Newspaper Clips

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IITs give in, JEE, AIEEE to merge

FROM 2013 Formal meeting of IIT Council likely in February; Class 12 marks, entrance exam score to have equal weightage

Chetan Chauhan

m letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Human Resource Development will soon call a meeting of Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Council to stamp a decision to merge the IIT-Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE) conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education.

After much resistance, the IITs have agreed to join the ministry's bid to have a common entrance examination for all engineering colleges in the country. This only happened after there was an agreement that several elements of IIT-JEE will be part of the new national common examination.

"The new entrance examination will have many elements of IIT-JEE as we want to ensure that the best brains join our institutes," said an IIT director

The new combined entrance examination will have many elements of IIT-JEE as we want to ensure that the best brains join our institutes.

AN HIT DIRECTOR

requesting anonymity, after a meeting of select IIT directors with HRD minister Kapil Sibal.

A formal meeting of the IIT Council to stamp the merger is expected in February.

IIT Kanpur director Sanjay Dande made a presentation on features of the new entrance examination aimed to evaluate skills of a student objectively.

A student's Class 12 marks and entrance exam score will have equal weightage.

The new examination will be conducted by a joint committee of IIT and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which conducts AIEEE, and will cover all central government engineering colleges and those in seven states such as Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal, which had opted to take students on the basis of the AIEEE score.

There are 15 IITs, four Indian Institutes of Information Technology and 20 National Institutes of Technology in the country.

The HRD ministry believes that more states could join in the future and it will try to bring them on board at a meeting of state education ministers on February 15.

Over 15 lakh students, including 4.85 lakh for IIT-JEE, appear for different engineering entrance tests in the country every year.

A student wanting admission in an engineering college has to take three to five entrance exams depending on the stream.

IIT B-schools to have single online portal for MBA applications

Plan a host of measures to make their MBA programmes more attractive and sought after

DISHA KANWAR New Delhi, 28 January

fter doing away with the Joint Management Entrance Test (JMET) last year and embracing the Common Admission Test (CAT), the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITS) are now planning a slew of measures to make their management programmes more attractive and sought after.

Foremost on the list is to merge their application process and adopt a common online portal for admissions in MBA programmes.

"It would be ideal to have a single portal for inviting applications and coordination among all IITs to conduct group discussion and personal interview so that duplication of efforts is avoided and the entire process of admissions is simplified. As 70-80 per cent of the candidate pool is common among the IIT Bschools, it will be in a relief for both the institutes and the students. The IITs will end up utilising their efforts and resources in an optimum manner, Also, the candidates will not have to juggle at multiple places, saving time and expenses," said M P Gupta, admissions coordinator at IIT Delhi's Department of



The common portal will be handled by IITs in rotation and in coordination with the IIM organising CAT. Candidates will also be required to mention their preference order for IIT B-schools

Management Studies.

Currently, candidates apply separately to each management programme of ITTs, sup-lying almost the same data to all, with each application costing ₹1,500.

The IIT B-schools which are planning to merge and have common application portals are Sailesh J Mehta School of Management (IIT-Bombay), Department of Management Studies (ITI-Delhi), Department

of Management Studies (IIT-Roorkee), Vinod Gupta School of Management (IIT-Kharagpur) and Department of Management Studies (IIT-Madras). The common portal will be handled by IITs in rotation and in coordination with the IIM organising CAT. In the common process, candidates will be required to mention their preference order for IIT B-schools, probably similar to the B Tech admission process of

IITs. With these plans, the next five years will be a period to watch out for these big-league management schools as the IITs.

These schools are also contemplating the launch of a new dual degree: a five-year course combining their B Tech and MBA programmes. The proposal is at an advanced stage of planning and is likely to be launched in July 2013.

IIT students will be given an option to enter the dual

degree programme in their second or third year, as most will take time to get the necessary exposure for such a decision. Interested students will be required to go through an internal group discussion and personal interview process, before qualifying for the dual degree.

"Since many IIT students are already going on to do an MBA subsequently after passing out of IITs, why not give them an option to do so here? Also, IITs have the entire wherewithal to efficiently deliver MBA education, making it an easy process to implement," added Gupta.

These B-schools are also revamping their curriculum. The B-schools want to make their curriculum more contemporary, with a heavy emphasis on global exposure. Another important change for candidates will be review of the admission criteria, with aim to simplify it and give chance to any graduate, not only engineers.

Discussions are also on for offering MBAs with focus on emerging areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, public sector, international business, real estate, media etc. Executive MBA, a common feature of the programmes of major B-schools, is also on the table.

Morale of space scientists hit, says space veteran

Special Correspondent

MANGALORE: Eminent space scientist and former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, U. R. Rao, on Saturday described as "sad" the Centre's action in the controversial Antrix-Devas deal barring four space scientists from holding government posts and the developments thereafter.

Dr. Rao, now Chairman of the Physical Research Laboratory at Ahmedabad and co-Chairman of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, was referring to the January 13 order in which the Department of Space sought exclusion of the former ISRO Chairman, G. Madhavan Nair, and three other space scientists from re-employment, committee roles or any other important role under the government.

Talking to journalists here on the sidelines of a seminar organised by the Karnataka



Prof. U. R. Rao

Science and Technology Academy headed by him, he said, "Four scientists have been penalised, or whatever you call it. The way it went on and outbursts...it is a bit unfortunate."

Pointing out that the Space department enjoyed great respect in the country, he said, "Whatever is happening is not good for the country." This, he said, would affect the morale of all the people [scientists]. Not only that of persons being talked about...the organisation gets affected.

After all, one feels proud of an organisation...If morale goes, it does hamper [work]."

Clarifying that he did not want to get involved in the controversy, he said, "The details of this the committee [constituted by the Prime Minister] must have seen."

Asked what should have ideally happened in the case, Prof. Rao refused to comment. "I have no idea. I don't want to get involved," he said.

The controversy had arisen more than 18 years after he retired, he added. "We build satellites in two-and-ahalf years, whereas 25 years was the average period taken to build the first satellite. Nobody knew what a satellite was," he said, pointing out how parts of a satellite were taken on a bicycle or bullock cart for testing. "There were classic pictures published saying India goes from bullock carts to space age...It all happened because people believed in us."

Scientists pan govt on Nair ban

Call Decision Harsh, Say Move Threatens Scientists' Credibility

Srinivas Laxman & Prashanth G N | TNN

Bangalore/Mumbai: Top scientists in India, including chairman of the Prime Minister's scientific advisory council Prof CNR Rao, have asked Centre to revoke its decision to bar four senior Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) scientists from government jobs. They said the decision was too harsh and threatened the integrity and credibility of scientists who have put in decades of work.

Scientists slammed V Narayanaswamy, minister of state in the PMO, for demoralizing remarks and said they should be allowed to work freely, given their integrity, immense experience and talent.

"I am completely upset by the statement that the action is a warning to scientists and the scientific community. Are scientists worse than criminals? Why are you treating scientists worse than the corrupt? This is not the way to handle the issue and not the way to speak about scientists," said Rao.

"Madhavan Nair has been the head of a department. If at all there was an issue, a letter could have been handed to him



MORE SUPPORT: Madhavan Nair

and the matter done with. Something could have been communicated in a dignified, quiet manner. What was the need for such drastic action? Scientists with immense experience and contribution to the country's development should not be barred from work. That's not the right way to go about it," Rao said.

Aerospace scientist and member of space commission Prof Roddam Narasimha agreed with Rao that the matter could have been sorted with a communiqué. "Some such thing could have been done, a letter or written communication," he said.

Former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) chairman Anil Kakodkar said any new technology requires fresh bold steps. The Antrix-Devas deal was meant to involve new technologies. "I think there should be willingness to take bold steps," he said. "If bold steps are not taken, it could be disruptive. Yes, I agree, rules have to be adhered to. But if new areas are not explored, it can prove disadvantageous," said Kakodkar.

Reacting to Narayanswamy's statement, former Bhabha Atomic Research Centre director A N Prasad said, "What sort of a statement is this? Is he aware there are checks and balances in the space and atomic energy departments, and a single chairman cannot take decisions unilaterally?"

Prasad said, "What about the role of ministers, bureaucrats and politicians? Does it mean only scientists can do something wrong?"

Former project director of Chandrayaan-1's moon impact probe, Madan Lal, said, "What are we to make of such statements. It's extremely strong and can be demoralizing and humiliating. It'll demoralize people who work in hi-tech areas. It can certainly prove disadvantageous to future Isro projects."

In the space and atomic energy departments, serious decisions involving major financial implications are not taken by a single scientist, but by the space and atomic energy commissions, which have representatives from different de-"For example, partments. there is a representative from the PMO and former scientists and a financial representative," said Prasad. "In such a scenario, how can you blame only scientists?" he said.

Former AEC chairman M R Srinivasan refrained from commenting on the minister's controversial remark. He, however, said scientists of departments of space and atomic energy have always acted with integrity. "What has happened in my opinion is only an aberration," he said.

Srinivasan said, "In my opinion, it's a grave omission not mentioning to the Union cabinet that two communication satellites would be used by Devas. It was certainly an extraordinary lapse," he said.

Nehru Planetarium director Arvind Paranjpye called Narayanswamy's statement unfair. "Professionals know their jobs. Such reprimands are laughable," he said.

president APJ Kalam.

To the undiscerning eye, it looked like business as usual—past chairmen still associated in some form or the other with the country's chairmen still associated in some form or the other with the country's premier space science agency, rarely touched by controversy, continuing a grura-shishya relationship with their sourcessors. On the face of one of the former chairmen, G Madhavan Mair, who already stood accused of not following procedures in a major business deal during his tenure, there was, however, a great deal of unhappiness. In colloquial Malayalam—the language spoken in Kernethelm and the state of the stat

ing the celebrated maiden moon mis-sion for India, had been forced to be on the dais despite not seeing eye-to-eye with the current chairman K Rad-hakrishnan—who has not had much

visible success with space missions since taking over from Nair in 2009. ISRO insiders say Nair was present that day only at the insistence of Abdul Kalam, whom he is considered very close to and whom he re-gards as a guru. To some extent, the event set to rest growing speculation that Nair and his chosen successor

that Nair and his chosen successor, were increasingly at loggerhead, especially over Radhakrishnan't alleged failure to put up a proper defence of the Antrix-Devas deal inked during Nair's tenure.

No one, however, quite expected the veneer of respectability that ISRO enjoys to blow away like it did on January 25, 2012, when Nair, barred from taking up overnment duties by the department of space for his alleged lapses while shepherding the Antrix-Devas deal, launched a tirade against his successor. against his successor

against his successor.

After listening to Nair that day accusing Radhakrishnan of carrying out a "personal agenda" and of misleading the government on the procedures followed for the Antrix- Devas dules followed for the Antity. Devas deal, a former close colleague of Nair remarked, "It is a sharp reaction, it is something he has been carrying around for a while and he has let it all out now".

In ISRO circles, there has always been talk of a deep-running, though never openly discussed, feud between Malayali scientists and Tamil scientists, since the organisation is largely dominated by people from Kerala and Tamil Nadulti thas never blown out in public like the current feud between Nair and Radhakrishana.

Over the years, ISRO has fostered a management style where a strong chairman commands full authority and allegiance and steers the space agency and its programmes, primarily satellite development for remote sensing and communications, rocket development for astellite launches, and space research.

and space research.

The chairman works with a group leaders, mostly scientists, who of leaders, mostly scientists, w head the 19 ISRO centres, the cre of them being the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapu-Space Centre in Thiruvananihapuram where work on rockets is done, the ISRO Sarellite Centre in Bangalore, the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sharkstow where launches take place, the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at three sites where work is carried out on rocket fuel technology, the Space Applications Centre at Ahmedabad and the Antrix Corporation, a commercial arm.

When the chairman and top scientists heading the different centres retire, they rarely go out of service since their expertise is plowed back into ISRO or sometimes even sent upstairs to the department of space or the space commission. Four of the six former chairmen, and the SRO continues to serve space sciences

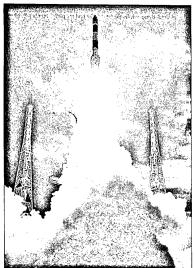
Four of the six former chairmen of ISRO continue to serve space sciences in some official capacity. Madhavan Nair, after the current controversy, was ousted from the prestigious posi-tion of the Vikram Sarabhai professor space programme and the first chair-man of ISRO (1963-72).

"In ISRO, we are taught to re-spect our leaders and we have had great leaders. There is an unwritten



SPACE WA

What was till recently a simmering conflict is now an open war in India's premier space agency. JOHNSON TA puts together the inside story of ISRO's internecine feud



As ISRO chairman, Madhavan Nair was responsible for 25 successful space missions, including the maiden moon mission for India

tween Madhayan Nair and Radhaki ishnan, incumbent chairmen of ISRO and their predecessors maintained a teacher-disciple kind of relationship.

Following the retirement of Dr K

Kasturirangan, who was the chair-man between 1994-2003 and dur-

ing whose time the Antrix-Devas deal originated, Nair consulted his

former boss often. The veneration

was often visible. The Antrix-Devas deal has, how-

code of lovalty to succeed in ISRO. It is this code that has seen the or ganisation achieve respect and suc-cess," says a former ISRO official who worked in various capacities on the managerial side.

the managerial side.

The loyalty factor was seen as being invaluable when the organisation
was attempting to advance Indian
space science in a global environment
marked by international isolation.
"ISRO in the early days was a
common project for all its scientists
to advance Indian capabilities to advance indian
mercial atmosphere has changed dynamics," says an ISRO official.
"Passionate, strong commitment
and courage to explore newer technical frontiers, Highly demanding
technical and managerial skills' are
often defined as requisites for ISRO
leadership.

The Antiri-Devas deal has, how-ever, changed equations in ISRO dra-matically, thas turned Radhakrish-nan and Nair into fees.
The early signs that Radhakrish-nan was not going to play ball the way his predecessors would have wanted him to were visible when at a press conference on February 8, 2011 to defend the Antiri-Devas deal, the ISRO chairman said his predecessors (Kasturirangan and Nair) should answer for certain as-pects of the deal such as a Rs 323-crore Deutsche Telekom investment in Devas Multimedia. He also admit-

Until the recent turn of events be-

ted that ISRO under Nair had failed ted that ISRO under Nair had failed to "explicitly" tell the Space Commis-sion and the Union Cabinet that two satellites were being given exclu-sively to Devas. "Kasturirangan should answer it. They (Deutsche Telekom) were not in the picture

sively to Devas. Assistiriangan should answer it. They (Deutsche Telekom) were not in the picture when the contract was signed on January 28, 2005; Radhakrishnan said at the press conference.

According to ISRO insiders, 'there is a deep divide in ISRO at present between people who were loyal to Madhavan Nair and people who are loyal to Radhakrishnan'. 'It is a divided house. A number of people who were loyal to Madhavan Nair and people who are loyal to Madhavan Nair and house. A number of people moved out of key positions and have been replaced by people trusted by Radhakrishnan,' says a source.

Wille Nair was known to command a lot of power in ISRO and was sometimes considered authoritarian, he was also well-liked. 'He also had good relations with the PMO,' say sources.

During Nair's tenure as chairman, he wore the hats of the secretary of the Department of Space and was head of the Space Commission. Since his exit and the fallout of the Antrus Powas deal, the ISRO chairmant's tole has been clipped and powers have been more distributed.

Radhakrishnan, a Kathakali artiset, is aloof, less communicative and has been labelled more authoritarian than his predecessor. His criticis in ISRO say he spends a lot of time on his predocessor. His criticis in ISRO say he spends a lot of time on his predocessor. His criticis in ISRO say he spends a lot of time on his predocessor, this criticis in ISRO say he spends a lot of time on his predocessor wissing. Instead of growing in strength, ISRO call of the predocessor with sair.

Radhakrishnan has repeatedly refused to comment on his differences with Nair.

fused to comment on his differen with Nair

According to an ISRO official who has worked with both Nair and Radhakrishnan, the present chairman has not done anything to harm anybody deliberately. "It is a play of circum-stances around the Antrix-Devas deal. We don't know if there are issues be-yond ISRO and Antrix involving the

yond ISRO and Antrix involving the government, "he says.
"This episode (Antrix-Deva deal) has left deep scars on some of us who worked hard with idealism over decades at ISRO. You can ask our vendors and clients whether there has been any corruption in our system. I am left wondering if our system is so fragile and if we are just cogs in the wheel," says an ISRO employee.

ACCOUNT BOOKS

■ For 2011-12, ISRO had a budget estimate of Rs 6,626 croe. with Rs 4,017 c for space technology, Rs 848 cr for space applications, Rs 1,085 cr for communication satellite operations, Rs 351 cr for space sciences and Rs 322 cr for administration and other programmes.
■ ISRO earns revenues through its commercial am Anthix Corporation.

through activities such as leasing of transponders on communication satellites to satellite television companies like Tata Sky, Sun TV and oth-

ers; from sale of remote sensing data; from building satellites on contract and from building satellites on contract and from bunch services.

In 2010, Antix reported revenues fix 883-92 crore with a profit of Rs 128.02 crore. However, in 2009, and the company reported a higher income of Rs 1,058 crore and a profit of Rs 229 crore.

The approved employee strength of the Space Department as of April 2010 was 18,249, of which 12,517 are in the Scientific and technical cate-

are in the scientific and technical cate gory and 5,732 in the administration.

**THE DEAL ABOUT ANTRIX-DEVAS **

JANUARY 28, 2005: Antrix Corporation signs agreement with private NRI firm Devas Multimedia to launch mobile satellite services using Devas receiver technology and ISRO satel-lite technology

lite technology.

DECEMBER 2005: Cabinet approves building of Rs 269-crore
GSAT-6 satellite

GSAT-6 satellite
AUGUST 2008: Deutsche Telekom
picks up 17 per cent stake in Devas
at a cost of Rs 323.25 crore.
OCTOBER 2009: GSAT 6A satellite
cleared at a cost of Rs 147 crore. NOVEMBER 2009: Dr K Radhakr

ishnan replaces Dr Madhavan Nair as ISRO chairman, DECEMBER 8, 2009: Complaints

over deal. ISRO sets up the B N
Suresh committee to review deal.
JULY 2, 2010: Space Commission,
based on the Suresh Committee re-

port, says Cabinet not informed about dedication of 90 per cent two satellites operating in S-band

spectrum to Devas. FEBRUARY 9, 2011; PMO appoints tee to review deal. FEBRUARY 17, 2011: Cabinet Committee on Security decides to annul deal for societal and strategic reasons, based on Space Commis-sion recommendations.

ion recommendations.

MARCH 12, 2011: Chaturveii
Committee submits report to PMO.
Cabinet secretary says procedural
lapses have occurred.

JANUARY 13, 2012: Department of
Space bars appointment of former
SRO chairman of Madhavan Nair
and three others from government
jobs on the basis of former CVC Pxadhyum Sinha's report.

BARRED

The four ISRO officials barred by the Department of Space from taking up government assignments for their alleged impropriety in the Antrix-Devas deal

G MADHAVAN NAIR

G MADHAVAN NAIR
A rodext systems engineer with the
Indian space programme from its
earliest days in the 1986, Mair's
tenure as chairman of 1580 from
2003 to 2009, is considered among
the space agency's most successful
phases. A Radma Vibhushan
wardee, he was the Vikram Sarabhair Professor at 1580 until last week
when he was removed from the position after being barred from government positions by the Epartment of Space for his alleged role in
allowing procedural lapses while fa-

allowing procedural lapses while fa-cilitating the Antrix-Devas deal.

DR K N SHANKARA

An electrical communication engi-neer who formerly headed the ISRO Satellite Centre and the Space Application Centre, he was drafted by ISRO to write up a report on the tech-nical feasibility of the Antrix-Devas deal. "We looked at the technical side of the deal," says Shankra. His committee found that mobile satel-lite technology like what was pro-posed by Devas could be useful in reaching remote parts of the country. He has been barred from taking up government positions for his report paving the path for the deal. cation Centre, he was drafted by

K R SRIDHARA MURTHI

K R SRIDHARA MURTHI
A mechanical engineer and an IIM-A
graduate, Murthi is a former ISRO scientific secretary and was the managing director of Antrix Corporation—
ISRO's commercial arm, during a period when the firm's revenues rose
from Rs 60 crore to Rs 1,058 crore in the years. He is the official signatory
on the Antrix side for the Devas deal.
'I did my job honestly. Innovations
were required and we were trying a
business innovation. Moobody will
itsk innovation in ISRO any more if
this is the reward," says Murthi, who
voluntarily quit from an advisory
council to the Prime Minister on innovation after he heard he was barred from taking up government jobs.

A BHASKARNARAYANA

An electrical communication engineer from IIT Madras, Bhaskamarayana is a former ISRO scientific secretary and a former director of satellite com cation programmes. As scientific sec-retary, he was in communication with the government on the usage of the S-Band spectrum for the Antrix-Devas agreement. "I have put in nearly four decades of dedicated work. I don't think I have done any wrong," he says.



IT'S A SLAP ON MY FACE. I SUSPECT A LOBBY IN THIS

The department of space has penalised former Isro chief **G Madhavan Nair** and three other former top space officials by banning them from holding any government jobs for their role in the Antrix-Devas deal. But Nair tells **Srinivas Laxman** that he has not flouted the law

FOR THE RECORD

What was your reaction to the order which you say you had read only in the newspapers?

■ It was a real slap on my face and I was shocked. I am now really sad and disgusted. I will immediately withdraw from all the government posts. The order which I read in the newspapers does not mention the reasons why I have been penalised. If any rules had been violated, there should have been a regular inquiry and a person should have been given an opportunity to state his point of view. All these have been violated. I wonder how the entire exercise could have been carried out in such a secret manner.

How do you plan to respond to it?

Once I read the official document, I will initiate measures to ensure that my honour is restored.

The main charge against you is that while clinching the deal with Devas, rules were flouted and you failed to adhere to laid-down procedures.

■ I totally disagree that I did not observe the rules. The agreement was signed by adhering to all the procedures. Antrix Corporation asked Devas to obtain the necessary licences from the department of telecommunications. Isro has nothing to do with the spectrum and spectrum charges. The technology which we were planning to introduce was unique and would have benefited the rural areas. The way things have happened I suspect that there could have been some pressure from some lobby.

What type of pressure and what is this lobby you are referring to?

■ I am convinced that the new chairman, K Radhakrishnan, was not comfortable with the deal. Within a month after he assumed charge in November 2009, he set up a committee to look into the Antrix-Devas agreement even though an earlier committee had given it a clean chit. Another group chaired by K N Shankara described it as a viable decision. Despite all this, Radhakrishnan sent a communique to the PMO saying the contract should be annulled.

One serious charge against you is that the Union Cabinet was not informed that the two communication satellites GSat-6 and GSat-6A would be used by Devas and this has even been acknowledged by Isro. Comment please.

■ Antrix Corporation is a public sector organisation and as such there is no need to inform the Cabinet. This is clearly stated in the rules and let me reiterate firmly and strongly that we have not flouted the law, rules or regulations. The Devas agreement was signed by conforming to all the rules. There were 18 meetings between Isro and Devas and all authorities were informed. It is being stated that the deal, if it had materialised, would have caused a major financial loss to the national exchequer. Do you agree?

■Definitely not. Isro's responsibility stops with the supply of transponders.

Many are of the view that your public attack on the present Isro chairman will considerably damage the space agency's image. Do you agree?

■ I maintain that whatever I have said is factual and my criticism is levelled against only an individual who is the team leader. Isro has nearly 16,000 employees and they are doing a fine job. If a team does not win, then it is the captain who is held responsible. This is what has happened in Isro.

You have repeatedly stated that Isro's future under the leadership of Radhakrishnan is dim.

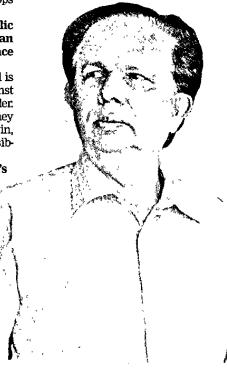
■ Isro works on a long-range goal and you need a 10-year programme. When I was the chairman I had a profile done till the year 2020. In the last two years, however, there have been no major approvals for new projects, like for example the human space flight programme. Even the

implementation of some existing programmes is very slow. There seems to be a lack of managerial and technical leadership in Isro. Under these circumstances, I can say that the future of Isro is pretty dim. Some of your own scientists blame you for not giving them credit for the discovery of water molecules by Chandrayaan-1's Moon Impact Probe on November 14, 2008. They say that you also allowed Nasa to walk away with credit for an Indian achievement.

■ This is totally absurd. There was an agreement that the data will be shared by Isro and Nasa. I do not agree that the delay in announcing the Indian discovery was done deliberately. The findings by our instrument had to be corroborated. So we timed the announcement simultaneously both in Washington and Bangalore.

How has your family reacted to these developments?

■ My grandson is very happy to see his grandfather at home when he returns from school and my wife is happy that I am at home to help her with the domestic chores.



Pioneer ND 29/01/2012

P-1

Post Coal Net scam, prof promoted

CBI, CAG reports indicted Director of IIT Patna

MOUSHUMI BASU MI NEW DELHI

Jormer ISRO chief G Madhavan Nair had to resign from the coveted post of Chairman, Board of Governors of IIT Patna in the wake of the Government banning his employment following the Antrix-Devas controversy. However, for the three-year-old IIT Patna, the woes don't seem to be ending at just that. The Director, IIT Patna, Prof Anil K Bhowmick, too is mired in controversy. According to documents in possession with The Pioneer, Bhowmick has been indicted by both the CAG and the CBI for irregularities in the Coal Net Project scam.

The CBI, which submitted its report way back in 2007, had recommended Regular Departmental Action (RDA), which includes major penalty by way of dismissal from service. On the contrary, though, Bhowmick got promoted as Director IIT Patna in 2008 and continues till date.

Bhowmick was the Dean,

IN VIOLATION OF NORMS. ANIL BHOWMICK WAS FOUND TO HAVE OUTSOURCED THE ENTIRE JOB TO M/S TCG (THE CHATTERJEE GROUP) OF AN IIT-KHARAGPUR ALUMNUS

Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy (SRIC), IIT Kharagpur, which was awarded the Coal Net consultancy service. The duration of the project from 2001 to 2005 was for computerisation of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries.

The documents state that CBI in its course of investigation found that Bhowmick had violated the work order of the Coal Net Project. Accordingly, all documents were to be kept confidential and not to be divulged to any third party, and no part of the job was to be outsourced without CIL's approval.

However, in violation of these norms, he was found to have outsourced the entire job to M/s TCG (The Chatterjee Group) of an IIT Kharagpur Alumnus Purunendu Chatterjee. He had sub-contracted the work on back-to-back basis, in complete violation of the contact.

Further, even the CAG report of 2009-10 has pointed out that the Coal Net Project could not be completed even after seven years and despite

spending ₹39.58 crore

It has blamed IIT Kharagpur, the implementation agency, for inadequate monitoring of the implementation of the project resulting in its slow progress that eventually led to

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Post Coal...

From Page 1

the foreclosure of the agreement with the premier institution.

The CBI had also recommended penalty against two senior IIT-Kharagpur professors — RN Baneriee and the current Dean, SRIC, Professor PP Chakraborti — for their involvement in the Coal Net Project irregularities.

As things stand, the top

brass at the IITs have been coming under scanner for various scams and irregularities. Prof D Acharya, Director IIT Kharagpur is under CBI scanner for the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) scam while serving as its chairman. Prof Madhusudan Chakraborty from IIT Kharagpur, who is on lien to IIT Bhubaneswar as Director, is also facing a CBI probe due to irregularities in appointments, equipment purchase and travel bills.

HindustanTimes

Title:

Author:

Location :

Article Date: 01/30/2012

Lots of science, little sensibility

The action taken by the Union government against some senior Indian space scientists for their alleged role in the Antrix deal has sent out a strong message that no wrongdoing will be tolerated (Probe panel findings nailed the four scientists, January 26). But like the 2G scam, the Antrix scam was also highlighted by the media first. While the media must be commended for this, one wonders if there are any checks and balances left in the administrative set-up of this country? I hope this incident will help bring in more transparency in the governance of science institutions in the country.

Bapu Satyanarayana, , via email

Search panel drags feet, UGC still headless

ELIGIBILITY Sources say search committee wants to get age

clause relaxed on the position

Pankaj Vohra

pvohra@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The selection of the chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been considerably delayed with the three-member search committee dragging its feet without reaching any concrete conclusions.

The search committee has now sought an appointment with the Human Resources Development (HRD) minister, Kapil Sibal, to seek some "unnecessary" clarifications regarding eligibility criteria of candidates in general and the age clause in particular.

Sources said that the reason for seeking clarification was that some candidates in the age range of 62-64 years also figured in the zone of consideration. The UGC Act, significantly, stipulates that the office of the UGC chairman shall be whole time and he/she shall "hold office for a term of five years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier".

Accordingly, the UGC chairman has to be appointed on a whole time basis and for the full term. The provision does not allow for interpretation knowingly or deliberately that a person could be appointed chairman for a period, which will not be one term of five years.

The appointment is, therefore, to be guided in that the identified incumbent should be able to serve five years in office and without exceeding the age of superannuation — 65 years. The stipulation in the advertisement given by the HRD ministry on this subject mentioned, "...nominees should be prefer-



Illustration: ABHIMANYU SINHA

ably below the age of 60 years". This appears to have also been guided by this principle. Non-adherence to this provision will tantamount to violation of the relevant stipulation in the UGC.

Curtailment of full term due to an intervening factor such as superannuation or some unforeseen reasons of exit from the position would be an exception and not a rule.

The HRD ministry's decision in the appointment of Prof SS Mantha as the chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), made nearly a fortnight ago, supports the

principle cited for the position of the UGC chairman.

The AICTE chairman has been appointed for a full term of three years (as per the provision of the AICTE Act) by the ministry notwithstanding the introduction of the legislation about the National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) in Parliament.

Sources said that attempt to get the age clause relaxed by the search committee could be to bring in some candidates who do not otherwise fulfil the criteria. Hectic lobbying is going on for this coveted position where the names of some vice chancellors who are facing an enquiry also figure.

The long list of aspirants has amongst the front-runners a former vice chancellor who was overlooked for a similar position for the Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University last year.

Deccan Herald ND 29/01/2012 p-6

Next generation 'Aakash' tablets for Rs 1,500 in Andhra

HYDERABAD: In a bid to promote e-learning in the state, the Andhra Pradesh government plans to provide 'next generation Aakash' tablets to students at a subsidised price of Rs 1,500.

A proposal has already been sent to the Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry.

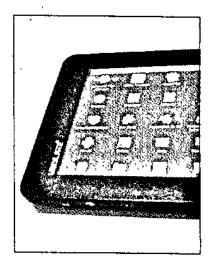
"Once we get the approval, we will implement the scheme. We are planning to procure 10,000 tablets. Initially, they will be made available to the students of the state universities, engineering and polytechnic colleges," the State Commissioner of Technical Education, S Balasubramanyam said.

The second phase of the scheme will see students of private colleges in the state reaping the benefits.

The Union HRD Ministry is monitoring the implementation of 'Aakash' project. Billed as the world's cheapest tablet, 'Aakash' was launched by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal in October last year. The tablet has been designed with an aim to bridge the "digital divide" between the rich and the poor.

Over the next five years, the Centre plans to provide the tablets to 20 crore students.

"The HRD Ministry had asked the state to submit details about the number of Aakash tablets initially required. We plan to procure 10,000 tablets in the begin-



ning," Balasubramanyam said.

The state government is waiting for the next generation of 'Aakash,' expected to be released in April. Plans are afoot to rent out the tablets to college and university libraries for students who can not afford to buy.

The tablet, with a seven-inch touch screen, weighs 350 grams. It runs on Android operating system. There are reports that the existing Android 2.2 has a series of faults. This apart, reports about the tablet's poor battery backup have also emerged recently.

In response, 'Aakash' manufacturer Datawind has decided to launch an improved version with a 766 MHz processor and a longer battery life.

Nonetheless, the product has been welcomed with an overwhelming response, with over two million online orders being placed till January 25.

DH News Service

AP plans subsidised Aakash for students

SURESH DHARUR/TNS

HYDERABAD, JANUARY 28
As a part of the initiative to promote e-learning, the Andhra Pradesh Government

is planning to provide Aakash tablets to students at a subsidised price of Rs 1,500.

The state government has sent a proposal to the Union Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry in this regard. "Once we get the approval, we will implement the scheme. We are planning to procure 10,000 tablets. Initially, they will be made available to the students in the state universities, engineering and polytechnic colleges," State Commissioner of Technical Education S Balasubramanyam said.

In the next phase, the scheme would be extended to

the students of all private colleges in the state, the official said. The Union HRD Ministry is monitoring implementation of the Aakash project. The tablet has been designed especially for students with an aim to bridge the digital divide between the rich and the poor. Over the next five years, the Centre plans to provide the tablets to 20 crore students.

Indian Express ND 29/01/2012 P-11

QUEEZED between the Republic Day and the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, this Sunday must be rescued as an island free of hyperbole and hypocrisy. Well may we extol the virtues of ahimsa but we have just surrendered to threats of violent rioting in Jaipur. A Republic sixty-two years old is even now unsure of the freedoms it has bestowed upon its citizens and confused as to

During the mid 1950s, I recall Pandit Nehru addressing a Conference of Newspaper Editors. He advanced the interesting notion that Freedom of Speech and Expression had not been granted to good editors alone; it was most necessary for the bad editors too. It would be easy to say that editors should use their freedoms responsibly and in national interest. Of course, bad editors would do no such thing; they would print scurrilous articles. But then who is to decide who is a good

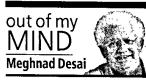
editor and who is bad? If this is left

its identity.

Do we deserve our freedoms?

to the government, then predictably only chamchas will survive as editors and the honest ones who spoke the truth to power would be hustled off to jail as bad editors misusing their freedoms.

Nehru's remarks are even more apt now than ever before. I was struck by Justice Katju saying that Salman Rushdie was a poor and sub-standard writer who would have remained unknown except for his scurrilous book The Satanic Verses. This, he is quoted as saying, is much more fundamental issue than merely banning him. Of course, every one is entitled to his own literary standards. I hope the Booker Prize authorities take note of what Justice Katju has said and immediately withdraw the original Booker Prize for Midnight's Children and its prize as Booker of Bookers of over 25 years.



But even a poor substandard writer deserves to be able to write and be read by such tasteless people who prefer him to better writers. A writer's freedom of expression and for all of us the freedom to read and write as we please is not granted on a quality adjusted basis. This is not one of your IIT entrance exams where if you don't score 99 per cent, you may as well jump in the lake. The founding fathers of the Constitution of India gave all such freedoms without even setting a literacy test. Of course the freedom to read implies the freedom not to read if you

don't like someone's writing. It does not imply prohibition on all from reading something which a minority does not approve of.

Over the sixty-two years, India has encouraged the articulation of several identities among its citizens. This can only be a good thing. But some identities especially religious ones are being privileged. This is paradoxically because of the insistence that India is a secular state. Indian secularism treats its citizens as belonging to certain identified religious communities and enjoins others to respect the sensitivities of each such community. But then who is to decide which sensitivities are worthy of more respect and which less.

The taking of insults over the most trivial matter, be it a Bollywood film song, or the dress worn by some group or a biography of some historical figure has become a large scale industry. PILs are used as a way of blackmailing those who some people do not approve of. Mob violence and political party muscle is enough for the State to abdicate its responsibility.

The worst effect of privileging religious or caste groups is that if I am born in one of those groups but wish to reject that identity, I cannot seek protection from the state. But for an apostate Muslim as for a Muslim divorcee, it is the religious gate-keepers who police if they can enjoy their fundamental rights.

All his life Gandhiji was criticised by orthodox Hindus for the simplicity and ecumenical nature of his religious beliefs. He was finally killed by a fellow Hindu, who was hanged for his crime. If Salman Rushdie had come to Jaipur and been shot by one of the many Muslim gangs, would his killer have been tried, if caught, and hanged if convicted?

Do I need to ask?



SUNIL KUMAR (43)

BACKGROUND: Born in Bangalore, He was on the faculty of Stanford University's School of Business for 14 years. He says, "I was admitted to the Indian Institute of Science and went there because I didn't want a job. In time, I fell in love with academia. PLANS: "My most important objective now is to enhance and broadem the impact and reputation of the school."

ON INDIA: "Indians in the US clearly bring a strong global perspective. The strength of the Indian education system creates advantages,"



College.

BACKGROUND: "Deeply influenced" by this formative years in India (including winning the President's Gold Medal for standing first in Chartered Accountancy exam). PLANS: "I want to continue my work on reverse innovation – any innovation that starts in poor countries and then moves to rich countries."



NIRMALYA ACHARYA
(51)
POSITION: Professor of
Marketing and co-direct
Or of Adriya Bird India
Centre at London

BACKGROUND: Accepted in the Northwestern PhD program by Philip Kotler and then moved to IMD Switzerland

SWITZERIAND.

PLANS: The issue I am currently con-templating is how MNCs have to trans-form to meet the challenge of emerging markets."

markets."

ON INDIA: "Indians who have lived in multiple countries demonstrate a flexibility to adapt across cultures which is essential for MNC talent."



NITIN NOHRIA (49)
POSITION: Dean, Harvard
Business School (HSS).

And became HBS's 10th Dean in July 2010.
He is the second ean, of the possibly the most prestiguous business college, in the world born outside the United States.
PLARS: To give MBA students a does of real-world preprience, HBS is introducing its biguest curriculum change in nearly 90 years.

No Vigness of the Vig



Ing our curriculum as well."

VILAYANUR
RAMACHANDRAN
(60)

OSTITON: Director,
Center for Brain and
Compinion, University or
Confliction, San Diego.

BACKGOROPHO In Brain and of the March
Robert the Marco Polo of neuroscience by
Richard Brown of the san bendesur bend
File of the Marco Polo of neuroscience by
Richard Brown of the san bendesur bender
Robert Brown of the Robert Brown



JAMSHED BHARUCHA (55) POSITION: President, Cooper Union. New Y-

BHARUCHA (55)
POSTION: President,
Cooper Union, New York
BACKGROUND: Numbalborn Bharucha, was
Professor of Psychological and Brain
Scaleness at Darmouth College #II 2002,
went on to become the Provisor of Tufts
University, before joining Cooper Union, the
New York-based school, lest year as its
President.

PLANS: "In cognitive neuroscience, the key issue is be a better understanding of con-

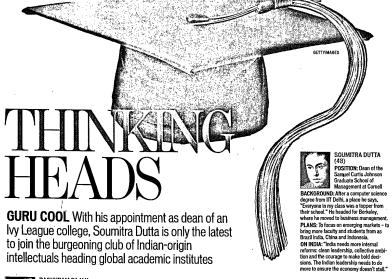
Sciousness."

ON INDIA: "It is a huge advantage to have a mastery over two cultures. It allows us to think globally, and to bring in the best features of East and West as we innovate."



Omni Capital Group, LLC BACKGROUND: Born in Mumbai, Netravall did his graduation in Electrical engineering from IIT Bombay and MS and a Phd from Rice University in Texas. He has published widely in the field of digital communication.

communication.
PLANS: Pioneer in HDTV, he is setting up a 2550 million venture capital fund to invest in start-up US telecom companies.
ON INDIA: A Padma Bhushan awardee wants to bring outsourcing to the world of start-ups in technology and telecom.



GURU COOL With his appointment as dean of an Ivy League college, Soumitra Dutta is only the latest to join the burgeoning club of Indian-origin intellectuals heading global academic institutes



RAGHURAM RAJAN
(43)
POSITION: Eric J.
Gleacher Distinguished
Service Professor of
Finance and the Charles
Wounges, first non-western chief exponentiat at the International Monetary Fund.

BACKGROUND: Work back in 2005.

mist at the International Monetary Fund.

BACKGROUND: Way book in 2006, he forecast the current recession at a gathering of economists.

PLANS: To try and understand our world better. And hopefully use that understanding to change it altitle for the good.

ON INDIA: If India can pull off the ongoing regarders in the constitution in the second of the



LORD BHIKHU
PAREKH (76)
POSITION: Emeritus
Professor of political philosophy, Contre for the
Study of Democracy,

Study of Democracy, Westminister University, and Study of Democracy, Westminister University, BACKGROUND: Born in rural Gujarat. He went on to teach at LSE and chaired the Removement frost on the Future of Paulyment (Park St. Current), fruiting a book, titled 'Understanding India' – a collection of seasys dealing with questions no one is talking about."

On NIDIA: "We are a society that is restless and rull of problems, our mind is intellectually alive, whereas the society in IUK is settlied. We bring new perspectives."



ATUL GAWARDE (46)
POSITION: Associate
Professor, Harvard School
Public Health,
Associate Director, Center
for Surpey and Public
Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital,
BACKGOEWING

Back, Magnetis and Sangeon and author of non-fliction and a analyst of the healthcare sector in the US. He was senior advisor to the Department of Health and Human Services during the Clinton Administration. Services during the Clinton Administration arranges in the US and abroad:

ON HORA: The Kokkata hospital fire is terrible evidence that even the richest Indian sites haven I earned patient safety."



MARENDRA CUPTA
POSITION: Dean of Olin
Business School at
Washington (Inherestry) in
Statistics and Commiss and did his Pid
accounting from Standford University.
Statistics and Commiss and did his Pid
in accounting from Standford University.
PLANS: "Building on the success of our
experience in Europe and Chrin, we will
make Olin a global leader in executive education and programs, he says.
ON INDIA'S Lobis has a very large Indian
community that comes together often and
clowns to to keep us with our cultime, bly
kids in many ways have a better appreciation of Indian cultime than their cousins in
India because they have to work at it."



SIR PARTHA
DASGUPTA (69)
POSITION: Frank Ramsey
Professor Emeritus of
Economics, St. John's,
Economics, Economics, Economics,
Economics, Economics, Economics, Economics,
Economics, Economics, Economics, Economics,
Economics, Econ

Sumitted hit as the bead of the ley League business school of Carnell University is one more addition to eliterate and the lectuals and thinkers occupying positions of importance in international institutions in the US and UK. Maybe Madekine Sumplier, policy and positions of importance in international institutions in the US and UK. Maybe Madekine Sumplier, policy and positions of importance in international institutions in the US and UK. Maybe Madekine Sumplier, policy and positions of the Indian economy and its growing cardial opening up that has provided opportunities to Indian intellectuals to the growth of the Indian economy and its gradual opening up that has provided opportunities to Indian intellectuals to the growth of the Indian economy of Indian as source of well-educated and hard working professionals, rather than a poverty ridden country of "snake charmers". Also besides the higher level of chardan, besides the higher level of chardan or the Indians of Indian economy of Indians who had moved to the US between 1820 and 1930 was no more than 700, according to MRI, presently the country has 2.8 million ethnic Indians. There are 13 million in Britian and international indian economy of Indians and Indian economic Indians Indians

skills required for successful leader-ship.

But, the magic of Indians in the private sector internationally has not really transcended domestically, espe-cially in the public sector. "In the West, India is now regarded as a com-petitive tiger when it comes to the private sector. It is the public sector which falls India at every turn," adds Desai. But, the increased spending on research and higher education in India is showing results. "Rome was not built

DIPAK C.JAIN, (54)



in a day," says Director of Centre for Theoretical Physics in Jamin Millia Islamia, M Sami, who rose to promise mence after his paper on 'Dynamies of Dark Brergy' was included in the Notel Prize committee document in 2011.

Many believe that while there is made force on Indians in the Prize committee document in 2011.

Many believe that while there is made force on Indians in the Wayeshyneglected. The cumulative impact of the over focus on foreign institutions is to ignore people working wonderably in different circumstances in India," says Pratap Branu Mehta, bead O'Centre for Policy Research, a Delhi-based think-tank. "There is also a disproportionate focus on business schools, the real Indian contribution proportionate focus on business schools, the real Indian contribution. Ashis Navdy, Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, who was chosen among 100 public intellectuals of the world by Foreign Policy magazine in 2008, says Indians go overboard in celebrating the success of Indian-origin enigrants. "Have you ever seen the French, German or Irish taking the Profession of the Study of The Study of The Study of The Profession and third generation migrants as we do?"

Rather, the obvious observation, experts suggest, is that proud

third generation migrants as we do?"
Rather, the obvious observation, experts suggest, is that proud Indians have come a long way now to achieve international acclaim. Many constructive policies which are now seeing light in other parts of the world are actually the contribution of Indian thinkers and intellectuals who formulated our initial five-year plans. For instance, says senior fellow at the New York-based think-tank, Council on Foreign Relations, Jagdish Bhagwati, "The UNDP thinks it invented these concerns when in fact its advisers from our subcontinent simply reproduced these concerns and olive the from what we had been doing for decades."

ASTUDY SANS THAT 60%

A STUDY SAYS THAT 60% INDIAN LEADERS ARE FOUND TO BE MORE EFFEC-TIVE THAN THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS

A 25 million strong Indian diaspora is a liability sometimes — in terms of brain-drain — and an asset at other times — for instance during market slowdown. The worldwide recession in 2008 complemented the properties of the properties of the control of the properties of the properti



CHAKRAVURITION,
POSITION Senior
Associate Deane, a
Associate Deane, a
International Business A
Finance, Institute for
Finance, Institute BACKGROUNDA former partner at MocKinsey, and former member at the Harvard Business School. His journey started at the Deht School of Economics. PLANS: To develop the next generation of global leaders with contextual intelligence. ON NIDIANS: The obligity to speak English and the willingness to travel/work in any part of the world is an enormous asset and is key to India's soft power.



LORD KUMAR
BHATTACHARYA (71)
POSITION: Chairman,
Warwick Manufacturing
Group, Warwick
University
BACKGROUND: After Iff Kharagpur, he
tel for British or becam: The deat fire.

BACKGROUND: After IIT Kharagpur, he left for Britain as he says, "the day I finished my graduation". Became UK's first professor of manufacturing.

PLANS: With Britain re-balancing its economy, WMG has been asked to play a central role in Industrial development

strategy.

ON INDIA: "There's no shortage of top quality Indians in America. In science and technology, to be a leader the competition is fierce. Indians do brilliantly but they need more confidence."



ARVIND PANAGARIYA
(59)
POSTION: PANAGARIYA
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POSTION: PANAGARIYA
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(59)
POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: A MARTINA PANAGARIYA
(59)
POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: POSTION: A MARTINA PANAGARIYA
POSTION: Completed his Master's in Economics through University of Rajasthan in Jajour, followed by a PriD programme in economics at Protection University.
PLANS: 1 plan to turn the Columbia
Program on indian Economic Policies into a permanent Center on Indian Economy at Columbia University.
PON INDIA: "Indians are at atlented people and they compete well with the talented people world over including the US." JAGDISH BHAGWATI
(77)

POSITION: Professor at
Columbia University and
Columbia University and
International Economics at
the Council on Foreign Relations, level
As KARGOUND: Among the most celebratde consomission to braw on the
hobel Prose in that filled, the continues to be
athough Indexes

NODE! Prize in that field. He continues to be at thought leads. If an finishing a provocative book on Indian reforms with Professor Aravind Panagariya that shatters a lot of nonsensical myths that afflict our reforms.

ON INDIA: Tidna economists, and politicians, have long been interested in issues relating to human well-being something that the UNDP thinks it invented."



(DARPA).

PLANS: Have combined the two issues: increasing cost of education and internationalisation. and build a strategy helped in Portugal, Rwanda, and China.

ON INDIANS: "One of the advantages that Indian (and all immigrants) bring is the ability to deal with uncertainty and ambiguity, and the ability to take risks."



RENU KHATOR (56)
POSITION: Chanceller and President, University of Houston BACKGROUND: Born in BACKGROUND: Born in BACKGROUND: Born in University before emigrating to the US. PLANS: Only a small fraction of a public university is budget today comes from the public at large; however, we strive to serve students from all backgrounds, ON INDIANS: Indians are known and respected for their strength in education, in peneral, and in science education in partium. Indians exert in essarch, teaching and business, known eners successful in obtaining public leadership positions.

PRABHAT JHA (46)
POSITION: University of
Toronto Director, Centre
for Global Health
Research, St Michael's
Hospital, Toronto



ARVIND
SUBRMANIAN
POSITION: Senior Fellow
at Peterson Institute for
International Economics
BACKBROUND: He A St
tephen's college graduate, Subramanian
switten are with the in-

BACKGROUND: He AS ISsched sologie graduate, Schamanian has written on growth, trade, development institutions, add, of linking. Affect and the World Trade Organization, Foreign Policy magazine called him one of the 100 most influential people.
PLAMS: At a conference in Washington DC he proposed India should nutrue packstants accomova as way to bring peace to that trouble nation, and the region. ON MOIL: These is no doubt that over the next (10 to 5 years, India will start growing faster than China.





SIR VENKATRAMAN
RAMAKRISHNAN (59)
POSITION: Group leader,
Structural Studies division,
Medical Research Council
Laboratory of Molecular
Biology Cambridge.

Biology, Cambridge, Background Wolecular Biology, Cambridge, Background, Born in Chidambaram, Tamil Madu, to selectific parents who taught at the Maharaja Sayelirac University in Baroda. After canduling from the same university (and falling to sivin a place in any other IIISa), he moved to the US and was associated with a no. of universities, the was professor of biochemistry at Utah University before he moved to the US. ON INDIA: "My childhood and adolescence (in India) were filled with visiting scientists from both India and abread."



AKESH KHURANA
(41)
POSITION: Professor of
Leaderhip Development,
Harvard Business School
Harvard Harvard Harvard
Harvard Harvard
Harvard Harvard
Harvard Harvard
Harvard
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notian statistical institute in holikata, PLANS: "What looped over the next few years is to work with my students, develop some new ideas."

ON INDIANS: "One big asset Indians have its Finglish. That makes the transition assier for us. Today students who come, mainly from the IIIs, are a selective group and do very well here. On the flip side, most of these members in a make its procedure."



RAJ REDDY (74)
POSITION: Chancellor
and President, University
of Houston
BACKGROUND: Born in
Andhra Pradesh and stud-

Andhra Pradesh and stud-ied in Chennai. He completed high from Standford University. PLANS: His speciality is artificial intelli-gence and he is currently excited about a Universal Digital Library, a US-india-China project to scan and make available for free a million books online. Also working on developing unmanned cars to check on terrorists.

ON INDIA: For the Library project, he sent 150 scanners from the US to the Noida and Kolkata branches of CDAC, and IIIT-branches at Hyderabad and Allahabad.

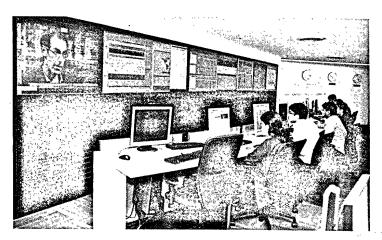


SIDHARTHA
MUKHERJEE (41)
POSITION: Assistant
Professor of Medicine at
Medicine (Oncology)
Department: Columbia
University, New York
Medicine (Oncology)
Department: Columbia
BACKGROUND: Thereide Strolet
gained accidant for his Patitizer Prize winning book. The Emperor of All Maladies: A
Biography of Cancer.
PLANS: "Gody, we have surgery,
chemotherapy, radiation and targeted theary to increase life by 17 to 20 years. We
are getting closer every day."
ON INDIA: "The spectrum of cancer."

France's Orange May Yet be Red Hot in India

Vivek Badrinath isn't one of those famed 'Indian' global corporate chiefs. But the French telecom major's huge India plans can raise both his and his company's profile





at large Indian companies and MNCs as large customers for our services. India provides us a base of IT-savvy customers that are looking at solutions to connect their entities globally," Badrinath said.

Orange India's Mahadevan says that the country is bang in the middle of what the company sees as their big emerging data communications trade routes: China on one side and the African continent on the other. "It is an important country to address this entire market from. Besides there's enough uptick in the Indian economy for us to be very upbeat," says Mahadevan.

Like many other European companies, Or-

Like many other European companies, Orange has a policy of developing diversity and multicultural competencies in its workforce. In a bid to connect cultures and support Indian students to join the European workforce, Orange sponsors a scholarship programme

for engineering graduates from India aiming higher studies in France.

Orange has

grabbed long-

distance licences.

but it won't be an

easy task to pip

home giants

like Bharti

:: Ishani Duttagupta

n France, as they say, everything is a pretext for a good meal. But if the new boss of that quintessential Parisian firm, Orange, has his way, it would be the country of his ancestors that would be gobbling up the "le plat principal" (the main course).

Actually, hardly a head turned in India when Vivek Badrinath took over as CEO of Orange Business Services, the commercial business-to-business (BZB) brand of France Telecom, in April 2010. The 40-year-old's father had moved to France in the 1950s; Badrinath made his bones from the famed Ecole Polytechnique and not from the IIT-IIM circuit unlike many of his filk with an Indian name. But that's set to change.

Badrinath, formerly executive vice-president (networks) of the France Telecom Group, has already made India central to Orange's growth plans in the Asia-Pacific region. Last November, the firm announced a growth strategy for the region focused on areas such as network enhancements, cloud computing, strategic partnerships and network-related IT services.

A Billion Euros

Altogether, the group made a € 750-million investment in network backbone and related IT infrastructure in the region in 2011, and has unveiled plans to generate €1 billion from emerging countries by 2015.

"Since he took over as CEO, he has been visiting India at least once every quarter. His deep knowledge on networking ties in very well with our big plans for the emerging markets of which India is an important part," says Bala Mahadevan, CEO (India), Orange Business Services.

As for Badrinath, he says he is no stranger to India. He worked here from 2000 to 2003 as the CEO of the Indian subsidiary of consumer electronics firm Thomson. "I see India as a huge engineering talent pool for our globalised Orange workforce. Our staff in India is being given opportunities to take on global roles all the time," Badrinath told *ET on Sunday*.

Over the past two years, Orange has made substantial investment in people and has hired around 550 people laterally.

China to Africa

Orange's major service centre in Gurgaon employs around 1,800 people and is one of the biggest units of the company that has customers around the world. Orange employs around 600 engineers for its Indian operations and has been rapidly scaling up.

"India is also a production base and a talent pool for engineers. We are also looking

Squeezed Orange?

Yet, India, a communication services market that oscillates between saturation and expansion, may not be all juice for Orange. The company has been awarded international and national long distance licence to offer data network services directly to multi-site corpo-

rate customers in the domestic market and across the world. But in the domestic market, firms such as Bharti Airtel enjoy a huge home advantage even in the enterprise space since they are present across the gamut of services.

"They can offer integrated end-to-end services across the board than just niche carrier services. In terms of cost, niche players such as Orange will face a very competitive scenario in the price-sensitive Indian market," says Romal Shetty, partner and head of telecom at KPMG, a consultancy. He, however, adds that global companies that use Orange services for their worldwide operations would prefer to remain with the company for their Indian operations as well.

Orange seems to be banking on telecom services for large enterprises, a high-growth area in India. According to Sandip Biswas, director, Deloitte India, an accountancy firm, B2B ICT services domain is opening up in a big way in India with large companies moving out of such non-core areas for cost advantages. "Large players, Indian and global, will find huge growth in offering customised enterprise solutions not just to large companies but also to smaller ones in the coming years," he says.

Badrinath may yet become a familiar Indian-origin global CEO in India. ■

India provides us a base of IT-savvy customers that are looking at solutions to connect their entities globally

VIVEK BADRINATH, CEO, Orange Business Services

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 29, 2012; Section: Times Global; Page: 22;

Twitter's new plan for censorship stirs global outrage

New York: Twitter, a tool of choice for dissidents and activists around the world, found itself the target of global outrage on Friday after unveiling plans to allow country-specific censorship of tweets that might break local laws.

It was a stunning role reversal for a youthful company that prides itself in promoting unfettered expression, 140 characters at a time. Twitter insisted its commitment to free speech remains firm, and sought to explain the nuances of its policy, while critics — in a barrage of tweets — proposed a Twitter boycott and demanded that the censorship initiative be scrapped.

In China, where activists have embraced Twitter even though it's blocked inIn a barrage of tweets, critics proposed a Twitter boycott, demanded the censorship of content following laws in various countries be done away with

side the country, artist and activist Ai Weiwei tweeted in response to the news, "If Twitter censors, I'll stop tweeting." One often-relayed tweet bore the headline of a magazine technology blog item, "Twitter Commits Social Suicide."

Responding to the furor Alexander Macgilliviray, Twitter's general counsel said critics were jumping to wrong conclusions. AP HindustanTimes

Title: India creates Vivekananda chair at Chicago varsity

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India creates Vivekananda chair at Chicago varsity

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Throwing open a new opportunity for the West to know India, New Delhi on Sunday created a faculty chair — named after Swami Vivekananda — at the University of Chicago. Supported by a \$1.5 million endowment grant from the ministry of culture, the University of Chicago will establish "the Indian Ministry of Culture Vivekananda Visiting Professorship" for Indian studies.

Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday made the announcement at the Fullerton Hall of the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC), where Vivekananda had delivered his famous speech 119 years ago.

Last month, HT had reported about the creation of this chair.

According to a University of Chicago release, "The one-quarter visiting professorship will be given to distinguished scholars from a variety of disciplines with an interest in the fields of study most relevant to the teachings and philosophies of the Swami, such as Indian philosophy, politics and social movements."

Dedicating a plaque of Vivekananda at the AIC, Mukherjee said, "Swami Vivekanda was practically India's first cultural ambassador to United States." He also inaugurated an art exhibition of Rabindranath Tagore at AIC.

In a release, university president Robert J. Zimmer said, "The ministry's generous support will allow us to expand on the university's tradition of rigorous scholarship in Indian studies."

Martha Roth, dean of the Humanities, said: "The University of Chicago is proud of our exceptional group of faculty and students with interests in the scholarship of South Asia."

This will be New Delhi's second chair at an American university after the Bhim Rao Ambedkar chair at Columbia University.

HindustanTimes

Title: BREAKTHROUGH 16 years on, cloning scientists now create human brain cells

Author: Guardian News Service letters@hindustantimes.com

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BREAKTHROUGH

16 years on, cloning scientists now create human brain cells

Guardian News Service

letters@hindustantimes.com

EDINBURGH: The news that Edinburgh scientists had created the world's first cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep, at the university's Roslin Institute made headlines around the world 16 years ago. Her birth raised hopes of the creation of a new generation of medicines—with a host of these breakthroughs occurring at laboratories in the university over the following decade.

And now one of the most spectacular has taken place at Edinburgh's Centre for Regenerative Medicine, where scientists have continued to develop the technology used to make Dolly. In a series of remarkable experiments, they have created brain tissue from patients suffering from schizophrenia, bipolar



Scientist Ian Wilmut with Dolly, the world's first cloned sheep, at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh in 2001.

depression and other mental illnesses.

The work offers spectacular rewards for doctors. From a scrap of skin taken from a patient, they can make neurones genetically identical to those in that person's brain. These brain cells, grown in the laboratory, can then be studied to reveal the neurological secrets of their condition.

"A patient's neurones can

tell us a great deal about the psychological conditions that affect them, but you cannot stick a needle in someone's brain and take out its cells," said Professor Charles ffrench-Constant, the centre's director.

"However, we have found a way round that. We can take a skin sample, make stem cells from it and then direct these stem cells to grow into brain cells.