

## Newspaper Clips

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# Pranab begins 4th year in office with clockwork

## Unveils restored 1920-era clocks

OUR BUREAU  
New Delhi, July 24

Pranab Mukherjee will enter the fourth and penultimate year of his term as President on Saturday by unveiling restored clocks from the 1920s in the vast Rashtrapati Bhawan complex.

On Friday, the President unveiled a restored heritage tower with a clock made in the 1920s. Another tower will be inaugurated on Saturday.

The clock, repaired by IIT Delhi, has the name 'Pulsynetic' inscribed on it, indicating that its manufacturer was Gent and Company of Leicester, UK. Gent and Company's electric clocks adorn many important buildings around the world.

### Careful restoration

Omita Paul, Secretary to the President, said the heritage clock tower has been restored with original material. "Limestone mixed with *urad dal*, jaggery and other ingredients have been used to give a coat to the tower. The building will not need fresh plaster for at least next 30 years," she said.

The structure was built by Sir

Both the clock towers have been restored by INTACH. The work includes preservation of the original plaster, Kota stone flooring, repair of conical obelisks, cleaning and painting of fireplaces, in line with the original design.

Edwin Lutyens in 1924 as an Institute for Men of the President's Body Guard and had reading and recreational rooms, canteens etc.

Since 1947, it has served as the Regimental Headquarters of the President's bodyguards.

The second tower was also built by Lutyens in 1925. Known as Band House, it was used for residential purposes.

The clock installed in the tower at Schedule 'B' is inscribed with the name 'JB Joyce & Co Ltd, Whitchurch 1924'. JB Joyce & Co clocks also adorn many important buildings around the world.

Both the clock towers have been restored by INTACH. The work includes preservation of the original plaster, Kota stone flooring, repair of conical obelisks, cleaning and painting of fireplaces etc, in line with the

original design. INTACH has also identified 69 heritage buildings inside the President's Estate for conservation.

One of these structures - the President's Estate Clinic - has also been renovated and was inaugurated on Friday. The building was constructed in 1929 and was originally known as the Viceroy's Dispensary.

### Museum project

Paul also announced that a state-of-the-art museum, spread over 10,000 square metres, will be dedicated to the nation by next year.

This is part of making Rashtrapati Bhawan 'for the people'. During the three years of Mukherjee's tenure, the iconic structure has received over 20 lakh visitors.

There are now plans to allow people to use the 'Nature's Trail' once or twice a week.

As part of the celebrations to mark his three years in office, the President will host a dinner for the Council of Ministers and other dignitaries on Saturday.

Two volumes of his selected speeches and two books on Rashtrapati Bhawan will be released on the occasion by the Vice-President of India and Union Home Minister.



**All hail the chief** President Pranab Mukherjee completed three years in office on Friday. To commemorate the occasion, he inaugurated a restored clock tower in the President's Estate. KAMAL NARANG

## IIT Delhi staff turn the clocks back at Rashtrapati Bhavan

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iit-delhi-staff-turn-the-clocks-back-at-rashtrapati-bhavan/articleshow/48195970.cms>

NEW DELHI: At Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, two British Raj clock towers stopped ticking some years back. One of the British companies that made these does not exist, and the other asked for a huge amount of money only to have a look. The President's office started looking for local experts, and finally found them at IIT Delhi. The clocks have started ticking again, and the president will inaugurate them this weekend.

The two 'Big Ben' kind of clocks of the Victorian Era were noticed when the restoration work of two towers was taken up a few years ago by the Indian National trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach).

The president's office decided to restore these and started hunting for someone to fix the two masterpieces. The most obvious choice for them was to get back to the British companies that had manufactured these.

Tracing down almost century-old companies was not an easy task at all either for the president office or Intach. Finally, they found one British company that was ready to send down a couple of its dealers to India.

"One of the British companies had shut down years back and the other one was ready to send its dealers but the cost was very high. Two months ago, we reached out to IIT Delhi," said a government official who is part of the restoration work, on condition of anonymity.

It was not an easy task though. With no model, manual or written guide, restoring these clocks was almost like solving a jigsaw puzzle. "Under the cobwebs and layers of dust were hidden these Big Ben kind of clocks with four dials and sides. We had to be very careful as this is a heritage property," said SR Kale, a faculty at mechanical engineering department of IIT Delhi involved in the restoration.

The old nomenclature of addressing these towers as schedule A and Schedule B continue at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The Schedule B clock is around 10 years older than the Schedule A clock, which is about 80-85 years old. Also, the Schedule B clock is like a cuckoo clock that works with the help of a pendulum. "There are no electronics in this one. No one makes these clocks nowadays," said Kale.

IIT Delhi faculty and staff decided not to dismantle these clocks but to go in stages. "Had we opened these completely, they would have surely broken. We took up a component/piece every day," he said.

The Schedule A clock turned out to be a tad easier to repair. "We first thought it was a pendulum clock but it turned out to be an electrically-operated clock," said another faculty member, Sudipto Mukherjee.

Apart from Mukherjee and Kale, others in the restoration team include Rachna Joshi, Dharminder Jaitley, Arvind SA and Harvesh.

The Schedule A tower clock will be inaugurated by the president on Friday while the Schedule B clock tower will be inaugurated this Saturday, said a government official.

## IIT-Hyderabad innovation makes telecardiology cheaper

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/IIT-Hyderabad-innovation-makes-telecardiology-cheaper/articleshow/48209274.cms>

CHENNAI: Telecardiology, when it was first introduced, was upheld as a technology that would revolutionise cardiac care by bridging the gap between primary and secondary care. It is undoubtedly a viable option to reach people in remote locations, but its efficacy is restricted because of constraints with bandwidth and power, which are required to send electrocardiogram (ECG) signals to nearby diagnostic facility for specialist interpretation.

Now these limitations have been rectified by professors at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. They have developed a new system to identify and transmit only anomalous ECG signals to the diagnostic centre, thereby saving more than 80% of the bandwidth and power without significantly sacrificing diagnostic accuracy.

The new system requires a low-cost device at the individual's end that records only 20% of ECG samples compared to the conventional method. It is transmitted to a sub-centre through a Bluetooth-like technology with low bandwidth. At the sub-centre, a classifier (software) identifies normal and abnormal heart beats. The abnormal signals are then converted into short text messages through the software and sent to the diagnostic facility. At the facility, the messages are converted to signals through a software for examination by specialist, who will, in turn, send his diagnosis through short text messages. The project has been funded by the department of information and technology.

Conventional telecardiology works in a similar manner except that the entire ECG data is sent to the diagnostic centre. This method creates issues as the data sometimes could not be sent on a low bandwidth or when there is an unreliable power connection.

Assistant professor at department of electrical engineering, IIT Hyderabad, Soumya Jana says telecardiology is widely used in countries like Brazil, where the system works through a landline connection. But an individual has to spend around Rs600 to avail the facility. "In India, we cannot afford that amount. Also, there are villages that neither have a landline facility nor a power grid. Though we have mobile network in villages, they are unreliable to transmit something as sensitive as ECG signals," he adds.

## NIT-T to set up Research Park

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/nitt-to-set-up-research-park/article7458871.ece>

The National Institute of Technology – Tiruchi will set up a research park integrating research programmes in collaboration with various universities, institutions and industries across the globe. It has identified about 20 areas for this park where research programmes will be taken up in course of time, said its Director, S. Sundarrajan.

Addressing the media on Thursday, Dr. Sundarrajan said the scope of research was bright in various disciplines. All research projects currently on in coordination with various institutions would be merged by the middle of 2016 for forming the park.

The NIT-T has entered into MoUs with State University of New York and the Georgia Tech for taking up research in electronics. "The package aims at design and development of various electronic gadgets," he said. The other research areas identified were nano-products, structural stability and forensic engineering. It had also

entered into MoU with the Central Electro Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi. "The infrastructure and laboratory available at Karaikudi will be utilised for taking up various research projects," he said. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has approached the NIT-T seeking technical assistance to check corrosion of bucket wheel excavator, a giant machinery used for excavating lignite at its mines. The NLC had been incurring a huge expenditure running to several thousand crores towards its investment on the excavators. The NIT-T was working on evolving methods for checking the corrosion for which NLC had sanctioned Rs. 5.50 crore, he added.

Vijayamohan K. Pillai, Director of CECRI, who was present, said the faculty of the CECRI and the NIT-T have initiated a few projects. "The thrust was on checking corrosion of materials," he said.

## **No final govt view on net neutrality yet: Ravi Shankar Prasad**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/technology-topstories/no-final-govt-view-on-net-neutrality-yet-stresses-telecom-minister-again/article1-1372313.aspx>

The recent report submitted by the government on net neutrality was not the final one, and the final view is still awaited, parliament was informed on Wednesday.

"The committee of officers constituted by the Department of Telecommunications on net neutrality has submitted its report. However, it is not the final report nor the government has taken any final view," communications and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

The report, submitted by the panel headed by technocrat AK Bhargava, was made public on JulRavi Shankar Prasad y 16, and said it favoured an end to the free call regime over the internet.

"The government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to the internet for all citizens of the country," the minister added.

Prasad also mentioned that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was engaged in a consultation process covering issues related to net neutrality, whose recommendations were awaited.

"Based on the committee report, comments and suggestions received and recommendations of TRAI, the government will take a considered decision on various aspects of net neutrality, in the best interest of the country," Prasad added.

## IIT Madras Awards Over 2000 Degrees for First Time

[http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil\\_nadu/IIT-Madras-Awards-Over-2000-Degrees-for-First-Time/2015/07/25/article2938701.ece](http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/IIT-Madras-Awards-Over-2000-Degrees-for-First-Time/2015/07/25/article2938701.ece)

CHENNAI: IIT Madras, Chennai's premier technical institute, has crossed yet another milestone this year: it awarded 2234 degrees to its graduates at its 52nd convocation on Friday, crossing the 2000 mark for the first time since its inception.

"For the first time in our history, the number of graduates passing out has crossed 2000. The number of Ph.D. degrees awarded, in particular, has increased 18 per cent crossing the 200 mark to 212 this year," beamed IIT-M's director, Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

The milestone comes in the wake of intake increase during 2008-2010, when the number of seats increased from 612 (2008) to 713 (2009) and 838 (2010).

Reading from the director's report for the year, Ramamurthi also listed other achievements of the institute the past year: from more students upgrading to the Ph.D program in the institute hitting 59, 73 high achievers being admitted directly to Bachelor's degrees and 33 industry professionals enrolling for Ph.Ds.

"Overall, our Ph.D intake per year has crossed our plan target of 80 per cent of the faculty strength," said Ramamurthi.

IIT-M has also done well in research, with 1089 papers published in international journals and 105 in national ones. "This figure has grown a sharp 30 per cent over the last year," said Ramamurthi.

Research papers presented in international and domestic conferences had also gone up by 50 per cent, with 533 papers presented internationally and 153 domestically this year.

New project sanctions from industry had also increased by 20 per cent over last year, with `64 crore in industry projects getting sanctioned for the institute.

## IIT-R expulsions: Students file appeal at HC

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/IIT-R-expulsions-Students-file-appeal-at-HC/articleshow/48206846.cms>

NAINITAL: After the Uttarakhand high court upheld the decision of expelling 64 students by the administration of IIT-Roorkee, many of the students filed a special appeal on Friday in the HC to reconsider the verdict.

Though the number of students filing the appeal remained unconfirmed, lawyers for the expelled students confirmed that special appeal had already been filed, which would be heard on July 27. "We have filed the

special appeal with a request to look into the matter again, as it is a question of so many young lives," said a lawyer for the students.

Expelled students expressed their grievances about the deep impact of the HC order against them. "I can't say anything against the high court, but the expulsion, followed by the court order has almost shattered our families. I hope our special appeal will be considered," said an expelled student on condition of anonymity.

Many of the students said they were disgruntled yet demonstrated some will to sail through the rough phase. Parents and guardians also told TOI that they may consider other career options for their children if nothing came out of this.

The Uttarakhand high court on July 22 dismissed the writ petition of 64 students, whereas petitions of two students were disposed off with an order to IIT officials to reconsider their case within a week as they had scored a CGPA above five, fulfilling at least one of the two criteria for admission in next year.

Meanwhile, after students staged a protest and most of the second-year students did not attend any lectures at the institute's campus from 8 am till 1 pm on Thursday, angered over the HC decision to uphold the expulsion order, institute officials had put up notices across the IIT campus warning that disciplinary action would be taken against demonstrators. No protests were held after these notices were put up.

However, despite the warning, students are mulling a mass protest against the expulsions on Saturday morning and banners and posters are being prepared. "We approached many professors for guidance and were only told that since the court's verdict is already out, nothing much can be done. We can just file an appeal again and try one more time," one of the expelled students told TOI.

"Over 500 students from various branches participated in the protest and rally on Thursday. The notice by the administration to initiate disciplinary action against participants only suggests that our demand is right and the institute is scared. If every single student comes out in support and boycotts classes, they might have to reconsider the decision," said an agitated first-year expelled student.

HT.COM ND 25.07.2015 P-18

# Earth like planet found

**KEPLER 452-B** Nasa's Kepler telescope has found a candidate for alien life

Reuters

A planet believed to be remarkably similar to Earth has been discovered orbiting a distant sun-like star, bolstering hopes of finding life elsewhere in the universe, scientists said on Thursday. The planet, which is about 60% bigger than Earth, is located 1,400 light years away in the constellation Cygnus. It was discovered by astronomers using NASA's Kepler space telescope and circles a star that is similar in size and temperature to the sun, but older. "In my mind, this is the closest thing we have to another planet like the Earth," astronomer Jon Jenkins told reporters on a conference call.

The planet, Kepler-452b, orbits a star that is about 6 billion years old, compared to the 4.6 billion year age of the sun.

"It's simply awe-inspiring to consider that this planet has spent 6 billion years in the habitable zone of its star," Jenkins said. "That's considerable time and opportunity for life to arise somewhere on its surface or in its oceans should all the necessary ingredients and conditions for life exist on it," he said.

Kepler-452b is positioned about as far from its parent star as Earth is from the sun, com-

## WHY KEPLER 452B IS SPECIAL



■ An artist's comparison of Earth and Kepler 452b.

REUTERS

Kepler 452b is

**60%** bigger than the Earth. A bigger radius means it is probably rockier than Earth

**1400** light years away from the Earth which is 183 crore times our moon's distance.

**385 day orbit:** Kepler 452b is at nearly the same distance from the Sun as the Earth is from our sun, completing an orbit in 385 days compared to Earth's 365

**Goldilocks zone** - that distance from the Sun means that water could be present in its liquid form - neither too hot nor too cold that it dries up or freezes. Liquid water is a crucial ingredient for all Earth life

**Six billion years** - Kepler 452b's sun is old enough to have supported the evolution of life

**2** times the Earth's gravity. You would be twice as heavy if you ever set foot on the planet

pleting an orbit in 385 days, compared to Earth's 365-day orbit. At that distance, surface temperatures would be suitable for liquid water, a condition believed to be critical for life.

Scientists previously have found Earth-sized planets orbiting in stars' so-called "habitable zones," but those stars are cooler and smaller than the sun, a G2 type yellow star.

NASA launched the Kepler telescope in 2009 to survey a sam-

pling of nearby stars to learn if planets like Earth were common in the galaxy.

With the discovery of Kepler-452b, the telescope has found 1,030 confirmed planets and identified about 4,700 candidate planets. The list of potential planets includes 11 other near-Earth twins, nine of which circle sun-like stars. The telescope cannot see planets directly, but measures minute changes in light coming from target stars.

Sophisticated computer programs and follow-up observations with a ground-based telescopes then determine if some of the light dips were caused by planets passing in front of their parent stars, relative to Kepler's line of sight.

Attempts to learn if Kepler-452b has an atmosphere will have to wait for a new generation of more sensitive space telescopes, said NASA's associate administrator John Grunsfeld.

# Just The Job For Everyone

*Skilling India will become superfluous  
once we know where to look*

**D**uring his stint as prime minister Rajiv Gandhi is reported to have said, in his less than perfect Hindi, "humko yeh bhi banana hai, aur woh bhi banana hai" (We want to make this, and we want to make that). Wags wondered if he was proposing to convert the country into a banana republic, as South American dictatorships are idiomatically referred to.

Current PM Narendra Modi also seems to have gone 'banana' with his Make in India campaign, which seeks to turn India into a global manufacturing hub. To ensure that his initiative bears fruit, the prime minister has launched a National Skill Development Mission and unveiled a National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

**just in jest!**

Noting that some 13 million new jobs and sources of earning a livelihood have to be created every year, the PM warned that the country's chronic unemployment and underemployment problem could turn India's much-vaunted 'demographic dividend' of a burgeoning young population into a 'demographic dividend' if jobless and frustrated youth turn to crime, in keeping with the saying that the devil finds work for idle hands to do.

If the country wants to achieve full employment in the next decade it certainly needs to fit the skill bill. This, however,



raises the question as to what those skills should be, and how and by whom they are to be imparted to those desirous of acquiring them?

Like all questions this could have a political answer. In this case, literally so. For if there is one profession which seems to need no training school or institute, no exams to pass, no degrees or diplomas or other qualifications to gain before people can enter it, it is the profession of politics.

Indeed if there is one sphere of activity which can truly be called a growth industry in India, it is the business of politics. Currently,

there are about 1,761 registered political parties in the country, and by all indications there are more in the pipeline with newly formed splinter groups being announced on an almost daily basis.

In this context, the politics of job creation takes on a new shade of meaning and becomes job creation via politics. Indeed political know-how is a skill innate in Indians, we hold a competitive advantage here and no IITs, ITIs or skill development missions are needed to impart training in this. The dada on the street (a human resource India, fortunately, is superbly endowed with) will provide better training than the expensive Ivy League educated professor (who rarely comes back anyway).

The dhanda of politics holds forth the promise of jobs for the boys, and girls, who will constitute Gen Next. Who themselves will be products of that other vocation that needs no preparatory training or passing of tests, which is the vocation of parenthood.

Both politics and parenting are do-it-yourself occupations. A commonality which might be the origin of 'mai-baap sarkar'.