

Newspaper Clips

July 22, 2011

The Hindu ND 22/07/2011 P-4

IIT-Delhi flayed over retirement benefit

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday flayed Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, for extending the benefit of enhancement of retirement age from 62 to 65 to its scientific and design staff ignoring the Centre's decision to confine it only to the teaching staff.

Justice Rekha Sharma dismissed petitions filed by a research faculty seeking an

order to the Centre and IIT to enhance their retirement age to 65. "IIT-Delhi is not the only IIT. There are six more. And I was told, and this was not challenged, that in none of those IITs the scientific and design staff was ever asked to take teaching classes on regular or irregular basis. If IIT-Delhi makes a change, it affects the other IITs also," said Justice Sharma.

"Had the order of IIT-Delhi, enhancing the age of superannuation of the scientific and design staff from 62 to 65 years been implemented (though that order was later withdrawn), it would have had the effect of putting extra financial burden on the government without its approval, to which it rightly did not agree," the court added.

In 2007, the Ministry of

Human Resource Development (HRD) had framed a national-level policy enhancing the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 for all persons who were holding regular teaching positions on regular employment against sanctioned posts as on March 15, 2007, in any of the Centrally-funded higher and technical educations under the Ministry. -PTI

Times of India ND 22/07/2011 p-15

CBI indicts IIT-Kgp chief in technical institutes scam

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Widening its net in the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) scam, the CBI has found the involvement of its former chairperson Damodar Acharya, who is now the director of IIT-Kharagpur.

In an investigation report sent to the HRD ministry in May, the agency also found involvement of five others in different cases of illegal approval to technical institutes. The CBI has named R A Yadav, former chairman, AICTE; Y Venkateswara Rao, director, National Institute of Technology, Warangal; M S Palanichamy, former vice-chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University; M Afshar Alam, faculty of management and information technology, Jamia Hamdard

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University and M Altaf Khan of department of commerce and business studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. CBI sources said the HRD ministry is yet to intimate action it has taken against these officials.

In case of Acharya, who was the chairperson of AICTE from May 16, 2005, to June 30, 2007, CBI's investigation shows that in 2005-06 a new system was started for extension of approval to

technical institutes. It included submitting compliance report along with mandatory disclosures by the institutes for extension of approval. The compliance report was to be processed through an appraisal panel of three experts and based on that, the chairperson was to take decision on the extension of approval.

The case, involving Acharya, relates to Padmavathi Engineering College, which is run by Pachaiammal Educational Trust. In 2006-07, when the institute submitted to AICTE the proposal for extension of approval, an appraisal panel recommended to reduce the intake from 180 to 90 seats as it found 42.5% shortage in faculty members. Even the principal was not a post-graduate, and teachers were not paid AICTE pay scales.

Hindustan Times Kolkata 21.07.11 p-4

IIT student kills self in hostel room at Kharagpur

HT Correspondent

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KOLKATA: An IIT Kharagpur student allegedly committed suicide in his hostel on Wednesday evening. Pankaj Choudhury, a student of Metallurgical engineering, 2006 batch, and staying at Meghnath Saha Hall, was found hanging from the ceiling fan. No suicide note was found.

Though the reason for death is not clear, it has emerged that Choudhury was consistently under-performing and had several backlog papers to clear. "We are surprised. He came to the department on July 18 and spoke to the teachers. He discussed his backlog papers with us and said that he would soon register himself for taking all the exams. And what is shocking to us is the fact that he left the

department smiling. We never imagined that he would be killing himself," said a teacher of the department.

The IIT authorities feel that it is a case of suicide. "The circumstances of his death are under investigation. We broke open the door of his hostel room at 4pm on Thursday and found him hanging. The police was informed immediately. We have not found any suicide note from the spot and would not be able to comment any further unless the autopsy report arrives," said UP Singh, chief security officer of the institute.

According to Choudhury's hostel neighbours, he did not come out of his room since Monday. "We were curious and informed the authorities. He was depressed," said a student, who did not wish to be named.

Choudhury, a resident of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, is survived by his parents and an elder brother who is a doctor. The institute has informed his family. "They will be reaching tomorrow," said Singh.

Police have registered a case of unnatural death. "We have found no suicide note in his room. We are investigating and only after it is complete, we can state the actual cause of his death. Till then we would treat it as unnatural death," said Miraj Khaled, ASP, Kharagpur.

PM TO VISIT CAMPUS

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be present at the convocation of IIT Kharagpur scheduled to be held on August 22. The last Prime Minister to visit IIT-KGP campus was Indira Gandhi in 1976.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Jul 22, 2011;Section: Times Nation;Page: 8;

IIM-A students protest room service ban

Dayananda Yumlembam | TNN

Ahmedabad: There is a storm brewing in the students' dorm at Indian Institute of Management. Students were surprised when authorities stopped cleaning their rooms and did not allow them to have food delivered.

The move is aimed at teaching future CEOs there-

alities of life. Around March this year, IIM-A planned to do away with room services of students staying in the dormitory rooms. The students' rooms only once in 10 days. An administrative official at IIMA said: "The students are getting used to a life in which they are being served. However, we believe that this is not what they should be learning. We want

the students to face the reality and responsibilities of life by letting them handle the hygiene of their rooms." One of the students pleading anonymity said: "The decision would have made our life very tough with the hectic schedule. Particularly the PGP-1 students who are burdened with assignments and hardly get time to sleep."

Plethora of UG schemes

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: If all plans fall in place, 2011-12 may just be the most student-friendly year in Delhi University. Touring colleges on Thursday, vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh announced a variety of schemes for undergraduate students.

For the first time, DU has decided to grant a fund of up to Rs 15 lakh for research and innovative projects that students undertake in collaboration with their college teachers. These projects should explore more than the syllabi and can be related to social topics.

"We want even our undergraduate students to research and explore and we are ready to support them with funds. Students can even travel for their project but they will have to carry it out in collaboration with teachers," said V-C Singh.

According to dean (research), Ajay Kumar, the funds will be granted to a team of around 10 students from different disciplines in a college and there may not be a limit on the number of projects. "We want them to go beyond their curriculum. The university is already in talks with colleges and we expect a huge response. The details will soon be on our website," he said.

DU is also sending teams of 25-30 students from the economically weaker section to spend a few weeks in foreign universities. In October, a team will go to Melbourne University. "We will ask the candidates to write a piece on why they think they should get this chance," Singh said.

The V-C also invited all students to a three-day creative writing festival and a music festival to be organized before the October vacation. "Anyone who loves writing can send entries to us. Students will have to give a five-minute presentation during the festival," he said.

The V-C had a surprise for teachers as well. Every teacher could now travel abroad for any conference once in three years. The expenses will be paid by DU.

Delhi medical body writes to top cop

FRAUD EXAM Parents of candidates who took DU medical test approach Delhi Medical Association

Jatin Anand

■ jatin.anand@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Even as candidates who paid their way into the medical college of their choice are allotted seats, scores of parents, whose children appeared in the allegedly fraudulent Delhi University Medical Entrance Test (DUMET) held last month, have approached the Delhi Medical Association (DMA) for help.

"The DMA has been approached with innumerable complaints from its members regarding irregularities in the conduct of DUMET 2011. Because of fraudulent entrants, many genuine candidates did not get selected or have been put on waiting list," said Dr. Vinod Khetrapal, president, DMA.

Amazed at the sluggish pace of the Delhi Police Crime Branch, the city-based body of medical professionals has sent complaints to Delhi Police chief BK

Gupta, the state health minister and the DU vice chancellor.

The Crime Branch has already got a written complaint about the matter but continues to drag its feet as far as questioning the said candidates is concerned.

On July 11, Hindustan Times had reported on the scam.

As per a complaint received by the Crime Branch, eight candidates had taken the entrance test held by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) on May 7. They had done abysmally bad in that test.

However, these same eight candidates had passed the DUMET, which was conducted on May 22, with flying colours.

These candidates, who got percentages ranging between 70-72% in the DUMET, had scored only 10.50 to a maximum of 22% in the GGSIU Common Entrance Test (CET).

"We request you to stop these candidates from taking admissions to colleges as the list of second counselling is around July 26, 2011. Since the data compilation was possible after a detailed analysis because DUMET doesn't put up the parents' name with that of the candidates as other examinations do, hence, it was not possible before the 1st counselling which concluded on July 8, 2011," the letter, a copy of which is in possession of HT, states.

The DMA is also of the opinion that some common factors link the allegedly fraud DUMET examination and the AIIMS PG entrance exam, which saw the disqualification of 11 students from the list of selected candidates, after a recent AIIMS graduate, identified as Mahipal Singh, was arrested for getting his hands-on and selling the answer key to the said examination on July 5.

End Of 30-Yr Shuttle Era: Atlantis Returns Home After Last Space Odyssey 'MISSION COMPLETE, HOUSTON'

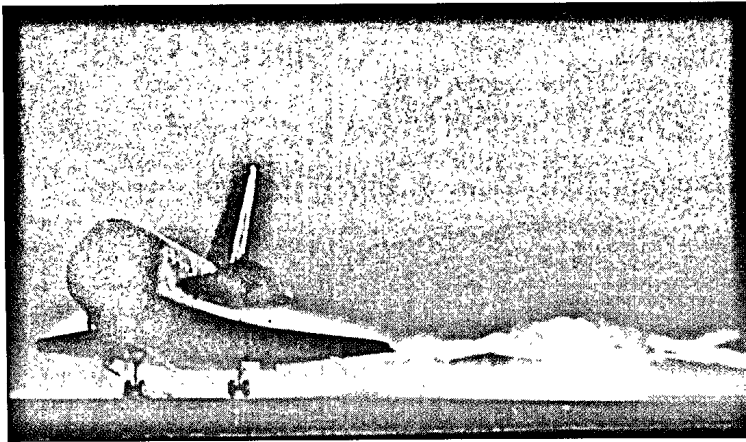
Cape Canaveral: The space shuttle Atlantis glided home through a clear moonlit sky on Thursday to complete a 13-day cargo run to the International Space Station and a 30-year odyssey for Nasa's shuttle program.

Commander Chris Ferguson gently steered the 100-ton spaceship high overhead, then nosed toward the swamp-surrounded landing strip at the Kennedy Space Center, a few miles (km) from where Atlantis will go on display as a museum piece.

Double sonic booms shattered the predawn silence around the space center, the last time residents will hear the sound of a shuttle coming home. Ferguson eased Atlantis onto the runway at 5.57am (0957 GMT), ending a 5.2 million-mile (8.4 million-km) journey and closing a key chapter in human space flight history.

"Mission complete, Houston," Ferguson radioed to Mission Control. "After serving the world for over 30 years, the space shuttle has earned its place in history, and it's come to a final stop."

Astronaut Barry Wilmore from Mission Control answered back, "We'll take this opportunity to congratulate you Atlantis, as well as the thousands of passionate individuals across this great space-faring nation who truly empowered this incredible spacecraft, which for three decades has



THE LAST TOUCHDOWN: The space shuttle Atlantis lands at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, ending its 13-day mission

inspired millions around the globe." It was the 19th night landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to end the 135th space shuttle mission.

For Atlantis, the final tally of its 26-year career: 33 missions, accumulating just short of 126 million miles during 307 days in space. A permanent marker will be placed on the runway to indicate the final resting spot of the

space shuttle program.

For Atlantis, Nasa will now begin the work of transforming it into a museum piece. It will be mounted nearby at Kennedy's visitor center. The astronauts' families and friends, as well as shuttle managers and Nasa brass, gathered near the runway to welcome Atlantis home—and bid the shuttle program goodbye. Difficult to see in the darkness, Atlantis was

greeted with cheers, whistles and shouts. Within 20 minutes, the sun was up and providing, finally, a splendid view of Nasa's last space shuttle.

Atlantis' return from the 135th shuttle mission capped a 30-year program that made spaceflight appear routine, despite two fatal accidents that killed 14 astronauts and destroyed two of Nasa's five spaceships. REUTERS

Nasa's 'final 4' fly into history

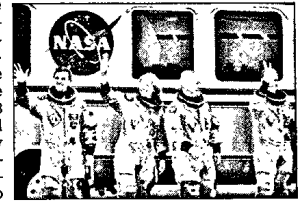
Cape Canaveral: Nasa downsized the crew for the final flight of its shuttle program as a safety precaution.

Instead of the usual six- or seven-person crew, only four astronauts were aboard the Atlantis on its 13-day cargo run to the International Space Station. It was the first time in 28 years Nasa had gone with a crew that small, choosing to do so because there was no shuttle available for a rescue flight if Atlantis was somehow damaged and could not make the trip home.

Nasa would have had to rely on Russian Soyuz spacecraft, which fly with two pilots and one passenger per vehicle, to bring the astronauts back if needed. Christopher Ferguson, 49, a soft-spoken retired Navy captain, was the commander of

Atlantis astronauts, who dubbed themselves "The Final Four."

He said he never expected to make the flight, which initially was just a standby res-



THE FAB FOUR: Atlantis mission specialists (from left) Rex Walheim, Sandra Magnus, Douglas Hurley and Christopher Ferguson

cue mission for the last shuttle crew. "I'd given it a 50-50 shot at best," he said. But last year, Nasa decided to fly Atlantis with a year's worth of supplies for the station, an insurance policy of sorts in case the new companies hired to haul cargo to the outpost encounter delays. REUTERS

Business Standard ND 22/07/2011 P-16

Atlantis has landed, ending Nasa's shuttle era

REUTERS
Cape Canaveral (Florida), 21 July

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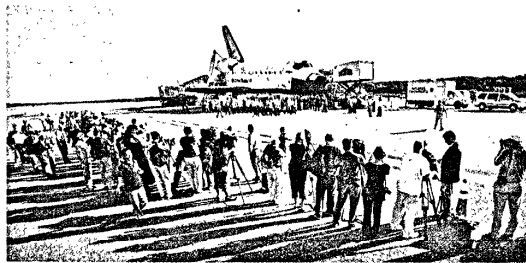
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The last accident investigation board



Space shuttle Atlantis is viewed by the media after landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral on Thursday. PHOTO: REUTERS

recommended the shuttles be retired after construction was finished on the space station, a \$100-billion project of 16 nations. That milestone was reached this year, leaving the orbiting research

station as the shuttle program's crowning legacy. Details of a follow-on program are still pending, but the objective is to build new spaceships that can travel beyond the station's

250-mile (400-km) orbit and send astronauts to the moon, asteroids and other destinations in deep space.

BACK-UP PLAN

The final shuttle crew included

just four astronauts—Ferguson, pilot Doug Hurley, flight engineer Rex Walheim and mission specialist Sandy Magnus—rather than the typical six or seven astronauts, a precaution in case Atlantis was too damaged to safely attempt the return to Earth. With no more shuttles available for a rescue, Nasa's backup plan was to rely on the smaller Russian Soyuz capsules.

At Cape Canaveral, 2,000 workers, journalists and VIPs waited by the runway to cheer the shuttle landing and greet the "final four" astronauts as they emerged from their ship.

"The things that you've done will set us up for exploration of the future," Nasa Administrator Charles Bolden told them.

Ferguson thanked the thousands of workers involved in the program over the years and said he hoped

"this fantastic vehicle" would inspire a new generation of space explorers.

"Although we got to take the ride, we sure hope that everybody who has ever worked or touched or looked at or envied or admired a space shuttle was able to take just a little part of the journey with us," Ferguson said.

Thousands more employees gathered with their families to watch the landing on a giant television at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, home of Mission Control and Nasa's main astronaut training facility. As the shuttle touched down, a cheer arose through the crowd that gathered outside the centre's headquarters building.

But now that Atlantis is home, 3,200 of the shuttle program's 5,500 contract workers will lose their jobs on Friday. Within about a month, the contract workforce that

totaled about 16,000 five years ago will tail off to about 1,000 who will oversee the transfer of Atlantis and sister ships Discovery and Endeavour to museums.

The shuttles' retirement opens the door for a new commercial space transportation industry, with Nasa relying on US firms to deliver cargo to the station starting next year and to fly its astronauts there by about 2015.

Until space taxis are available, Russia will take on the job of flying crews to the station, at a cost of more than \$50 million per person. The primary goal of Atlantis' flight was to deliver a year's worth of supplies to the station in case Nasa's newly hired cargo suppliers, Space Exploration Technologies and Orbital Sciences Corp, encounter delays preparing their new vehicles for flight.