

Newspaper Clips

January 31, 2012

Indian Express ND 31-Jan-12 p-1

IIT JEE set to go, 40% weightage for Class 12

ADMISSION ■ SAT-style online test for all central tech schools, final nod on Feb 18

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A COMMON aptitude-cum-advanced knowledge test will replace the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) in 2013. Test scores will have 60 per cent weight in deciding admissions; school board marks will have 40 per cent. Test and board scores will determine admissions to all centrally funded engineering institutions.

The common entrance exam, planned as a SAT-type test, is likely to be held online from 2014, and could be given twice a year, highly placed sources said. The paper test is likely to stay on until the online system stabilizes.

The NIT council has approved the new format. All the IITs have agreed too, and are likely to give

their formal approval at a meeting of the Joint Admission Board (JAB) on February 18. The human resource development (HRD) ministry has formed a committee of IIT directors and CBSE officials to work out the modalities before the meeting.

The ministry has been working on a common entrance format for over a year, with the aim of reducing the stress of taking multiple tests for students just out of Class 12, checking the coaching business which promotes learning by rote, and reinforcing the importance of school education.

HRD Minister Kapil Sibal plans to take the proposal to the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to help build acceptability and consensus for the common entrance test among state governments.

"The common entrance exam will have two elements—simple aptitude testing to assess scholastic levels, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IIT JEE set to go, 40% weightage for Class 12

an advanced section which a student can choose to either continue with or skip," said a source.

"This test will essentially produce only scorecards for each student, and the concerned institute will then decide how it will use the 60 per cent weight — say, an IIT can rely more on scores achieved on the advanced level section than on apti-

tude. It could be a 30-30 aptitude-advanced knowledge format for IITs, and 40-20 for NITs," the source said.

"While AIEEE and JEE will go, the JAB and the Central Counselling Board (CCB) will stay to work on these finer points and modalities of admission."

The JEE currently decides admissions to the 15 IITs; the AIEEE to the 30

National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 4 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and 5 Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs).

A host of private engineering and technical institutes in the states also use AIEEE scores. Over 10 lakh students apply for AIEEE and 5 lakh for JEE every year.

IIM-A retains 11th spot in FT Global MBA Ranking

New Delhi, Jan 30: The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has been ranked at the 11th position in the FT (Financial Times) Global MBA Ranking 2012 in its list of top 100 B-schools. It was ranked at the same position in 2011 also.

"IIM-A's rank once again establishes its position as the top-rated global business management Institute as its one-year postgraduate programme for executives (PGPX) maintains its international rank," the institute said in a statement.

Hyderabad-based Indian

School of Business (ISB) has been ranked 20th, a drop of seven position from 2011. The US-based Stanford Graduate School of Business, Harvard Business School and University of Pennsylvania have bagged the first three positions.

fe Bureau

Economic Times ND 31/01/2012P-1

बिजनेस स्कूलों का मुकाबला

हैदराबाद का इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स, लंदन की ग्लोबल एमबीए रैंकिंग 2012 में 20वें नंबर पर आ गया है, जो पिछले साल से 7 पायदान कम है। आईआईएम-अहमदाबाद पिछले साल की रैंकिंग बनाए रखने में सफल रहा। आईएसबी के डीन अजीत रंगनेकर ने कहा, 'रैंकिंग उन पैमानों पर आधारित है, जिन पर हमारा बस नहीं है।'

2012 2011 2010

	2012	2011	2010	बिजनेस स्कूल	वेतन (डॉलर में)
1	4	4		स्टैनफोर्ड ग्रेजुएट स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस	191,657
2	3	3		हार्वर्ड बिजनेस स्कूल	177,876
3	1	2		यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ पेनसिलवेनिया: हार्टन	176,299
4	1	1		लंदन बिजनेस स्कूल	154,783
5	7	6		कोलंबिया बिजनेस स्कूल	171,647
6	4	5		इनसीड	144,422
7	9	8		एमआईटी: स्लोन	158,083
8	8	6		आईई बिजनेस स्कूल	152,127
9	9	11		आईईएसई बिजनेस स्कूल	135,302
10	6	9		हांगकांग यूएसटी बिजनेस स्कूल	127,600
11	11	-		आईआईएम, अहमदाबाद	175,076
12	13	12		इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस, हैदराबाद	128,798



Times of India ND 31/01/2012 p-18

Order flawed, restore our honour: Ex-Isro man

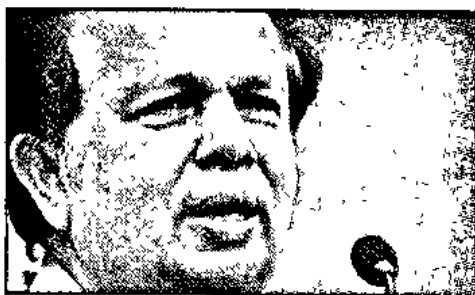
Apologize For Order Debarring Us, Demands Nair

TNN & AGENCIES

Bangalore: Former Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chief G Madhavan Nair has requested Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's intervention to quash an official order barring him and three other space scientists from holding government posts over the Antrix-Devas deal.

He also requested him to order an inquiry into the process by which the order was issued. "I believe the issuance of the order did not follow established procedures and would like the matter investigated," Nair said. "I'm seeking restoration of our honour," he added.

On the statement of minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office



G Madhavan Nair

V Narayanasamy that the government is ready to hear their views, Nair said, "If it's a real move from the government, it's good."

Nair also demanded an apology from people responsible for taking the action. "They owe an apology not to me but to the whole country. Somebody has taken the law into their hands," said Nair.

Nair said the copy of the order hadn't reached the scientists. "Such communication has to be made to us directly, not through the media," he said, adding that he has filed an application under the Right to Information Act seeking all details. "The truth has to be established as it's a question of our honour. The government should try to collect details from the people concerned," he said.

The other scientists barred from holding any government job were former scientific secretary A Bhas-karnarayana, Isro's satellite centre former director KN Shankara and former Antrix Corporation executive director KR Sridharamurthi. The scientific community has rallied behind Nair and the three scientists.

HindustanTimes

Title : Quash ban against me and probe deal: Nair

Author : Zia Haq zia.haq@hindustantimes.com

Location : NEW DELH architect

Article Date : 01/31/2012

Quash ban against me and probe deal: Nair

ANTRIX-DEVAS DEAL Ex-Isro chief writes to PM, wants Singh to 'restore his honour'; gets support from top scientists

Zia Haq

■ zia.haq@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: G Madhavan Nair, the architect of India's moon mission and former head of the national space agency, on Monday pleaded with PM Manmohan Singh to stall a decision to "wrongly" penalise him, as leading scientists backed him to the hilt. But the government isn't blinking yet.

Minister of state V Narayansamy however told HT that the government would "sincerely look into" Nair's appeal.

The government, had on January 13, barred Nair, among four top scientists, from taking up government roles for alleged wrongdoing in a satellite deal.

Leading scientists have now openly said that they suspect the government had made "scapegoats of reputed scientists" to shield bureaucrats and topshots from the department of telecom, which is already at the centre of a high-profile scam.

Nair told HT that he has written to Singh, who heads the space department, to "restore his honour" by "intervening and revoking the ban and holding a formal inquiry".

The charges relate to a 2005 deal to sell satellite space or "airwaves" to a private firm Devas by state-owned Antrix, in violation of rules, such a failure to set up a proper bid. Antrix is the commercial arm of Isro, while Deutsche Telekom is an investor in the privately held Devas.

The government had set up two panels to go into the controversial Antrix-Devas joint venture. None of them gave the

four scientists, whose roles were being examined, a chance to present their case.

"It is this summary style justice, which is worrisome. Why did the government order a second inquiry? Is it the case that the first inquiry's findings had named others," said PM Bhargava, known as the "father" of India's molecular biology.

HindustanTimes

Title : Aakash tablet creates a buzz in Nepal too

Author : Utpal Parashar uparashar@hindustantime:

Location : KATHMANDU:

Article Date : 01/31/2012

Aakash tablet creates a buzz in Nepal too

Utpal Parashar

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KATHMANDU: An updated version of Aakash, the world's most affordable tablet computer, is creating a buzz in Nepal.

Every day since January 26, thousands of visitors are reaching stall B22 at the ongoing CAN Info-Tech 2012—the country's biggest technology exhibition to take a look at the device.

And they seem impressed. The first four days of the six-day exhibition has witnessed more than 20,000 people booking the Ubislate 7+, which is set to be launched in India next month. "We had a purchase order of around 10,000 units. But bookings at the exhibition and online have been over double that figure," said Vivek Khetan of Gizmos Nepal, the sole distributors for Nepal.

Despite a wait period of two months, potential customers are not complaining. At NRs 6,000 (Rs 3,750), the 'tool to bridge the digital divide' costs half than its nearest competitor.

Although the product promoted by the Indian government is aimed mainly at students, demand for the tablet manufactured by Datawind has come from all sections in Nepal.

"We have got an order for 1000 units from a restaurant chain. And besides students, professionals and businessmen, many inquiries have come from rural areas and other regions



■ Launched in December last year, Aakash tablet had recorded 1.4 million bookings in just two weeks. FILE PHOTO

for dealerships," said Khetan.

The exhibition will end on Tuesday and first preference will be given to those who made bookings at the stall, but online bookings will continue. The wait may be longer for such bookings. "I have booked one Ubislate 7+ by paying an initial amount of NRs 100. Many of my classmates have also booked it. I hope the distributors deliver it soon," said Sunil Manandhar, 19, a student.

The subsidized model available through educational institutions is priced at Rs 1,500 while Ubislate 7+ is priced at Rs 2999. The updated version which will cost Rs 750 more in Nepal has a better processor, a bigger battery, a newer version of Android, GPRS, Wi-Fi, HD video and over 1,50,000 applications.

Hindustan Times ND 31-Jan-12

P-8

REEL TO REAL

UAV from 3 Idiots now part of defence forces

Indo-Asian News Service

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NEW DELHI: The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that awed viewers in the Bollywood hit *3 Idiots* has been officially inducted into the paramilitary forces. The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are using the drone, titled 'Netra', in counter-insurgency operations.

The autonomous UAV for surveillance and reconnaissance was inducted into the paramilitary forces last month while the army, navy and several state police forces have shown a keen interest in acquiring it, say its makers.

It was developed by Ideaforge Technology Pvt Ltd, a company floated by a group of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Mumbai

A COMPANY FLOATED BY IIT ALUMNI HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR VERSION OF THE HELICOPTER AT A RALLY IN CHANDIGARH

alumni, and the Pune-based Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

DRDO, after watching the film, tied up with IdeaForge to refine the Netra. It is designed specifically for anti-terrorist and counter-insurgency operations in forested areas. It can be used in hostage situations, border infiltration monitoring, local law enforcement operations, search and rescue operations, disaster management and aerial photography.

"Ten units of Netra have already been taken by the DRDO for research related works in their laboratories like Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) in Manali while less than a dozen have been provided to paramilitary forces," IdeaForge vice-president (marketing and operations unmanned systems) Amardeep Singh said.

"We have given the right of production to IdeaForge and those interested in buying it can get in touch with the company," Alok Mukherjee, head of DRDO's robotics division, said.

The company is now working on the next version of Netra in order to increase the flight time from the present 30 minutes per battery charge. It can fly within a radius of 1.5 km at an altitude of around 200 metres.

HindustanTimes

Title : Let magistrate pursue PhD: Court to DU

Author :

Location : NEW DELHI:

Article Date : 01/31/2012

Let magistrate pursue PhD: Court to DU

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi HC has asked the Delhi University to consider a woman metropolitan magistrate's application for pursuing a PhD course with it without insisting that she secure a two-year study leave from her job.

A division bench of acting Chief Justice AK Sikri and justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw issued the direction to the university's Academic Council on a plea by metropolitan magistrate Twinkle Wadhwa, complaining that the university had rejected her

application for admission to the PhD course.

She said the varsity had dismissed her application on the ground that she had been earlier denied the study leave for two years by the HC and in such a scenario it would not be feasible for her to pursue the course.

The bench, however, asked the University Academic Council to consider Wadhwa's plea for admission, pointing out that if the university could allow its teachers to pursue a PhD course without them actually taking a leave, why should it prohibit a judicial officer from doing so.

All India Council for Technical Education Increases Fee Payment Revenue by 200 per cent

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was established in 1945 to promote and manage the development of technical education services across India. AICTE promotes quality technical education by coordinating the development of a nationwide technical education system, setting and accrediting educational standards, providing funding for institutes, and maintaining quality control. The council develops technical education programs and conducts research in engineering, technology, architecture, and management.

AICTE manages around 13,000 institutes across India. It receives an average of 6,000 applications to establish a new institute or extend funding for an existing institute each year. In the past, applicants would have to visit an AICTE office to submit their requests. The applications would then be processed manually, a time-consuming and error-prone task. There was a lack of transparency into the status of applications. Processing fees were often not received on time, so the council missed out on revenue. Furthermore, as information was on paper in 10 different offices across the country, rather than in a

central database, so there was no easy way to generate reports quickly and accurately.

In October 2009, AICTE engaged Oracle Partner L&T Infotech to build an e-governance system, comprising a portal developed using Oracle's Siebel Partner Portal and Siebel Public Sector, an analysis system based on Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition, a payment gateway, and an identity management system incorporating biometric technology.

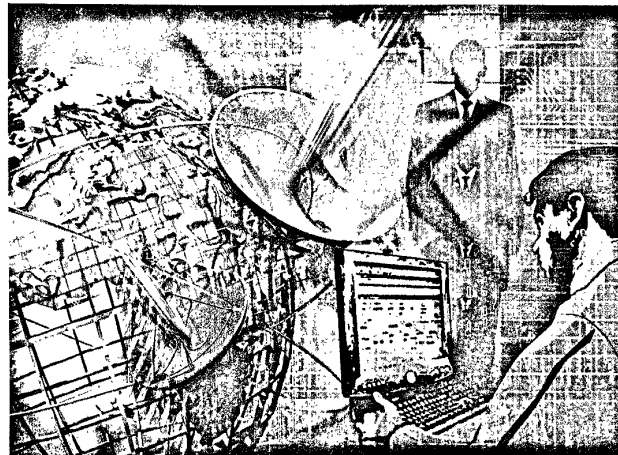
The result completely transformed the organization. Applications (including online forms and videos) are now submitted through the portal and fees are paid using the online payment gateway. Since the gateway was implemented, the number of approvals for new and existing institutes has increased by 20% to 25%, while fee payments have risen by 200%. In addition, the council can generate up-to-date reports on the status of applications, institute courses, payments, and other activities instantly, which assists strategic planning.

Prior to this, AICTE was relying on manual processes to administer applications for the establishment of new institutes or courses, obtain registration payments, conduct due

Hardware and Software

ORACLE

Engineered to Work Together



diligence on new institute applications prior to approval, extend accreditation and funding for existing institutes, and address grievances. In addition to being inefficient and error-prone, the use of paper forms meant there was no central data repository, making it extremely difficult for the council to have a complete picture of approvals for new and existing institutes, accreditation for existing institutes, registration payments, and institute performance.

CHALLENGES

- Remove the need for institutes to visit an AICTE office and submit up to eight forms when they apply for establishing, approval extension, accreditation, or funding
- Reduce the time it takes for staff at AICTE's regional office to evaluate and approve each application
- Ensure fees are paid on time and correctly
- Generate reports on number and type of applications received, programs of study, and fee payments

BUSINESS BENEFITS AFTER IMPLEMENTING ORACLE

- Improved efficiency by building a portal that allows institutes to submit online applications for establishment, accreditation, and funding, rather than filling in up to eight paper forms
- Increased the number of approvals for new institutes and extensions by 20% to 25%
- Cut the time for site visits by panel members by 8 to 10 hours
- Boosted revenue from fees by 200% by introducing an online payment gateway
- Increased transparency by standardizing assessment and approval processes and tracking the status of

Increased Approvals by 25%

Gained Greater Transparency
Increased Fee Payments by 200%

Reduced Helpdesk Staff from Three to One

Improved Staff Morale

Cut Paper Costs

Enhanced Management, Student Services with Comprehensive Reporting

applications as they move through the approval chain

Reduced the number of helpdesk staff from three to one

Processed 8,000 approval extensions for existing institutes and 2,176 new institute applications in 2010-2011, without the need to recruit additional staff

Expected to process 13,000 approval extensions for existing institutes and more than 1,000 applications for new institutes in 2011-2012, without the need to recruit additional staff

Saved 3 million sheets of paper by enabling institutes to fill out one online form instead of eight paper forms

Supported the council's aim of ensuring quality technical education by conducting regular analysis of institutes' resources and capabilities

Deployed the e-governance system in six weeks by engaging L&T Infotech to design, build, and manage the implementation.

In October 2009, AICTE engaged Oracle Partner L&T Infotech to build an e-governance system, comprising a portal developed using Oracle's Siebel Partner Portal and Siebel Public Sector

Tribune ND 31-Jan-12 P-7

Rohtak IIM to fund girls' education

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JANUARY 30

Alarmed over the poor sex ratio of girls in the district, the IIM, Rohtak, has decided to launch a drive to promote the girl child in the region. As a part of the campaign, the institute will organise a marathon soon besides starting a scheme to fund the education of the schoolgirls from poor

and mediocre financial backgrounds.

Announcing this, a spokesperson for the institute said that in its quest to become a socially responsible centre of excellence, the IIM would be taking the sex ratio issue head-on. The institute would soon organise a marathon in the city on the theme, "India for Girl Child" in February. It launched the campaign

formally during the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

"Circumventing resource constraints, the students of the institute have created a sustainable mechanism to fund the education of needy girls in the Rohtak region," he claimed. They have facilitated an arrangement between a few corporate houses and auto drivers that will serve both.

Business Line ND 31-Jan-12 p-8

Europe does limited offshoring, so there is an opportunity: NIIT Tech CEO

Moumita Bakshi Chatterjee

New Delhi, Jan. 30

The Western markets are throwing up one poser after another for Indian IT services sector, which so far has been used to achieving strong growth targets with practiced ease. As it is, there is still no fix in sight for Euro zone and, in the US ahead of the elections, the anti-outsourcing sentiments are running high.

But Mr Arvind Thakur, CEO of NIIT Technologies Ltd, believes that IT spends on 'running the business' and transformation deals are relatively safe. However, where 'discretionary' spends are concerned, it is the business value that will drive decision-making. *Business Line* caught up with Mr Thakur to discuss the macro economic challenges and the road ahead. Excerpts:

How are the IT spends shaping up for 2012?

I think they (clients) are still in the process of evaluating the environment. I don't think there will be any significant budget cuts. Customers will look at budgets from a slightly different perspective. There is an element where spends are necessary, stuff that keep the business running like infrastructure and application maintenance. So this 'lights-on' IT budget, is secure. There is another element which has to do with taking forward the transformation programme. These pertain to redoing platforms



► *I think they (clients) are still in the process of evaluating the environment. I don't think there will be any significant budget cuts.*

– Mr Arvind Thakur, CEO of NIIT Technologies

People in Europe, particularly Continental Europe, will be more cautious about spends. It is also a region which does a lot of outsourcing but has limited offshoring - that is an opportunity. So where improving cost structure and tech spends are concerned, Europe has a lever in form of increasing offshoring component of outsourcing.

As a company, what strategy have you adopted to deal with global risks?

Looking specifically at NIIT Technologies, you will notice that our business is fairly balanced across geographies. About 37 per cent of our revenue comes from the US, close to 39 per cent from EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) and the balance from Asia. Even in EMEA, we are seeing growth in the UK and the Middle East - so we are hedged significantly. Asia is, of course, a market where you will continue to see growth. So in terms of our geographic mix, our risks

and technology refreshes. That, too, will continue. In the third element, which is 'discretionary', it is the business value which will be the deciding factor. So, there is an element that will be driven by how a business feels about the spend. Those discretionary spends, where businesses do not see immediate value, could be impacted. If at all there is a change (in IT budget), it will be in discretionary spends.

What is happening in Euro zone? Will macro concerns prompt cut backs in outsourcing?

The concern is not only in Europe, it is global. The situation in Europe is something, which, if not managed well, can have a contagion effect across the globe. Problems of Europe are not just localised to Europe, but can have far reaching implications across the world. But as far as we are concerned, there is also an opportunity. That is providing 'more for less'.

are quite mitigated.

Anti-outsourcing sentiments have been running high in the US ahead of the elections? Will it impact customer decision-making in the coming days?

It is not anything new. These sentiments have got whipped-up at different points in time. However, we need to understand that the US is the largest economy, which has a dominant say by its businesses. At the same time, one has to be mindful of the overall sentiments. If the political environment moves towards a situation where they put in 'non-tariff barriers', then you have to proactively start addressing the situation, even as Government and industry bodies try to reason out and prevent such protectionist measures.

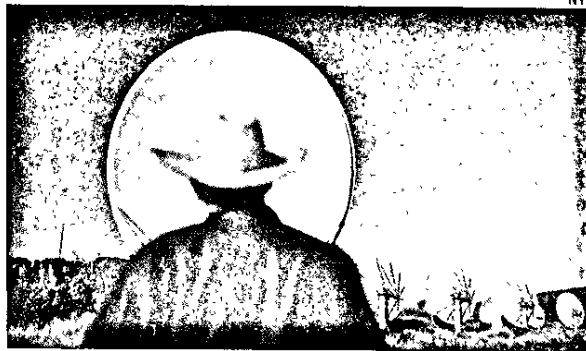
And how do you do that...

The solution is to do more activity onsite (in the US) with local people. Companies in India have already started doing that. For NIIT Technologies, in our onsite workforce, about 34 per cent are locals. We have invested in creating near-shore facility in the US (Augusta), which can provide cost benefits. Of course, there is the issue of sentiments that has to be dealt with, but still the driver in that environment and economy is going to be economic benefits that accrue to companies.

So we are not worried in terms of business prospects.

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Hunt is on for aliens, but who will pay for it?



HELLO, ANYONE THERE? An astronomer watches the radio telescopes at California university's Hat Creek Radio Observatory

Dennis Overbye

Hat Creek, California: ET might be phoning, but do we care enough to take the call?

Operating on money and equipment scrounged from the public and from Silicon Valley millionaires, and on the stubborn strength of their own dreams, a band of astronomers recently restarted one of the iconic quests of modern science, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence — SETI, for short — which had been interrupted last year by a lack of financing.

Early in December, a brace of 42 radio telescopes, known as the Allen Telescope Array, nestled here in the shadow of Lassen Peak, came to life and resumed hopping from star to star in the constellation Cygnus, listening for radio broadcasts from alien civilizations.

The lines are now open, but with lingering financial problems, how long they will remain that way is anybody's guess. These should be boom times for those seeking out aliens, or at least their radio proxy.

Astronomers now know that the galaxy is teeming with at least as many planets — the presumed sites of life — as stars. Advanced life and technology might be rare in the cosmos, said Geoffrey W. Marcy, the Watson and Marilyn Alberts in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence professor at the University of California, Berkeley, “but surely they are out there, because the number of Earth-

like planets in the Milky Way galaxy is simply too great.”

A simple “howdy,” a squeal or squawk, or an incomprehensible stream of numbers captured by one of the antennas here at the University of California's Hat Creek Radio Observatory would be enough to end our cosmic loneliness and change history, not to mention science. It would answer one of the most profound questions humans ask: Are we alone in the universe?

Despite decades of space probes and billions of NASA dollars looking for life out there, there is still only one example of life in the universe: the DNA-based web of biology on Earth.

“In this field,” said Jill Tarter, an astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif, the “number two is the all-important number. We count one, two, infinity. We're all looking for number two.”

But the story of SETI is the story of a dream deferred by politics, a lack of money and the technological challenges of searching what astronomers call “the cosmic haystack”: 100 billion stars in the galaxy and 9 billion narrow-band radio channels on which aliens, if they exist, might be trying to hail us. Politics and the recession have crimped astronomers' budgets and left the institute's scientists with a kind of siege mentality. Last spring, the University of California ran out of money to run Hat Creek observatory, forcing the Allen telescopes into hibernation. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Anyone out there?

After battling recession and cutbacks, 42 radio telescopes at the University of California's Hat Creek Radio Observatory are back to listening for radio broadcasts from alien civilisations

the
BIG
story

DENNIS OVERBYE

ET might be phoning, but do we care enough to take the call? Operating on money and equipment scrounged from the public and from Silicon Valley millionaires, and on the stubborn strength of their own dreams, a band of astronomers recently restarted the iconic quest for extraterrestrial intelligence—SETI, for short—which had been interrupted last year by a lack of financing.

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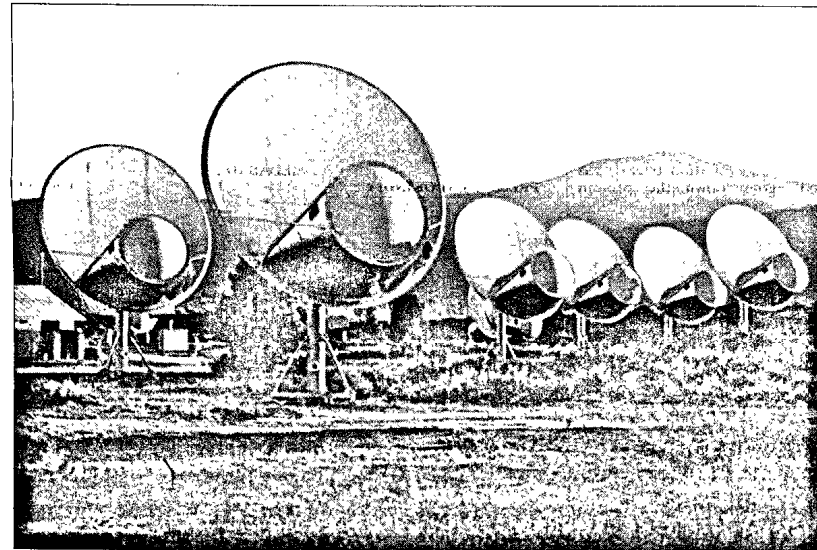
Politics and the recession have crimped astronomers' budgets and left the institute's scientists with a kind of siege mentality. No federal funds have been spent searching for radio signals from extraterrestrials since 1993.

998,000 STARS TO GO

The story begins with a young radio astronomer named Frank Drake,



Jill Tarter of SETI Institute and Bill Borucki of NASA with a graphic showing a planet that had been discovered by the Kepler spacecraft; (left) the Allen Telescope Array



who pointed an antenna from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia at a pair of stars in 1960. In 1971, NASA held a workshop led by Dr Barney Oliver, from Hewlett-Packard, that concluded the best way to find extraterrestrials was with a \$10 billion array of giant radio telescopes called Cyclops. In 1993, a NASA-sponsored survey for signals from 1,000 nearby stars was cancelled by Congress. With the help of friends like Oliver, Tarter and her colleagues took the search private. "You didn't have to ask a priest or philosopher about life in the universe," Tarter said. She was

A SIMPLE "howdy", a squeal or squawk captured by one of the antennas at the University of California's Hat Creek Radio Observatory would be enough to end our cosmic loneliness

in the first generation who could conduct experiments about it. A half-century and roughly 2,000 stars later, humanity is still officially alone.

Drake is undaunted, noting that there are 100 billion suitable stars in the galaxy. His personal estimate, based on an equation he invented in 1961, is that there are 10,000 technological civilisations in the galaxy, one per million stars. "I've known all along we have to look at a million stars," he said.

The Allen Array, which was designed to find Drake's million stars, is named after Paul G. Allen, the Microsoft founder and philanthropist, who put up \$25 million to get the project going. It was to consist of 350 antennas but Allen's contribution was only enough to build 42 antennas

which started operating in 2007.

The project got a lift in 2009 when Tarter won a \$100,000 prize for a talk on the subject. She began by saying, "The story of humans is the story of ideas." It elicited a donation of valuable equipment from Dell and Intel.

But the recession and the cutbacks that followed wiped out the university's funds to run the observatory. The Allen telescopes went quiet. An appeal for financing eventually brought in about \$220,000. Now, the Air Force will pay for a share of the operations at the observatory, which costs about \$1.5 million.

WELCOME ALL SPECIES

Early in December, when Tarter returned to Hat Creek, the antennas were majestically turning to a music only they could hear. The doormat read, "Welcome All Species." Tarter takes great pride that she and her colleagues have never published a false alarm. She recalls one dramatic moment in 1998, when she and her colleagues were working at the observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, and had a signal they could just not eliminate. Finally they figured out that they were actually receiving transmissions from the European SOHO satellite.

"It was a real adrenaline pumping time," she added. "I can't imagine what the real deal will be."

NYT

Newt Gingrich proposes establishing permanent moon colony in a decade

Grandiose flight of fancy

US Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich's proposal to establish a permanent base on the moon – all by the end of the decade – is absurd to say the least. Coming in the backdrop of the current economic crisis in the US, Gingrich's grandiose idea is simply financially unviable. It will be recalled that former US president George W Bush had similar plans. But at an estimated \$150 billion, the Constellation programme never really took off and was sensibly cancelled by the Obama administration. The US is hardly in the kind

■ **TIMES VIEW** ■

of financial position to indulge the science fiction fantasy of lunar colonies. It is to be noted that Gingrich plans to realise his moon mission through private sector initiatives, which means he recognises the limits of how much the US government can spend. However, with no clear tangible benefits in sight, it's difficult to see investors queuing up for futuristic theme parks and factories on the moon. Besides, even if such money can be privately raised, it would be far more prudent to address pressing challenges on earth. Renewable energy, global warming mitigation,

cures for diseases such as cancer are all areas where venture capitalists can make huge returns and a significant real-time difference in the quality of people's lives.

Plus, establishing an American moon colony is in direct contravention of international law. Article II of the 1966 UN Treaty on outer space specifically prohibits the sovereign appropriation

of the moon or other celestial bodies. This is backed by the 1963 declarations on legal principles and non-weaponisation – both adopted unanimously by the General Assembly – that emphasise the common interest of all space activities. Gingrich's proposal falls foul of these international commitments and could start a dangerous space race. He would do well to stop playing to the gallery and focus on real issues that affect the American electorate.



Space is the future

Bold visions and plans are always treated with derision by naysayers and status quoists. Yet Gingrich's plans to build a permanent lunar base and colonise the moon has the potential to change mankind's future. As

with the moon-landing mission of the 1960s, many of the technologies needed to establish a perma-

■ **COUNTERVIEW** ■

Ajay Valshnav

nent moon colony are already in existence this decade. It's just a question of summoning up the political will to put it

all together, keeping in mind humanity's elemental drive to explore new worlds.

Not only will a moon colony ramp up the US space exploration programme, put on the back burner by the Obama administration, it may actually revive America's Sputnik moment and propel its economy towards new technological heights. Strate-

gically, it will ensure that the US stays one step ahead of the Chinese, who are planning to land on the moon. According to renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, humankind needs to colonise space within the next century if it is to survive as a species. Besides the known spectrum of issues that endanger man's place on earth – rising global warming, nuclear war, finite resources, overpopulation, superbugs et al – new and unforeseen threats are likely to emerge with the advance of technology.

All contingencies cannot be guarded against simply by parroting slogans about 'sustainable development'.

Humans must look forward to exploring the rest of the galaxy, beginning with a colony on the moon, to find more habitats to sustain and spread their civilisation. It is only in this way that human beings can build upon the progress made over the last century. The argument that the exploration of space should be a human adventure and not a nationalistic one is naive. We don't have an international civilisation yet – but maybe the foray into space will build one.

डीयू एमबीबीएस में दाखिला सीबीएसई के स्कोर से

यूनिवर्सिटी ने किया अपना एंट्रेंस टेस्ट न कराने का फैसला

भूपेंद्र ॥ नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में एमबीबीएस और बीडीएस कोर्सेज में एडमिशन इस बार सीबीएसई टेस्ट स्कोर के आधार पर होगा। डीयू ने बीते दिसंबर महीने में पीजी मेडिकल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट नहीं कराने का फैसला किया था और अब अंडरग्रेजुएट मेडिकल कोर्सेज के लिए भी यूनिवर्सिटी एंट्रेंस टेस्ट कंडक्ट नहीं कराएगी।

वाइस चांसलर प्रो. दिनेश सिंह ने बताया कि यूनिवर्सिटी ने सीबीएसई को भी इस बारे में सूचना दे दी है और सीबीएसई चेयरमैन से बात हुई है। वीसी ने बताया, सीबीएसई के ऑल इंडिया प्री-मेडिकल टेस्ट (एआईपीएमटी) में बैठने वाले छात्र डीयू में अप्लाई कर सकेंगे।

**एंट्रेंस पर उठे थे
सवाल**

डीयू में पिछले साल हुए मेडिकल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट पर काफी सवाल उठे थे। टेस्ट में गड़बड़ी की शिकायतें भी यूनिवर्सिटी को मिली थीं। यूनिवर्सिटी ने सीबीआई को भी जांच के लिए लिखा था। सीबीआई जांच जारी है। मेडिकल एंट्रेंस में गड़बड़ी की शिकायत आने के बाद डीयू ने बड़े बदलाव

शुरू किए हैं। पहले डीयू ने तय किया कि एमबीए कोर्स के लिए एंट्रेंस टेस्ट कंडक्ट नहीं किया जाएगा। उसके बाद पीजी मेडिकल कोर्सेज के बारे में फैसला लिया गया। अब अंडरग्रेजुएट मेडिकल कोर्सेज के लिए भी डीयू अपना एंट्रेंस टेस्ट आयोजित नहीं करेगी।

**ट्रांसपेरेंसी की
कोशिश...**

एमबीबीएस/बीडीएस में दाखिले के लिए सीबीएसई रिजल्ट को मान्यता देगी डीयू

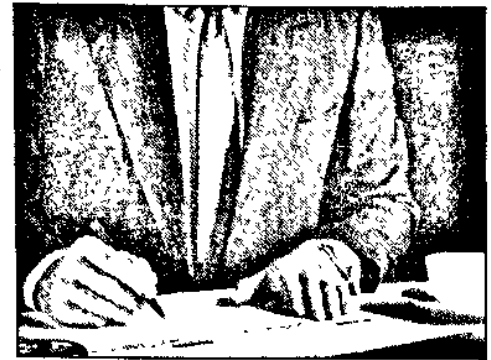
डीयू को पिछले साल मेडिकल एंट्रेंस टेस्ट में गड़बड़ी की ढेरों शिकायतें मिली थीं

पीजी मेडिकल कोर्सों के एंट्रेंस से पहले ही हाथ खींच चुकी है यूनिवर्सिटी

एमबीए में भी कैट के स्कोर के बेस पर होंगे एडमिशन

और यूनिवर्सिटी कॉलेज ऑफ मेडिकल साइंसेज शामिल हैं। इन तीनों कॉलेजों में एमबीबीएस कोर्स को कुल सीटें लगभग 500 हैं। वहीं बीडीएस कोर्स के लिए मौलाना आजाद इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ डेंटल साइंसेज में एडमिशन मिलता है और बीडीएस कोर्स की करीब 40 सीटें हैं।

**मैनेजमेंट में एडमिशन
कैट के बेस पर**



मैनेजमेंट, बिजनेस और फाइनेंस स्ट्रीम में जो छात्र पोस्ट ग्रेजुएशन करना चाहते हैं, उनके लिए डीयू के पांच कोर्सेज में एडमिशन के ऑप्शन हैं। एमबीए (फुल टाइम), मास्टर ऑफ बिजनेस इकनॉमिक्स (एमबीई), मास्टर ऑफ फाइनेंस एंड कंट्रोल (एमएफसी), मास्टर ऑफ इंटरनैशनल बिजनेस (एमआईबी) और मास्टर ऑफ ह्यूमन रिसोर्स एंड ऑर्गेनाइजेशनल डिवेलपमेंट (एमएचआरओडी) में एडमिशन चाहने वाले स्टूडेंट्स डीयू में अप्लाई कर सकेंगे। खास बात यह है कि इन पांचों कोर्सेज में एडमिशन कैट स्कोर के बेस पर होगा। वही छात्र इन कोर्सेज में एडमिशन ले पाएंगे, जिन्होंने कैट क्वालीफाई किया होगा। हालांकि स्टूडेंट्स को इन कोर्सेज में एडमिशन के लिए इंटरव्यू व ग्रुप डिस्कशन भी फेस करना होगा। डीयू की फैकल्टी ऑफ मैनेजमेंट स्टडीज (एफएमएस) ने तो इस साल से कैट में एंट्री की है, वहीं बाकी चार कोर्सेज में इस साल भी कैट स्कोर के आधार पर ही एडमिशन करने का फैसला किया गया है।