

Newspaper Clips

January 7, 2011

Hindustan Times, 07-Jan-11 p-13

Politics barrier to medical entrance

ROAD BLOCK A common medical entrance test will benefit students. What's coming in the way of its introduction is politics

lifescience



Charu Sudan Kasturi
In New Delhi

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Shuffling between the Supreme Court and his work at New Delhi's Safdarjung hospital, Sanuraj Jain says he is learning firsthand how political pressure can shackle the government from implementing policies which it itself believes in.

Jain and thousands of MBBS graduates keen to pursue their MD have over the past several months have repeatedly petitioned the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the health ministry for a single medical entrance test.

But despite convincing the MCI and the union health secretary, and even after the Supreme Court's sanction, they find themselves no closer to a common test. "It is so blatant... all that matters is politics," Jain said, desperately looking for updates on the government's plans for medical entrance examinations.

India currently has more than 50 entrance examinations for MBBS courses, spread over institutions and states across the country. Dozens of tests also dot the examination calendar every year for postgraduate (PG) medical programmes.

But students like Jain and other proponents of a common test are not opposed to multiple examinations only because of the strain they place on students.

The bigger problem with holding multiple tests is that they cause seats to remain empty, often done deliberately by institutions, which then admit students through the back door, a veteran doctor on the reconstituted board of the MCI told HT.

"Individual institutions don't just make money by holding their own examinations but also by allowing seats to go waste, and then charging capitation fees to fill these seats. It's a racket, and that's why we want to stop the practice," the MCI board member said.

Even public institutions - like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences - are allowing up to 30 per cent of their precious seats to go waste every year because of multiple entrance tests.

AIIMS has itself admitted before the Supreme Court that dozens of students who obtain relatively "undesirable" PG streams through the institute examination nevertheless take up seats, earning government stipend and using the institute hostel while preparing for other examinations.

If they get the stream of their choice through any of the other examinations spread through the year, they quit AIIMS - wasting the seats they took up at the premier medical school.

The MCI, first in 2009 and then July 2010, after its board was reconstituted, proposed amendments to the country's health education regulations to

THE BIGGER PROBLEM WITH HOLDING MULTIPLE TESTS IS THAT THEY CAUSE SEATS TO REMAIN EMPTY, OFTEN DONE DELIBERATELY BY INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES

allow a common entrance test at undergraduate (UG) and PG levels.

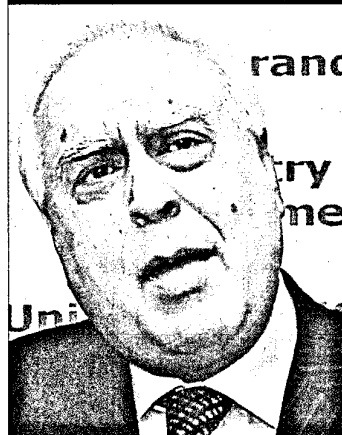
Internal documents of the health ministry, accessed through the Right to Information Act, show that on August 10, 2010, health secretary Sujatha Rao even wrote to health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad pushing vigorously for the common tests despite likely opposition.

"The common entrance examination will have the immediate advantage of reducing substantial amount of stress and expenditure that students of middle class families undergo year after year... This would also ensure that all seats across the country are filled on merit which would have a bearing on the quality of persons qualifying as doctors," Rao said in her note.

Rao told Azad that apart from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala - which she said had the highest number of private medical colleges - all states had accepted the common test proposal.

"In all likelihood, there will be some amount of opposition to this very major and long-felt reform from the private medical colleges, who are minting money

WORKING OUT THE PROPOSAL



■ HRD minister Kapil Sibal says there will be no common entrance test without states' approval.
HT FILE PHOTO



■ Opposition from DMK to common entrance test is health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's problem.
HT FILE PHOTO

HOW THE NEW MCI BOARD SET THE BALL ROLLING

JUNE 23, 2009: MCI writes to the health ministry recommending a common entrance test for admission to all medical colleges - public or private - throughout the country.

MAY 2010: Government dissolves MCI amid corruption controversy, sets up new panel of doctors to lead MCI. But the health ministry remains silent on earlier proposal for common test.

JULY 22, 2010: New MCI panel recommends amendments to regulations to

and have made medical education a lucrative business," the note said.

Rao alerted Azad that there might be litigation, but sought the minister's approval saying "this would be a historic decision".

What is stopping the common tests then?

The answer, government sources say, lies in the strong opposition from select states, in particular Tamil Nadu (ruled by the UPA), where both the DMK and the Opposition AIADMK are vocally against a common test.

allow common medical test at both UG and PG level.

JULY 23, 2010: Supreme Court advises government to consider notifying common admission test at both UG and PG level without any delay.

AUGUST 10, 2010: Health secretary writes to health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad advising that despite the likelihood of some opposition, the government accept the MCI plan and hold common entrance tests at the UG and PG level.

SEPTEMBER, 2010: Health ministry backtracks after Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and

Kerala object to the proposal. Says no common test at present.

OCTOBER 2010: MCI tells the Supreme Court that it would favour more discussion with states, though states had already been consulted and had made their views known. The SC impleads all states.

DECEMBER 13, 2010: Supreme Court reiterates that the MCI can notify the common examinations.

DECEMBER 21, 2010: MCI notifies common examinations.

JANUARY 4, 2011: Health ministry orders MCI to withdraw notification, calls meeting with states on January 11-12.

Both the parties are arguing that a common national test would hurt the interests of poor and backward community students who have no access to expensive coaching classes. But this argument is specious since each state can continue to implement quotas as at present even with a common test, the MCI board member said.

The Congress-led government appears unwilling to upset its ally ahead of the Tamil Nadu elections. The health ministry on January 4 ordered the MCI to withdraw a notification for common

tests issued on November 21. Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal, personally keen on common tests, also assured everyone that no common tests would be held without the consent of state governments.

But the MCI board appears equally determined not to give up its proposal for common tests easily, and will push for its plan at a meeting with state ministers called later this month.

Students across the country will watch that meeting to see what triumphs - politics or education.

Hindustan Times, 07-Jan-11 p-15

New IIITs set to enjoy greater autonomy

ht SPECIAL

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: The government will have no say in the appointment of directors or in the audit of a breed of new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) it is planning to set up through public-private partnership (PPP) investments.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has

decided to offer unprecedented autonomy to 20 new IIITs - the country's premier information technology schools - to attract private investment, top government sources said.

A draft IIIT Bill, prepared by the HRD ministry, makes it clear that IIITs set up through the PPP mode, though non-profit, will have significantly greater autonomy than government IIITs.

At present, no higher educational institute set up through an Act of Parliament has the

IIITS SET UP THROUGH THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODE WON'T BE BOUND TO UNDERGO CAG SCRUTINY

autonomy planned for these new institutions.

The board of governors of an IIIT set up through the PPP mode will appoint the institute director while the president - visitor to all central institutions

- will have no role. The visitor will continue to appoint directors of government IIITs.

The IIITs set up through the PPP mode will be free to get themselves audited by any chartered accountant of their choice, and are not bound to undergo the scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

All higher educational institutions set up through Acts of Parliament at present must undergo CAG audit scrutiny and their directors are appoint-

ed by the President.

A proposed IIIT Council - a body consisting of directors and chairmen of all IIITs along with other representatives - will formulate the first statutes of each government IIIT.

But boards of individual IIITs set up through the PPP mode can prepare their model statutes under the draft Bill.

The IIITs were first conceived in the late 1990s at a time when India was emerging a power in IT. The country has four IIITs run by the Centre.

For-profit schools barrier to knowledge access, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, JANUARY 6

P RIME Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday expressed concern over the "worrisome barrier" that private, for-profit educational institutions might be posing in the path of dissemination of knowledge to the mass of the Indian people.

"With the growing share of privately funded for-profit educational institutions, this may be emerging as a worrisome barrier to freer access to knowledge for all our people," Singh said at a function to felicitate winners of the Infosys Prize, 2010, here.

"Feudal restrictions and pre-democratic institutions are no longer able to impose social barriers to the access to knowledge," the PM said. "(But) If there is one barrier, and this too is an ancient one, it is the barrier of economic capacity."

A nation's strength, Singh



MANMOHAN SINGH

said, "comes from the quality of its collective knowledge, the productivity of its working people, the creativity of its entrepreneurs and the dedication of its professional workforce.

"A country's prosperity too is a function of the knowledge its people possess and acquire. Indeed, it has always been so. But, what has changed in the last few decades is the access to knowledge. We live in an era of greater equity and equality as far as the acquisition of knowledge is concerned," he said.

Singh said he "valued greatly" scholarships and prizes that liberate creative minds from the constraints

of economic and social handicaps", adding, "if I did not have access to scholarships I would never have been able to complete my education, leave alone have the opportunity to be educated at some of the world's best institutions."

The Infosys Prize, including a cash award of Rs 50 lakh, a citation certificate and a gold medallion, went to Prof Chandrashekar Khare of UCLA (Mathematical Sciences), Prof Sandip Trivedi of TIFR, Mumbai (Physical Sciences), Prof Ashutosh Sharma of IIT, Kanpur (Engineering and Computer Science), Dr Chetan E Chitnis of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi (Life Sciences), Prof Amita Baviskar of the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi (Sociology), and Prof Nandini Sundar of the Delhi School of Economics (Social Anthropology).

Indian Express ND 07-Jan-11

p-6

UGC clears ban on dissections

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

THE University Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday finally approved a panel's recommendations to ban/ reduce animal dissections substantially across institutes of higher education. The final guidelines on the same will, however, be formulated after consultations and inputs from the Department of Science & Technology, sources at the UGC said.

The panel instituted by the UGC last year had recommended that while there should be no animal dissections at the undergraduate level, at the postgraduate level not more than two animal dissections should be allowed and alternatives to even these two in the form of projects on biodiversity, bioinformatics, live zoology and biosystemics should be provided. As per the panel's recommendations, there should be a committee in each college to monitor animal dissections and animal species to be chosen for dis-

sections, keeping animal demographics in the area in mind. The panel has suggested that instead of using multiple species for animal dissections, only one specie should be used. As of now 10-12 animal dissections are there at the PG level.

If implemented in this format, it will mean an end to all animal dissections until a student reaches the postgraduate level. Schools have already largely banned animal vivisection. Some 15 universities have completely done away with or minimised animal dissections over the last few months. The committee has recommended that colleges and varsities draw up a five-year plan to implement the recommendations.

Instituted by the UGC in January 2010 at the instance of HRD Minister Kapil Sibal after Maneka Gandhi-led People for Animals and PETA approached him, the expert committee chaired by Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor H A Ranganath submitted its recommendations to the UGC in June last year.

Business Line ND P-8
07/01/2011

Educational institutions must generate funds to reward excellence: PM

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Our Bureau

Mumbai, Jan. 6

Terming the growing number of privately funded 'for profit' educational institutions as a worrisome trend, the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has called upon such institutions to generate more funds to reward excellence.

Speaking at the 'Infosys Prize 2010' annual award function here on Thursday, Dr Singh said: "Indeed, with the growing share of privately funded for-profit educational institutions, this may be emerging as a worrisome barrier to freer access to knowledge for all...this is precisely why I personally value scholarships and prizes that liberate creative minds from the constraints of economic and social handicaps."

Dr Singh went on state as to how his life would have been completely different if he would not have secured scholarships to complete his education in India.

It may be recalled that the Right to Education was recog-



Dr Manmohan Singh

nised as a fundamental right in India last year.

"If there is one initiative that our Government has taken in these six-and-a-half years in office that I consider really special, it is the enactment of the Right to Education Act that has now been enshrined in our statute book," he said.

The Infosys Science Foundation, now in its second year, rewards persons who have made "outstanding contributions" to scientific research with an impact on India. Five winners across six categories received a cash prize of Rs 50 lakh each, a citation certificate and a gold medallion from the Prime Minister today.

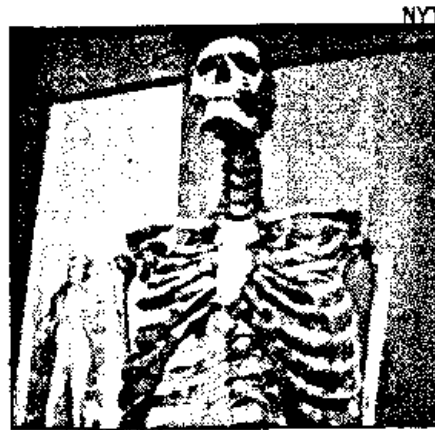
Times of India ND 7/01/2011 P-21

In a giant's story, a new chapter writ by his DNA

Gina Kolata

He was a giant of a man, 7 feet 7 inches tall, who left his home in Ireland when he was 19 and traveled to London to make his fortune as a freak. There Charles Byrne, known as the Irish Giant, garnered wealth and fame. But, suffering from tuberculosis and an excessive love of gin, he died a few years later, in 1783. A surgeon — John Hunter — bought Byrne's corpse, boiled it in acid to remove the flesh, and exhibited the skeleton in his museum in London.

And there the bones remained, studied in 1909 by the renowned American surgeon Harvey Cushing, who removed the top of the skull and



The skeleton of Charles Byrne at the Hunterian Museum, England

pronounced that Byrne had had a pituitary tumor. Other than that, Byrne remained a curiosity, a famous giant, the subject of a 2007 novel by writer Hilary Mantel, yet, with only a skeleton remaining, of little interest to science.

Until now: researchers in

Britain and Germany have extracted DNA from Byrne's teeth and solved the mystery of his excessive height. It turned out to be a rare and mysterious gene mutation, discovered only in 2006. The researchers then found the mutation in four families from Northern Ireland, near where Byrne was born. Following a hunch, they decided to ask whether Byrne had had the mutation, too, and whether the mutation indicated that the four families were related to him. Their hunch was right.

The investigators calculated that the giant and the four contemporary Irish families had a common ancestor who lived about 1,500 years ago. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Times of India ND 7/01/2011 P-14

Will we be able to 'teleport' matter?

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

Some of the world's strangest mysteries were up for discussion on the inaugural day of an international conference in Kolkata today. And the debate was in the hands of the world's top theoretical physicists gathering for the first time in India. Among those attending are legendary cosmologist Sir Roger Penrose, 2003 Nobel prize winner Anthony Legget, French experimental physicist Alain Aspect and famous cryptologist Giles Brassard.

Can matter be "teleported" — that is, shifted across space

instantaneously as in some sci-fi flick? Can

information pass from one person to another instantaneously without any physical communication? Can there be unbreakable codes for communication? These were some of the ideas and arguments that scientists discussed at the conference organized by the S N Bose Institute to commemorate 75 years of quantum entanglement.

Einstein, along with Podolsky and Rosen, published a paper in 1936 pointing out what he thought was a fatal flaw in quantum mechanics — the newly discovered theory of how elementary particles exist and behave. Known as the EPR paradox, the paper described a situation in which two particles separated by millions of miles could still be entangled — tamper-

ing with one could instantaneously change the other. In a bizarre twist of history, Einstein's objection was proved wrong in the '70s by experiments — spooky action at a distance did take place.

This has led to several attempts at applying quantum entanglement for practical problems, besides throwing light on the big questions like black holes, Big Bang and the fate of the Universe.

Anthony Legget of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, presented evidence of how not just tiny particles but even bigger molecules exhibit entanglement. G S Agarwal, former-

ly at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmed-

abad and currently at the Oklahoma University, described experiments which prove counter-intuitive entanglement between particles. A detection of one particle affects the others.

Implying immense practical possibilities, Giles Brassard from Montreal University, Canada, talked about "pseudo-telepathy" — the transfer of information without any physical action. He showed how quantum bits, if in defined entangled states, can lead to such communication. Italian scientist Valerio Scarani from National University, Singapore, went a step further to posit the principle of "information causality" — the generation and flow of information through quantum states as a new physical principle.

FINAL FANTASY

Times of India ND 7/01/2011 P-21

GIANT OF A NEIGHBOUR



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: The most detailed image of the Andromeda galaxy ever taken at far-infrared wavelengths. The Herschel infrared space telescope captured the image during Christmas. The large rings of dust that encircle the center of the galaxy may be the result of a smaller galaxy having collided with Andromeda some time in the past. Andromeda is our Milky Way's nearest large neighbour

Missing link between Big Bang and star creation found

London: The "missing link" between the Big Bang and the evolution of the universe has been uncovered by a team of international scientists.

The missing link or the period between the Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago and the creation of the first stars is known as "dark ages" of space which scientists have known nothing for years. But Cambridge University researchers have now captured light emitted from a massive black hole to peer into this unknown portion of the history of the universe.

They discovered remnants of the first stars and evidence of the aftermath of an exploding star, which was a staggering 25 times larger than the sun. The Cambridge scientists with researchers at the California Institute of Technology used light emitted from a massive black hole, called a quasar, to 'light up' gases released by the young stars. These early stars are believed to hold the key to how the universe evolved from being filled with hydrogen and helium to one rich in heavier elements such as oxygen, carbon and iron. PTI

Hindu, ND 07-Jan-11 p-13

India in global top 10 in research article output

B. Aravind Kumar

CHENNAI: The "Research Strengths of India," revealed by Elsevier's bibliometric tool SciVal Spotlight, could come in handy for policy-makers as well as institutional heads.

This was stated by Michiel Kolman, senior vice-president, Global Academic Relations at Elsevier, while presenting the data of the 'SciVal country map' of India at the Indian Science Congress at Kattankulathur, near here, on Wednesday.

(Elsevier is a company which publishes medical and scientific literature. It is a part of the Reed Elsevier group.)

Dr. Kolman said India was strong, based on leadership



Dr. Michiel Kolman
- PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN

articles, in chemistry (35 per cent), engineering (18 per cent), mathematics and physics (11 per cent) and biology (10 per cent).

India was in the global top

10 in article output and it was growing at an impressive 8 per cent. It, however, lagged behind China and Brazil.

India was ranked in the top 20 in quality of articles. The most productive institutions in the country were the IITs, the IISc, and the CSIR institutions. The only university among the top 10 was the University of Delhi, Dr. Kolman noted.

Scopus, which served as the underlying bibliometric database for SciVal Spotlight, had sourced over 18,000 journals from over 5,000 publishers, scanning 42 million records (70 per cent abstract) and over three million conference papers. From working with researchers and librarians, Elsevier was moving towards the top of the pyramid. SciVal

Spotlight was developed to target institutional heads such as deans, provosts, directors and heads of departments and government funding agencies, Dr. Kolman said. "SciVal Spotlight, will help evaluate research and establish strengths greatly assisting in policy formulation."

It would be very useful for institutions to gather exceptional research teams and retain them. Top scientists in every discipline (based on quality articles) could be identified using the zoom in tool and narrowing subject-wise specialists. It would also help in identifying the strong areas of each university and explore the scope for collaboration between institutes.

Results revealed that research was very strong in

physics, chemistry, engineering, earth science, biology, biotechnology and infectious diseases in India. Some areas in which the nation was not too strong were computer science, social science, health sciences, medicine, and brain research. Almost all institutes had shown a steady growth in publication of research articles, but there was some catching up to do with the best in the world in terms of quality, Dr. Kolman said.

Hindu, ND 07-Jan-11 p-13

Manmohan says knowledge, not army might, determines a nation's strength

Right to Education a special achievement of our government: Prime Minister

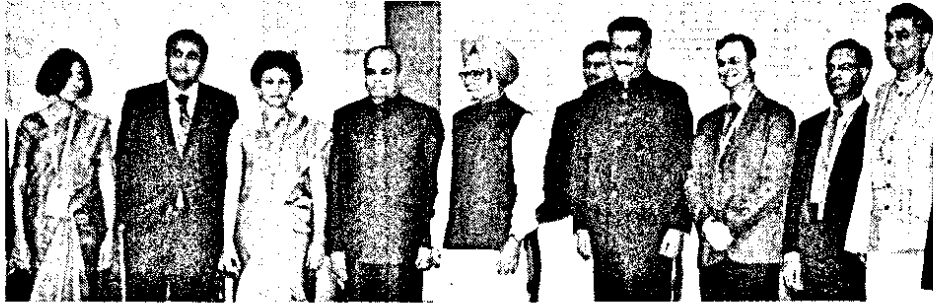
Special Correspondent

MUMBAI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said making education a fundamental right was one of the special achievements of his government.

"If there is one initiative that our government has taken in these six and a half years in office I consider really special, it is the Right to Education that has now been enshrined in our Constitution," he said, speaking at a function here where he presented Infosys Science Foundation awards.

Acknowledging the importance of private institutions like the Infosys Science Foundation that had a large role to play in generating funds to reward excellence, Dr. Singh said: "The strength of a nation is no longer determined by the might of its army. It comes from the quality of collective knowledge, the productivity of its working people, the creativity of its entrepreneurs and the dedication of its professionals."

The Infosys Prize 2010 was presented for outstanding achievements in scientific re-



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Maharashtra Governor K. Sankaranarayanan and Chief Minister Pritiviraj Chavan with the recipients of the Infosys awards in Mumbai on Thursday. - PHOTO: PTI

search. The awards were in five categories — Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering and Computer Science, Life Sciences and Social Sciences. The prize in each category comprises a 24-karat gold medalion, a citation expounding the laureate's work and Rs. 50 lakh in cash (tax free).

K. Dinesh, co-founder, Infosys, and president of the Board of Trustees, Infosys Science Foundation, said: "Scientific research is of the utmost importance for India's rapid economic and social development. We endeavour to encourage the scientific com-

munity to make breakthroughs and discoveries that will drive the nation forward in the years to come. We hope that initiatives like this will go a long way in motivating and encouraging young minds to undertake research as a career."

The Infosys Science Foundation was set up in February 2009 by the management of Infosys. The corpus has increased from Rs. 45 crore to Rs. 100 crore with about half the amount coming from the management of Infosys.

Professor Chandrashekhar Khare of the University of California, Los Angeles, got

the award in the Mathematical Sciences category, in recognition of his fundamental contributions to the Number Theory particularly his solution of the Serre conjecture.

Professor Sandip Trivedi of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research won the award in the Physical Sciences category for finding an ingenious way to solve two of the most outstanding puzzles of Superstring Theory simultaneously: What is the origin of dark energy of the universe? And why is there no massless scalar particle?

Professor Ashutosh Sharma of the Indian Institute of

Technology, Kanpur, won the award in the Engineering and Computer Science category for his fundamental contributions to mechanics, materials and manufacturing on small scale including self-organisation and instabilities, nanopatterning and functional multiscale interfaces.

Chetan Chitnis of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology won the award in the Life Sciences category for his pioneering work in understanding the interactions of the malaria parasite and its host, leading to the development of a viable vaccine.

The Social Sciences category award was jointly presented to Professor Amita Baviskar of the Institute of Economic Growth, in recognition of her contributions as an outstanding analyst of social and environmental movements in modern India, and Professor Nandini Sundar of the Delhi School of Economics, in recognition of her contributions as an outstanding analyst of social identities, including tribe and caste, and the politics of knowledge in modern India.

MInt ND 07.01.11

p-4

GOING SMALL

Researchers working on pesticides that use nanoparticles

BY JACOB P. KOSHY
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NEW DELHI

Indian scientists are working on developing the next generation of pesticides that employ nanoparticles, have potentially reduced toxicity, and can dramatically slash costs and in the next few years challenge the ₹2,000 crore pesticide market in India.

Researchers at the Kolkata-based Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) have developed techniques to modify the molecular structure of silica, a commonly available compound, to use it as a pesticide. Silica is used in a variety of non-agricultural applications and is considered harmless to humans.

To commercialize this technology, the researchers have filed for patents, tied up with a

company, and secured funding from the department of biotechnology to improve their process.

Nanoparticles are ordinary elements crushed to a thousandth of the width of a human hair. At those levels, elements show dramatically altered properties—for example, some that conduct electricity become non-conductors—that scientists are now trying to apply to a variety of commercial applications.

Silica, in its nanoscopic avatar and used as a pesticide, can fatally drain key lipids out of a pest.

"When used this way, the volume of pesticide required to kill a pest dramatically reduces, and this can be easily washed away. When there are no residues, toxicological effects cease to be a problem," said R.R. Sinha, an official at

Commercial product is unlikely to hit the market before 2013 since few companies have the facilities to manufacture in large quantities

the department of biotechnology coordinating the project.

Scientists associated with the project say three-year-long tests have shown that pesticides in this form were effective in containing pests such as rice weevils and mustard aphids. Rice is among the biggest consumers of pesticides, followed by cotton, on which

studies are yet to be done.

The focus of the scientists' research is to be absolutely sure that nanoparticles are not in any way harmful to humans.

"We have tested particles ranging from 15-60 nanometre in size on several kinds of tissue, including the spleen and liver," said Arunava Goswami, an associate professor at ISI and the key scientist associated with the project. "However, there are some tests to be done on lung tissue and we also have to study the effects of particles below 15 nanometre to be entirely safe."

A commercial product, though, is unlikely to hit the market before 2013, primarily because few companies have the facilities to manufacture nanoparticles in quantities above 100kg, said Goswami.

"For commercial purposes, you need to manufacture in

tonnes, and such facilities don't exist yet. Also, just like genetically modified crops, there's likely to be concerns on the health effects of nanoparticles. That's why we're trying to address these issues early on," said Goswami.

He added that using nanoparticles would sharply reduce the cost of manufacturing pesticides.

"As an example, we need, say, 2,000 units of a pesticide to kill a certain quantity of pests, but with these nanoparticles you need only 125 units to achieve a similar result.

That could dramatically cut manufacturing costs," said Goswami.

Nathan Daniel, a chemical engineer at the University of Delhi, said several international companies were working on nanoparticle-based fertilizers that would significantly

change the pesticides market. "Several patents have been filed internationally... It's something that will be a major game changer," he said.

Studies have suggested that nanoparticles could easily lodge themselves within the body and cause respiratory problems, *Mint* had reported in January 2008.

In 2006, several German firms were forced to withdraw their cleaning products, all of which claimed to use nanoparticles. Many of these products caused respiratory problems.

But a study by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment found that while these effects were caused by the products, none of them actually contained nanoparticles.

K. Sridhar, a microbiologist at Mangalore University who has authored a research paper on nanotechnology pollution, said that while some studies have showed that nanoparticles have adverse health effects, most showed they had none.

IT spending to grow 5.1% globally in 2011: Gartner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore

ACCORDING to the latest outlook by Gartner, global IT spending is forecast to a total of \$36000 crore in 2011, a 5.1 per cent increase from the previous calendar year.

In 2010, worldwide IT spending amounted to \$34000 crore, a 5.4 per cent increase from 2009.

Gartner has raised its outlook for 2011 global IT spending from its previous forecast of 3.5 per cent growth. In 2010, the IT industry performed better

Currency exchange rate fluctuations continue to affect the US dollar-denominated forecast for industry

than Gartner's previous forecast of 3.2 per cent growth.

Gartner analysts said currency exchange rate fluctuations have continued

to affect the US dollar-denominated forecast. Of the 2.2 percentage point increase in IT spending growth in 2010, 1.6 per cent is attributable to the recent devaluation of the US dollar against other currencies.

The telecom equipment market is poised for the strongest growth in 2011, with worldwide telecom equipment spending forecast to grow 9.1 per cent.

Strong sales of mobile devices in the third quarter of 2010 as well as stronger local currencies, resulted in an upward revision of Gartner's forecast.

CSIR patent filings in US take a U-turn in four years

CSIR patent filings in US take...

Soma Das

New Delhi, Jan 6: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) one of the top global patent-seekers in recent years in the league of Samsung, LG and Huawei, has seen a dramatic decline in performance since 2006. CSIR is the umbrella body of publicly-funded R&D institutions in India.

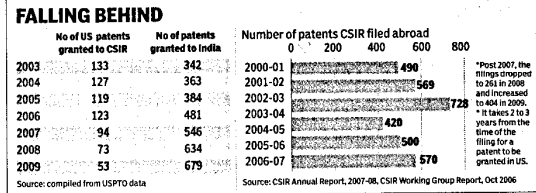
The US Patent and Trademark Office which granted the council as many as 133 patents out of a total of 342 granted to Indian applicants as a whole in 2003, received just 53 patents in 2009, while the total number for the country shot up to 679 (see tables).

While CSIR attributes the decline to more selective patent filing - i.e., the policy of seeking only those patents which would really have a

commercial value or preemptive nature - data show the number of its patent filings has not actually dwindled. In fact, the number of CSIR's patent filings abroad has fluctuated in the range of 420 to 728 between 2000-01 to 2006-07, with no consistent trend of increase or decrease, thus raising questions on the quality of patent applications as well. In fact, many of the council's former director generals and directors who *FE* spoke to, expressed surprise and concern over the extent of drop in patents.

Usually between the filing and grant of patent, there is a two to three year gap.

Samir Brahmachari, director general, CSIR told *FE*: "A decade back, the idea was to drive the number of patent filings by motivating the scientists to file more and more



patents to foster a culture of patenting. But, as the organisation matures, we have become selective in our patenting strategies and concentrate on the quality of patents. You must remember that only 1% of all patents is responsible for actually yielding valuable technologies."

However, while the going was good, CSIR celebrated its swelling kitty of US patents,

dubbing them an indicator to validate its improving performance. In October 2006, a working group headed by the then CSIR director-general RA Mashelkar which assessed the organisation's performance during the Tenth Five Year Plan said in a report: "It (CSIR) has emerged amongst the top three entities from the developing world in terms of PCT filings." Patent

filings was also used to measure the council's scientific output and influenced the decisions on grants to the council for the Eleventh Plan.

India is a signatory to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which is a multilateral mechanism that ensures priority of filings in over 100 countries including the US.

The report further said: "US patents granted is con-

sidered as one of the indices in measuring the technology achievement of the countries. CSIR was granted 543 US patents during 2002-06. Around 62% share in the total US Patents granted to Indians excluding NRIs and foreign assignees belongs to CSIR." Interestingly, Brahmachari, then director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology was a member of the working group that produced the working group report. Since then, the share of CSIR in total patents granted to India has dwindled to 7.8% in 2009 from 39% in 2003.

"This situation needs to be analysed thoroughly, and factors behind should be scrutinised as these statistics can be interpreted by others in a manner which could show the organisation in the poor light," said SK Joshi, former

DG, CSIR. PK Jena, another former DG of CSIR concurred: "Certainly, it seems like a matter of concern and should be looked into. CSIR's original mandate is in applied research. The Organisation's mission is to bring new technology. And the organisation has a wealth of talented scientists, who should be encouraged to patent their innovation abroad and convert it into technologies that the world borrows from us in the years ahead."

A former director of a CSIR lab told *FE* that an internal line of thought suggests that since filing and maintaining patents in US is an expensive affair and not many of these could be converted into applicable technologies in the past, indiscriminate filing is being discouraged.

■ Continued on Page 4

IP expert Shamnand Basheer, who estimated that CSIR's licensing revenues are half of what it ends up spending on patenting and licensing said: "What really matters is how many of these patents convert in some way to useful technologies for society. While CSIR's changed focus from random to more streamlined patenting is welcome, there is a terrible information deficit. Although CSIR publishes data relating to patenting in its annual report, the costs of such patenting are not mentioned. Given that patents are very expensive to procure (particularly in the US), it is critical that this information be published. Information pertaining to technology transfer, licensing and commercialisation of such patents should be made public so that the public is able to evaluate the cost and benefits of such patenting strategies."

Another former director of a CSIR lab said that lately, the organisation has started focusing on educational activities by offering MTech degree and PG diploma courses, which distracts it from its main focus of applied research. The organisation needs to introspect on the reason d'etre and be more transparent, he added on condition of anonymity.

What the CSIR, headed by the Prime Minister himself, can take solace from is the fact that despite the dip, the CSIR continues to figure among the top 300 global entities listed for receiving the maximum number of patents awarded by the USPTO. However, CSIR is the only Indian entity in that top 300 patent holders list and could slip out of it very soon if the downtrend continues unchecked.

प्रोसपेक्टस नहीं है बोलने लगे स्कूल

नई दिल्ली। नर्सरी दाखिले में स्कूलों की हो रही किरकरी के बीच कुछ स्कूलों ने छवि सुधारने का काम शुरू कर दिया है। फॉर्म और प्रोसपेक्टस के बीच हो रही दिक्कतों के चलते स्कूल ने प्रोसपेक्टस न देना ही बेहतर समझा है।

प्रेसिडियम स्कूल ने अभिभावकों को प्रोसपेक्टस न देना ही सुरक्षित समझा है। स्कूल सिर्फ फॉर्म ही दे रहा है। जब स्कूलों से प्रोसपेक्टस पूछा गया तो उन्होंने फॉर्म होने की बात से इकार कर दिया।

फॉर्म के दाम पूछने पर स्कूल ने बताया कि सरकारी रेट पर गानी 25 रुपये में ही सिर्फ फॉर्म दे रहे हैं। हालांकि कुछ अभिभावकों ने इस स्कूल के खिलाफ एक वेबसाइट पर डोनेशन लेने की शिकायत की है। अभिभावकों का कहना है कि स्कूल जबन पैसा वसूलने की फिसक में है। पर स्कूल ने अभिभावकों को राहत दे दी है। अभिभावकों के लिए अच्छी बात यह है कि स्कूल सिर्फ फॉर्म दे रहा है वो भी 25 रुपये का। (का.सं.)

आईआईटी, आईआईएम को मिल रहे हैं प्वाइंट

दिल्ली पुलिस और डॉक्टरों को भी तरजीह

राजधानी के कुछ स्कूल नर्सरी में दाखिले के आधारों में विशेष पेशे से जुड़े अभिभावकों को दे रहे हैं प्राथमिकता

अनुरा मिश्र

नई दिल्ली

नर्सरी दाखिले में भी भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (आईआईएम), भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और दिल्ली पुलिस की सूची बोल रही है। दिल्ली के कुछ स्कूल दाखिले के आधारों में स्पेशल प्रोफेशन के आधार पर तरजीह दे रहे हैं। राजेंद्र नगर स्थित सलवान मॉडर्न स्कूल ने वेबसाइट पर आई आई एम, आई आई टी स्नातकों, वैज्ञानिक, स्पेशलिस्ट

डॉक्टर, पेरामिडिटी, शिवाविद, इंजीनियर को 15 प्वाइंट दिए हैं। अभिभावक संघ के अध्यक्ष अशोक अग्रवाल कहते हैं कि स्कूल पूरी तरह भयमुक्त है और वह खुले तौर पर मनमानी कर रहे हैं क्योंकि उन्हें लग गया है कि वह सब कुछ करने के लिए स्वतंत्र है। यह जहां आरटीई की भावना के खिलाफ है तो दूसरी तरफ यह गाइडलाइंस के भी विरुद्ध है।

एजुकेशन फॉर आल के अध्यक्ष सुमित बोहरा कहते हैं कि स्कूल दाखिले प्रक्रिया में अपनी मनमानी कर रहे हैं। आरटीई का उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है। अभिभावकों के लिए नर्सरी दाखिले की दी ड.

1. Alumni
• If both parents are alumni 10 Points
• If any one parent is alumni 05 Points
2. Defense/ Para military Personnel/ Duli Police Personnel/ Scientist/ Engineer/ IAS/ IIT Graduates/ Scientist/ Doctor (Specialist) of Govt/ State School Teachers 15 Points
3. Special Achievement (National / State Award conferred by the Government) Upto 20 Points
4. Contribution through Social work in any State/ National level registered organization 10 Points
5. Single Parent (Widow/ Widower) 05 Points

मुश्किल होती जा रही है क्योंकि स्कूल अपने मुताबिक नियम-कायदे लागू कर रहे हैं। उन एक अभिभावक रमन शुक्ला ने बताया कि मैं पेशे से अकाउंटेंट हूँ। जब मैंने स्कूल का काउंटेरिया देखा तो भौचक रह गया। अखिर पेशे के आधार पर किसी को दाखिले से रूक कैसे रखा जा सकता है। स्कूलों की मनमानी को

रोकने के लिए सख्त कदम उठाने चाहिए। वहाँ एक व्यवसायी अभिभावक का कहना है कि यह सरासर नाइंसाफी है दिखाया इस तरह जा रहा है जैसे कि सब कुछ नियम से ही रहा है लेकिन इस तरह के कानून अंतर पैदा करते ही हैं।



जो भी स्कूल नियमों का उल्लंघन करेगा उसके खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई करने के लिए संबंधित विभाग को सूट दे दी गई है। स्कूलों को नियम का पालन करना होगा।

अरविंदर सिंह लवली (शिक्षा मंत्री)



चार साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों को दे रहे दाखिला

नई दिल्ली। चार साल से कम उम्र में दाखिला नहीं होगा। हाईकोर्ट में दिल्ली सरकार के इस दाने को निजी स्कूलों का विज्ञापन खुलेआम बूटला रही है। सरकार चार साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों को नर्सरी कक्षा में दाखिला देने वाले स्कूलों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने की बात की थी, लेकिन शिकायत के बावजूद कार्रवाई नहीं कर रही है।

न्यायमूर्ति जी. एस सोसातानी के निर्देशानुसार अधिवक्ता अशोक अग्रवाल ने हलफनामा दायर कर कहा कि सरकार के दाने के बावजूद निजी स्कूल धड़ल्ले से चार से कम उम्र के बच्चों को नर्सरी में दाखिला दे रहे हैं। उन्होंने हलफनामा में साक्ष्य के रूप में स्कूलों द्वारा जारी दाखिला संबंधित विज्ञापन की प्रति भी पेश किया है। अधिवक्ता अग्रवाल ने हाईकोर्ट को बताया है कि इस बावत उन्होंने शिक्षा मंत्री अरविंदर सिंह लवली को भी पर लिखकर कार्रवाई की मांग की थी, लेकिन कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई। मामला की सुनवाई 11 जनवरी को होगी। उन्होंने सेंट थॉमस स्कूल, धरका, बाल भारती पब्लिक स्कूल, एन.सी विदल पब्लिक स्कूल, एमटी पब्लिक स्कूल, श्रीराम पब्लिक स्कूल, सलवान पब्लिक स्कूल सहित 12 स्कूलों का नाम लेते हुए कहा है न जाने ऐसे कितने स्कूल हैं जो तीन साल के अधिका उम्र के ही बच्चों को दाखिला दे रहे हैं। (का.सं.)



दाखिले की आखिरी तारीख आज!

सेंट फ्रांसिस डे सेल्स स्कूल में नर्सरी के दाखिले के लिए मिलने वाले फॉर्म की आज आखिरी तारीख है। स्कूल की साइट देखकर तो यही लगता है। स्कूल की वेबसाइट पर सात जनवरी को फॉर्म मिलने की अंतिम तारीख दिखाई जा रही है। जबकि नर्सरी में दाखिले की अंतिम तारीख 15 जनवरी निर्धारित की गई है। फिर सरकार के नियम की खुलेआम मान्यमानी करने वाले कई ऐसे स्कूल हैं जिनकी शिकायत सामने आ रही है। सिंगल पेरेंट्स को अलग से प्वाइंट

कई स्कूल सिंगल पेरेंट के लिए अलग से प्वाइंट दे रहे हैं। स्कूलों का कहना है कि माता या पिता न होने की स्थिति में ऐसे बच्चों को अलग से प्वाइंट दिए जाएंगे। अलग-अलग स्कूल इसके लिए अलग-अलग प्वाइंट दे रहे हैं। सिंगल पेरेंट को स्कूल पांच प्वाइंट से लेकर 15 प्वाइंट दे रहे हैं।

बस रूट को प्राथमिकता

नई दिल्ली। नर्सरी दाखिले में बस की रूटों और सरकारी कर्मचारी के बच्चों को प्राथमिकता दिया गया है। डीएवी के किसी स्कूल में बस रूट के बच्चों को ज्यादा प्वाइंट दिए गए हैं तो कहां सरकारी कर्मचारी के बच्चों को प्वाइंट दिए गए हैं।

डीएवी स्कूल वसंत कुंज में सरकारी कर्मचारी के बच्चों को प्राथमिकता दिया गया है। सरकारी कर्मचारी के बच्चों को लिए 20 प्वाइंट दिए गए हैं। डीएवी वसंत कुंज की प्राचार्या अंजू पुरी ने बताया कि स्थानीय स्थिति को देखते हुए सरकारी कर्मचारी के बच्चों को प्राथमिकता दिया गया है। इसके अलावा उन्होंने बताया कि बस की रूट पर आने वाले छात्रों को भी प्राथमिकताएं दी गई हैं। इसके लिए इलाके को देखते हुए अलग-अलग प्वाइंटस तय किए गए हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि अब बच्चों को वेन या किसी निजी सवारी से लाना उचित नहीं है। निजी सवारी में या वेन में बच्चों को देखने वाला कोई नहीं रहता है। इसके देखने हुए बस रूट की प्राथमिकताएं तय की गई हैं। इसके अलावा उन्होंने बताया कि नर्सरी में हमारे 105 सीटें हैं। इंडब्ल्यूएस कोटे के तहत अभी करीब 20 फॉर्म आए हैं।

कुलाची हंसराज डीएवी अशोक विहार में बस की रूटों को प्राथमिकता देते हुए दाखिले में 40 प्वाइंट दिए गए हैं। प्राचार्या पम्मी दत्ता ने बताया कि पर्याय और बस की रूट को ज्यादा प्राथमिकता दी गई है। शारीरिक रूप से विकलांग बच्चों के लिए भी पांच प्वाइंट दिए गए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि अभी तक हमारे यहां इंडब्ल्यूएस के तहत 80 बच्चों का आवेदन आया है। (का.सं.)



अभिभावकों की उलझनें और उनके जवाब

मैं इंडब्ल्यूएस कोटे के तहत अपने बच्चों का दाखिला करवाना चाहता हूँ। इस कोटे के तहत स्कूल कौन-कौन सी फीस लेता है? कृपया यह भी बताएं कि क्या-क्या माफ होगा?

इंडब्ल्यूएस कोटे के तहत अपने बच्चों का दाखिला करवाने के लिए आपको कोई स्कूल फीस नहीं लेनी है। यहां तक की दाखिले के लिए मिलने वाला फॉर्म भी मुफ्त है। दृशान फीस, एक्टिविटी फीस आदि सभी फीस माफ हैं। ट्रांसपोर्टेशन फीस के लिए स्कूल से संबंध साधें। अगर कोई स्कूल नियमों का उल्लंघन करता है तो उसकी शिकायत सरकार को करें।

अगर आपके मन में नर्सरी एडमिशन से संबंधित कोई शिकायत, प्रश्न या सुझाव हो तो इस पते पर लिखें: हिन्दुस्तान, 18-20, कस्तूरबा गांधी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001 या हमें ई-मेल भी कर सकते हैं: anurag.mishra@livehindustan.com ankur.sharma@livehindustan.com

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07/01/2011

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वायु प्रदूषण की स्थिति पर नजर रखेंगे निगरानी केंद्र

एजेंसी

कानपुर

शहर में बढ़ रहे वायु प्रदूषण की स्थिति जानने के लिए प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड शहर में चार निगरानी केंद्र स्थापित करने जा रहा है। इनकी देखरेख का काम आईआईटी कानपुर को सौंपा गया है और इसके लिए संस्थान को करीब 10 लाख रूपए सालाना दिया जाएगा।

शहर में बढ़ते वायु प्रदूषण के कारण सांस रोगियों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने

जाजमऊ, यशोदानगर, नवाबागंज और दादा नगर में यह निगरानी केंद्र स्थापित करने की योजना है।

प्रदूषण बोर्ड के क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी राधेश्याम ने बताया कि वायु प्रदूषण मापने के लिए इन निगरानी केंद्रों को सारे उपकरण प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड उपलब्ध कराएगा, जबकि तकनीकी जानकारी और निगरानी दल आईआईटी कानपुर के जिम्मे होगा। इस संबंध में प्रदूषण बोर्ड और आईआईटी कानपुर के बीच समझौता हो चुका है और इसके लिए

**कानपुर में
स्थापित होंगे चार
केंद्र**

**केंद्रों की
देखरेख करेगी
आईआईटी**



यह फैसला लिया है। इसके लिए शहर के चारों कोनों पर एक-एक सेंटर स्थापित करने की योजना है। यह निगरानी केंद्र अगले महीने फरवरी से काम करने लगेंगे। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी राधेश्याम ने बताया कि शहर में बढ़ते वायु प्रदूषण की निगरानी करने के लिए बोर्ड ने शहर में चार केंद्र स्थापित करने की योजना बनाई है। इसमें से तीन केंद्रों से वायु में पीएम 10 कणों की जांच होगी, जबकि एक से पीएम 2.5 कणों की जांच होगी। इन निगरानी केंद्र के लिए शहर के उत्तर, दक्षिण, पूर्व और पश्चिम का एक-एक इलाका लिया जाएगा। इसके लिए बोर्ड शहर के

प्रदूषण बोर्ड आईआईटी को प्रति वर्ष करीब 10 लाख रूपए देगा। इसके पहली किस्त के रूप में करीब छह लाख रूपए दिए भी जा चुके हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि इस निगरानी से बोर्ड को वायु प्रदूषण की जानकारी मिलेगी। इसके बाद प्रदूषण बोर्ड उन इलाकों में इन स्वास्थ्य के लिए खतरनाक कणों को दूर करने का प्रयास करेगा और वायु प्रदूषण को कैसे कम किया जाए इसके लिए व्यापक कार्ययोजना बनाई जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रदूषण बोर्ड और आईआईटी कानपुर से इस बाबत समझौता हो गया है और सब कुछ ठीक रहा तो फरवरी के अंत तक यह केंद्र शहर में स्थापित हो जाएंगे।