Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times, ND
18/06/2011 P-1

IIT PROFS GUILTY OF FACILITATING CHEATING: PROBE

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NEW DELHI: Two Indian Institute of Technology faculty members facilitated large-scale cheating at this year's IIT joint entrance examination, a probe panel has found, raising fresh questions about a test repeatedly hit by controversy in recent years.

The directors of the IITs have banned civil engineering professor CSP Ojha and chemical engineering assistant professor Prakash Biswas, both from IIT-Roorkee, from any exam-related work for five years.

This is the first time IIT faculty members — who set question papers and are in charge of invigilation at test centres — have been indicted for selectively allowing some students to cheat by tricking the multiple security layers in place for the JEE.

A student believed to have been the principal beneficiary of the cheating has been banned for life from taking any IIT entrance test.

Tribune, ND 18/06/2011 P-5

5-year ban on IIT-Roorkee observers

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

In a rare move aimed at cleansing the IIT-JEE system, the premier technical institutes' apex body for admissions, the Joint Admission Board, today recommended an FIR against those who abetted copying by students at a JEE centre in a Bathinda-based engineering college on April 10.

It permanently debarred Bathinda-based Heenu Bansal from any of the IIT-conducted exams in the future. The stringent moves come in the light of fresh evidence of a nexus between the authorities of the blacklisted Giani Zail Singh College of Engineering and Technology, Bathinda, and the IIT observers on duty at the said centre.

The IITs had last month blacklisted the Bathinda college and debarred college principal Balwinder Singh Sidhu and teachers Mukesh Grover and Preet Inder Kaur from having any academic ties with the IITs.

The college teachers were found to have aided copying at Centre No 7058 of the college.

Another high-level inquiry committee subsequently constituted by the IIT-Joint Admission Board (JAB) to determine the involvement of IIT officials has found prima facie case against three IIT Roorkee observers on duty in Bathinda that day.

Copying at Bathinda college

- **Admission board wants 3 IIT observers booked**
- **Says nexus between Bathinda engineering college, officials must be probed**
- **Debars Bathinda-based girl student from taking examinations in future**

Taking exception to the trend, IIT-JAB 2011, under the chairmanship of IIT-Kanpur Director Sanjay Dhande, has directed the IIT-Roorkee to lodge an FIR with the Punjab police to investigate the matter further and apportion blame.

The Joint Admission Board has imposed a five-year ban on the erring IIT-Roorkee observers. "Institute representatives Prakash Biswas, Prof CSP Ojha and Sunil Kumar, detailed by IIT-Roorkee to ensure the smooth conduct of the JEE 2011 at Centre No 7058, GZSCET, Bathinda, will not be associated with any activities of the Joint Entrance Exam for five years," the order dated June 7 states. Ojha's daughter is a BTech (Civil) fourth-year student at the Bathinda college. Complainant Vipin Gupta from Kotkapura had asked the IITs how and why Ojha was appointed observer in a college where his daughter was studying.

Gupta had insinuated a nexus between the IIT officials and the college authorities that had helped five students get consecutive roll numbers and be seated in a room where they could be assisted by invigilators. Gupta's daughter Vatsa, seated in the same room on April 10, was the first to report the matter. Further, the IIT-JAB has permanently debarred Heenu Bansal (daughter of a GZSCET employee whom the IIT inquiry panel has found guilty of cheating) from taking any of the IIT exams in the future.

These include the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering; Joint Admission Test for MSc and post-BSc; Joint Management Entrance Test for MBA in IITs and the Common Entrance Examination for Design.

Times of India ND 18/06/2011 P-21

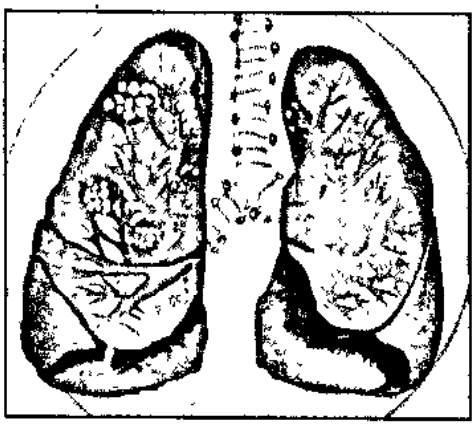
Breath of life: World's 1st lung transplant a success

London: British surgeons have carried out what they claim is the world's first lung transplant on a 20-year-old woman patient who was suffering from two fungal conditions, a media report said.

A team at the University Hospital of South Manchester has successfully carried out the transplant on Becky Jones who was suffering from multi-resistant Aspergillus, a common airborne fungus, and multiple fungal balls in her old lungs.

Lung transplant patients have never before been able to have the operation while suffering from either of these conditions. But, Jones is now able to breathe freely again, the 'Daily Mail' reported. "Becky's transplant brings together a remarkable set of expertises; in fungal infection, molecular testing, advanced transplantation techniques and intensive care, all under one roof.

"With increasing antifungal resistance since 2004, she is a courageous torchbearer for others," Prof David Denning, the Director of the National Aspergillosis Centre, was quoted by the British newspaper as saying. Now out of intensive care



following surgery, Jones said: "I can't, for the life of me, remember feeling so well. The world is officially my oyster! Words simply cannot begin to describe the pure relief I feel."

She added: "The chains have been lifted; I can breathe! I can't for the life of me remember feeling so well! I now plan to travel and study fashion design at college." Jones first developed aspergillosis because she has cystic fibrosis and became allergic to the Aspergillus. As she needed special drugs to improve her breathing, the fungus grew in her damaged airways to form large fungal balls, known as aspergillomas.

She was treated with an antifungal drug but the fungus developed resistance. She is now on preventative antifungal agents given by aerosol and intravenously, to minimize the risk of life-threatening invasive aspergillosis common after lung transplantation because of immune suppression to prevent rejection. PTI

2-yr-old becomes first kid to get artificial lung

For the first time, Washington University physicians and surgeons have successfully used an artificial lung on a 2-year-old, who suffered a heart failure and had abnormally high blood pressure. Owen Stark was given the artificial lung at St Louis Children"s Hospital under a severe condition of pulmonary hypertension, in which blood is prevented from entering the lungs because the arteries are too narrow. The artificial lung 'breathes' outside the patient's body to add oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the blood. Approved only for adults, it has been used to treat severe pulmonary infections or as a bridge to lung transplantation. ANI

Times of India ND 18/06/2011 P-21

Soon, an implant that can switch memory on & off

Benedict Carey

Scientists have designed a brain implant that restored lost memory function and strengthened recall of new information in laboratory rats — a crucial first step in the development of so-called neuroprosthetic devices to repair deficits from dementia, stroke and other brain injuries in humans.

Though still a long way from being tested in humans, the implant demonstrates for the first time that a cognitive function can be improved with a device that mimics the firing patterns of neurons.

In recent years neuroscientists have developed implants that allow paralyzed people to move prosthetic limbs or a computer cursor, using their thoughts to activate the machines. In the new work, being published on Friday, researchers at Wake Forest University and the University of Southern California used some of the same techniques to read neural activity. But they translated those signals internally, to improve brain function rather than to activate outside appendages.

"It's technically very impressive to pull something like this off, given our current level of technology," said Daryl Kipke, a professor of bioengineering at the University of Michigan who was not involved in the experiment.

Kipke, a professor of bioengi-

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LIVING ON HOPE

"We are just scratching the surface when it comes to interacting with the brain, but this experiment shows what's possible and the great potential of interacting with the brain in this way."

In a series of experiments, scientists at Wake Forest led by Sam A Deadwyler trained rats to remember which of two identical levers to press to receive water; the animals first saw one of the two levers appear and then (after being distracted) had to remember to press the other lever to be rewarded. Repeated training on this task teaches rats the general rule, but in each trial the animal has to remember which lever appeared first, to inform the later choice.

animal has to remember

The rats were implanted with a tiny array of electrodes, which threaded from the top of the head down into two neighbouring pieces of the hippocampus, a structure that is crucial for forming these new memories, in rats as in humans. The two slivers of tissue, called CA1 and CA3, communicate with each other as the brain learns and stores new information. The device transmits these exchanges to a computer.

To test the effect of the implant, the researchers used a drug to shut down the activity of CA1. Without CA1 online, the rats could not remember which lever to push to get water. They remembered the rule — push the opposite lever of the one that first appeared — but not which they had seen first. The researchers, having recorded the appropriate signal from CA1, simply replayed it, like a melody on a player piano — and the animals remembered. The implant acted as if it were CA1, at least for this one task. "Turn the switch on, the animal has the memory; turn it off and they don't: that's exactly how it worked," said Theodore W Berger, a professor of engineering at USC and the lead author of the study. NYT NEWS SERVICE

study. NYT NEWS SERVICE