप देने के लिए एचसीएल इन्फोसिस्टम को वेंडर चुना गया था। मानव संसाधन विकास (एचआरडी) मंत्रालय के एक आंतरिक मेल कहा गया है कि परियोजना के लिए चयनित वेंडर ने कुछ अतिरिक्त मांगें रखनी शुरू कर दी, जिन्हें स्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता था।

परियोजना पर नजर रखने वाले मंत्रालय के एक आला अधिकारी ने ईटी को बताया कि सरकार के जनरल फाइनेंशियल रूल्स, 2005 के तहत जरूरी 60 करोड़ रुपये की बैंक गारंटी

देने के लिए वेंडर तैयार नहीं हुआ। टेंडर के नियमों के तहत, सरकार चयनित वेंडर से बैंक गारंटी के रूप में एक निश्चित राशि लेती है। तयप्राप्त समय में परियोजना पूरी करने में विफल रहने पर सरकार वॉल्यूमि के रूप में वेंडर को यह राशि जमा कर लेती है। इस मामले में भी मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने पुराने ऑर्डर को रद्द कर नए टेंडर के लिए फिर से विज्ञापन निकाला है। अधिकारी ने बताया, 'हां, हमने फिर से नया टेंडर जारी किया है। मामला अगले कुछ हफ्तों में निपटा लिया जाएगा।' हालांकि, पर्सनल कंप्यूटर बनाने वाली सबसे बड़ी फोर्लू कंपनी एचसीएल इन्फोसिस्टम ने कहा कि उसने टेंडर में केवल नए अभिस्वीक पत्र के लिए बोली लगाई थी और इस बारे

में हुए फैसले की उसे जानकारी नहीं है। कंपनी ने एक बयान में कहा, '35 डॉलर में लैपटॉप उपलब्ध कराने के लिए हम सरकार की दूरदर्शिता की कद्र करते हैं। इस बारे में बिना गए फैसले की हमें जानकारी नहीं है। जब सरकार को सहयोग की जरूरत थी, तो हमने सबसे पहले साझेदारी की।'

पिछले साल एक समारोह में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने 15 जनवरी, 2010 को लैपटॉप लॉन्च करने की घोषणा की थी। सरकार ने इस महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना के लिए 65 लाख डॉलर आवंटित किए थे। गुगल के एंड्रॉयड ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम पर आधारित 1,00,000 टेबलेट्स के शुरुआती ऑर्डर दिए गए थे। मंत्रालय के एक प्रवक्ता ने कहा

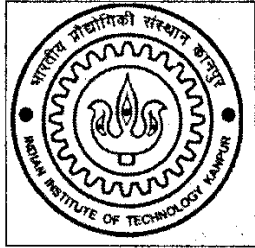
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# आईआईटी की सभी कमेटीयों की रिपोर्ट एक जैसी!

■ विराट न्यूज।

कानपुर। पिछले पांच साल में देश के सबसे प्रमुख तकनीकी संस्थानों में से एक माने जाने वाले आईआईटी कानपुर में आठ छात्र छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या कर ली। इन आत्महत्याओं के लिए जो तथ्यान्वेषण समितियां गठित की गईं उन सबकी रिपोर्टें एक समान रही कि छात्रों ने आत्महत्या अपने व्यक्तिगत कारणों से परेशान होकर की। आईआईटी प्रशासन से जब आत्महत्या के इन व्यक्तिगत कारणों के नाबत पूछा गया तो संस्थान के किसी अधिकारी या इन समितियों के किसी सदस्य के पास इसका जवाब नहीं मिला।

इस मामले में अधिकारियों ने यह कह कर अपना पल्ला झाड़ लिया कि यह व्यक्तिगत कारण मीडिया को नहीं बताए जा सकते। अब कल शाम आईआईटी कानपुर ने 17 नवंबर को आत्महत्या करने वाली बीटेक सिविल इंजीनियरिंग की छात्रा माधुरी



साले की आत्महत्या के कारणों की जांच के लिए तथ्यान्वेषी रिपोर्टें जारी कीं। इस रिपोर्ट में भी आत्महत्या का कारण व्यक्तिगत ही बताया गया। यह पूछने पर कि ए व्यक्तिगत कारण क्या हो सकते हैं, कोई भी अधिकारी मुंह खोलने को तैयार नहीं है। वैसे इस संस्थान के सूत्रों के मुताबिक माधुरी ने प्रेम में असफल होने के कारण आत्महत्या की।

इस बारे में जब आईआईटी के अधिकारियों से पूछा गया तो उन्होंने न तो इसका जवाब हां में दिया और न ही ना में। आईआईटी अधिकारियों का कहना था कि अब

किसी अधिकारी या समितियों के किसी सदस्य के पास नहीं मिला कोई जवाब

माधुरी की आत्महत्या के लिए गठित तथ्यान्वेषी समिति की रिपोर्टें आ गई हैं और अब इसकी फाइल बंद कर दी गई है। पिछले पांच सालों में संस्थान में जिन आठ छात्र छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या की है उन सबका कारण व्यक्तिगत बताया गया है। माधुरी की आत्महत्या के लिए गठित समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि छात्रों को आपस में घुलने मिलने के और अवसर दिए जाने चाहिए ताकि वह अपनी समस्याएं अपने दोस्तों को बता सकें। इसके साथ ही आईआईटी में काउंसलिंग प्रकाष्ठ को और मजबूत किया जाए तथा

छात्रावासों में भी काउंसलर की नियुक्ति हो ताकि छात्रावास के किसी भी विद्यार्थी को कोई परेशानी या उलझन हो तो वह उसे उनके साथ बांट सके।

इसके अलावा संस्थान में छात्राओं के लिए अलग से महिला काउंसलर हो। इस रिपोर्ट के बारे में संस्थान के रजिस्ट्रार संजीव कशालकर ने कहा कि तथ्यान्वेषी समिति ने छात्र छात्राओं की आत्महत्या की प्रवृत्ति रोकने के लिए जो भी कदम उठाने को कहा है उनमें से अधिकतर संस्थान में पहले से लागू हैं। कशालकर के अनुसार संस्थान में छात्रों के लिए अलग काउंसलर है तथा छात्राओं के लिए अलग से महिला काउंसलर है। समिति ने छात्रों को जो खुला वातावरण देने की बात कही है। वैसे संस्थान के छात्रों और छात्राओं को परिसर में आपस में मिलने जुलने पर कोई पाबंदी नहीं है।

इसके अलावा समिति के सुझावों पर अमल किया जाएगा। गौरतलब है

कि सूचना के अधिकार के तहत आईआईटी कानपुर से जानकारी मिली थी कि वर्ष 2005 से वर्ष 2010 तक संस्थान में दो छात्राओं एवं छह छात्रों ने आत्महत्या की थी। इसके अनुसार संस्थान में पिछले पांच सालों में अब तक आठ छात्र छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या की है उनमें से पांच छात्र छात्राओं ने अपने कमरों के पंखे से लटककर जान दी, जबकि एक ने इमारत की छत से कूदकर तथा दूसरे ने ट्रेन के सामने कूदकर जान दी, जबकि एक छात्र ने जहर खाकर जान दी थी।

छात्र या छात्रा द्वारा आत्महत्या करने के बाद जब संस्थान के किसी चरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर की अध्यक्षता में कोई तथ्यान्वेषी समिति गठित की जाती है तो वह इस मामले को रिपोर्टें संस्थान के प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को देता है। इसके बाद उस रिपोर्ट पर संस्थान के अधिकारी आपस में विचार विमर्श करते हैं और भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाएं न हो इसका उपाय करते हैं।

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## आईआईटी में आत्महत्याओं का मामला

# सभी कमेटियों की जांच रिपोर्ट एक जैसी

एजेंसी

**कानपुर** देश के सबसे प्रमुख तकनीकी संस्थानों में से एक माने जाने वाले आईआईटी कानपुर में पिछले पांच साल में आठ छात्र छात्राओं के आत्महत्या के मामलों में गठित सभी तथ्यान्वेषण समितियों की रिपोर्ट एक समान रही और सभी में कहा गया कि छात्रों ने आत्महत्या अपने व्यक्तिगत कारणों से परेशान होकर की।

आईआईटी प्रशासन से जब आत्महत्या के इन व्यक्तिगत कारणों के बाबत पूछा गया तो संस्थान के किसी अधिकारी या इन समितियों के किसी सदस्य के पास इसका जवाब नहीं मिला। इस मामले में

अधिकारियों ने यह कह कर अपना पल्ला झाड़ लिया कि यह व्यक्तिगत कारण मीडिया को नहीं बताए जा सकते।

मंगलवार शाम आईआईटी कानपुर ने 17 नवंबर को आत्महत्या करने वाली बीटेक सिविल इंजीनियरिंग की छात्रा माधुरी साले की आत्महत्या के कारणों की जांच के लिए तथ्यान्वेषी रिपोर्ट जारी की है। इस रिपोर्ट में भी आत्महत्या का कारण व्यक्तिगत ही बताया गया। यह पूछने पर कि ए व्यक्तिगत कारण क्या हो सकते हैं, कोई भी अधिकारी मुंह खोलने को तैयार नहीं है।

वैसे इस संस्थान के सूत्रों के मुताबिक माधुरी ने प्रेम में असफल होने के कारण आत्महत्या की। इस

बारे में जब आईआईटी के अधिकारियों से पूछा गया तो उन्होंने न तो इसका जवाब हां में दिया और न ही ना में।

आईआईटी अधिकारियों का कहना था कि अब माधुरी की आत्महत्या के लिए गठित तथ्यान्वेषी समिति की रिपोर्ट आ गई है और अब इसकी फाइनल बंद कर दी गई है। इसके साथ ही आईआईटी में काउंसलिंग प्रकोष्ठ को और मजबूत किया जाए तथा छात्रावासों में भी काउंसलर की नियुक्ति हो ताकि छात्रावास के किसी भी विद्यार्थी को कोई परेशानी या उलझन हो तो वह उसे उनके साथ बांट सके। इसके अलावा संस्थान में छात्राओं के लिए अलग से महिला काउंसलर हो।

Amar Ujala Varanasi  
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## आईआईटी में गरीब छात्रों का खर्च देगा केंद्र

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में पढ़ने वाले कमजोर तबके के छात्रों का खर्चा सरकार उठाएगी। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के मुताबिक सामाजिक और आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े बच्चे आईआईटी में ग्रेजुएशन अथवा पोस्ट ग्रेजुएशन स्तर की पढ़ाई जारी रख सकें यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उन्हें स्कालरशिप और फेलोशिप देने की तैयारी है। इस आशय के प्रस्ताव पर 21 जनवरी को आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में मुहर लगाने की संभावना है। सरकार चाहती है कि उच्च और तकनीकी शिक्षा का व्यापक प्रसार हो और समाज का हर वर्ग उसे हासिल कर सके। इसके लिए उन्हें आर्थिक मदद देना जरूरी था लिहाजा आईआईटी में फेलोशिप और स्कालरशिप का प्रस्ताव तैयार हुआ। इसके तहत आईआईटी को दिया जाने वाला अनुदान अब छात्रवृत्ति के रूप में छात्रों को मिलेगा और उनके जरिए आईआईटी तक पहुंचेगा।

# आईआईटी की फीस पांच गुना बढ़ जाए तो?

काकोडकर समिति ने  
की है सिफारिश

विनीता पांडे, नई दिल्ली। अगर आईआईटी संस्थानों की फीस पांच गुना बढ़ जाए तो क्या होगा? यकीनी तौर पर छात्रों के अभिभावकों को मुश्किल पेश आएगी, लेकिन इसकी तैयारी कर लेनी चाहिए। सरकार ने अगर अनिल काकोडकर समिति की सिफारिश मान ली तो फीस बढ़ाने का फैसला किया जा सकता है। आईआईटी-मुंबई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के चेयरमैन काकोडकर की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने सरकार से

अभी 50 हजार से  
ढाई लाख फीस

देश के 15 आईआईटी में इस वक्त बीटैक पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए 50 हजार से ढाई लाख तक फीस ली जाती है। जबकि आईआईएम में इसी स्तर पर तीन से साढ़े छह लाख फीस वसूली जाती है। समिति एमटैक के स्तर पर फीस बढ़ाने के पक्ष में नहीं है।

सब्सिडी की व्यवस्था को खत्म करने को कहा है। इसके बजाय फीस बढ़ाने से संस्थान की आय बढ़ाई जाएगी।