

# Newspaper Clips

June 28, 2011

Times of India ND 28/06/2011

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## IIT-Kgp in soup for misusing US tech

Institute Shared Tech, Breached Contract: US Firm

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** The case against IIT-Kharagpur and its affiliate Technology Incubation and Entrepreneurship Training Society (TIETS) for misappropriation of technology of a US firm in the Northern District Court of California has taken a serious turn.

Recently, the US Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) described the technology as "valuable and novel" even before IIT-Kgp had access to it. What could further complicate matters for IIT is the fact that the US court has refused to grant it sovereign immunity (given to countries).

IIT-Kgp is said to have breached the contract it signed in 2003 with entrepreneur Mandana D Farhang and her affiliate MA Mobile Limited by allegedly passing to others the technology relating to a new platform for mobile computing.

Sanjiv N Singh, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs Farhang and MA Mobile, told TOI from the US, "IIT-Kharagpur should be very worried about the Farhang case. The recent authorization by USPTO of a patent describing Farhang's mobile technology and confirming that the technology in question is valuable and novel—and was valuable and novel as of the year 2000, long before IIT-Kgp even had access to it as a trade secret — confirms that the Farhang case will be a winner and will very likely result in a significant verdict for



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our client. Moreover, the case has been approved to proceed and IIT-Kgp must remain in it as a defendant, despite attempts by it to have itself dismissed from the case."

IIT-Kgp registrar T K Ghosal did not reply. He told TOI that the "matter is subjudice and the institute would not like to comment".

In their complaint, Farhang's lawyers have made Partha P Chakrabarti, dean, Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy, IIT-Kgp, IIT professors Pallab Dasgupta, Rakesh Gupta, Pravanjan Choudhry, Subrat Panda and Animesh Naskar party to the case by alleging wrongful conduct.

Singh said, "There is compelling evidence that IIT-Kgp agents, operating under the direction of and in coordination with Partha Chakrabarti, appear to have misappropriated a US-based company's technology for their own benefit and for dissemination to third parties, including IBM and the Indian Railways."

The case relates to 2003 when Farhang and her affil-

iate entered into an agreement with IIT-Kgp and shared a new mobile computing technology. Farhang and her affiliate shared not only critical technology and confidential information with IIT-Kgp but also disclosed critical trade secrets relating to marketing, business strategies and various applications for which the technology could be used.

In return, IIT-Kgp promised to develop the advanced prototype that Farhang and her affiliate provided to them for specific application with Indian Railways. The complaint in court said while IIT-Kgp promised it could deliver because of its influential status in India, it "misappropriated" the technology and "joint venture's customers for their own benefit, giving the technology to IBM and ultimately to the Indian Railways and possibly others".

The complaint also charged IIT-Kgp with delaying tactics and launching concurrent court proceedings in India without notice to Farhang or her affiliate.

PIONEER ND 28/06/2011 p-2

# Net girlfriend's 'threat': HC directs IIT grad to bear travel expenses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Rahul (name changed) could never have imagined that his 'net girlfriend' would bombard him with so many threatening emails and messages that he would be forced to approach the Delhi High Court for relief. In an unusual case of an 'e-relationship' gone awry, the court on Monday directed Rahul to bear the expense for travel and accommodation of his e-friend and her escort. Justice Suresh Kait had on Friday last ordered the e-friend, Richa (name changed) to come from Mumbai to appear in court on Monday.

Taking serious note of her non-appearance, the court has asked her to furnish a personal bond of ₹10,000 which will be forfeited if she fails to appear before the court on the next date of hearing in July. Richa, 31, is a post-doctoral research scholar at IIT-Mumbai.

Rahul had moved court seeking a direction to the girl to stop bombarding him with emails and SMSes in which she had threatened to

commit suicide if he did not marry her.

Rahul, who is an IIT-graduate working for an MNC in Gurgaon, met Richa over the Internet in August 2010. The two became net friends and their e-chats would continue late into the night.

According to Rahul, she insisted on meeting him in person and visited him in Delhi in November. Rahul's nightmare began soon after her visit as she began pressuring him to marry her as they belonged to the same community.

"After meeting me, she began pressing for marriage with me despite being at least five to six years older to me," 25-year-old Rahul had told the court.

The court has now ordered Rahul to send her an e-ticket and arrange for her accommodation in a hotel near the Delhi High Court to facilitate her appearance before the court. The petitioner has also been asked to bear the expense for an escort to travel with her to Delhi.

## **E-FRIEND'S ATTACK**

Statesman ND 28.06.2011

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## IIT Mumbai's woman research associate issued warrant by HC

NEW DELHI, 27 JUNE: The Delhi High Court today issued bailable warrant against a woman researcher of IIT Mumbai who has been accused of subjecting her internet friend, an IIT, Kanpur, graduate to "emotional blackmail" for marrying her.

Justice Suresh Kait issued the warrant against Dr Renuka (name changed) to ensure that she is produced before him at the earliest. Justice Kait issued the warrant stipulating that a Delhi police official will have it served at her Mumbai's address and following the service of the warrant, she would be released on bail on a personal bond of Rs 10,000.

"Issue bailable warrant against respondent (Dr Renuka) to ensure her presence in the court on July 4, the next date of hearing the matter," the court said. **pti**

# MHA May Seek Review of IISc-Huawei Pact

Ministry may insist on a prior security clearance for MoU to set up telecom lab

**BHARTI JAIN**  
NEW DELHI

RAISING security concerns over the recent tieup between Huawei Technologies, a Chinese firm that has often run into security roadblocks here, and the Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for testing imported telecom gear for spyware and malware, the union home ministry is contemplating seeking a review of the pact and insisting on a prior security clearance for the agreement.

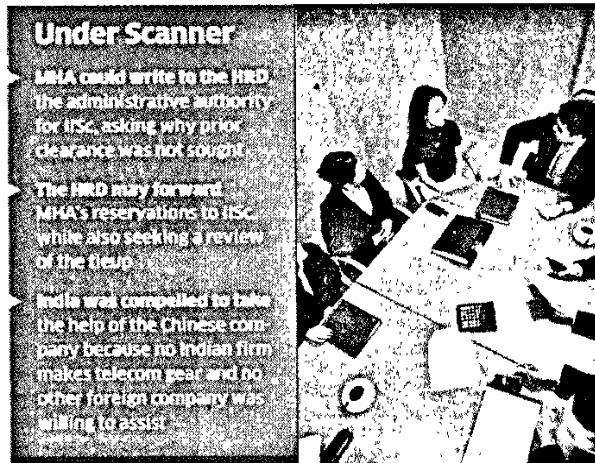
"Naturally, there are concerns.... a mandatory security clearance should have been sought in this case, as it relates to the strategic telecommunications sector," a senior official of the security establishment told ET on Monday.

According to another intelligence official, given that there are systems in place to rescind an agreement on security grounds even after it has been signed, the MHA could always write to the human resource development (HRD) ministry, the administrative authority for IISc, asking why prior security clearance was not sought before Huawei was finalised for providing knowhow and equipment for a facility that will be a clearing house for all imported telecom gear.

The HRD may forward the MHA's reservations to the IISc, while also seeking a review of the IISc-Huawei tieup in view of the security concerns raised in the past against the Chinese telecom major.

The MoU, finalised only last month, requires Huawei to provide "documentation, expertise, methods and standards for studying telecom equipment" at the testing lab to be housed at IISc, Bangalore.

The lab at IISc is being built solely to address the concerns of in-



## Under Scanner

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telligence and security agencies about the Chinese vendors. "In order for IISc to perform certain studies in respect of telecom equipments, IISc shall be requiring detailed understanding

about various features, standards and related documentation. Huawei... agrees to share some information, knowledge, software, hardware and equipments with IISc for its studies," says the MoU.

India was compelled to take the help of the Chinese company because no Indian firm makes telecom gear and no other foreign company was willing to assist because of worries about intellectual property rights.

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Huawei is the world's second-largest telecom equipment manufacturer after Ericsson, with 2010 revenues of \$28 billion (Rs 1.27 lakh crore).

It also says that both of them can visit each other's facilities, including Huawei's finance minister Pranab Mukherjee in the 2010-11 budget. It is being modelled after the China Information Technology Certification Centre that operates and maintains manufacturing plants and logistics centres.

Mint ND 28.06.2011 P-3

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

# Applications of 600 colleges turned down

Most rejections due to non-compliance with norms; total approvals likely to be 40% less compared with last year

By Prashant K. Nanda  
prashant.n@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

A new rule on information to be provided by colleges seeking government approval has resulted in the rejection of 600 applications from entities wishing to start schools offering specialisation in subjects such as engineering and management.

Some experts say the rejections will affect the government's plans to increase the number of students enrolled in technical programmes, but others say it reflects an emphasis on quality.

The government's education regulator for technical pro-

grammes, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) received 1,062 applications from entities seeking to offer undergraduate and postgraduate technical programmes this year, according to its acting chairman S.S. Mantha, and it will approve less than 500 (174 have received approvals already).

The total number of approvals will be almost 40% lower than that issued last year and just about one-third of the number of approvals issued the year before.

The process will be completed by the first week of July, added Mantha, who declined to name any of the schools whose applications have been rejected.

Mantha said most rejections were due to non-compliance with requirements. "Among other reasons, many of them don't have proper buildings. How can they impart education? We have said a clear no to opening colleges in temporary buildings."

The new self-disclosure policy

that is behind the rejections requires entities wishing to start a technical school to upload information and documentary support on AICTE's website. The details required include land records, building plans, videos of the physical infrastructure, and faculty information.

"So far the institutes were complaining about lack of transparency; now when everything is online and open to the public, they should not blame us. They have to make the info public for the benefit of students, parents, government and of course, for themselves. We have taken the decision based on the info they have uploaded," Mantha said.

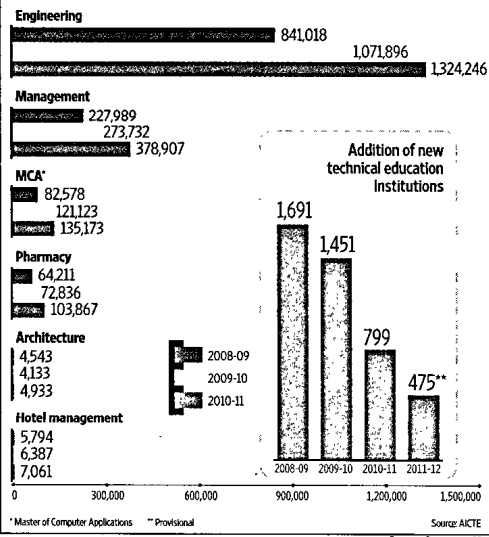
The new rule was put in place after allegations of ad hocism and corruption were targeted at the regulator.

The schools themselves are divided on the merits of the move towards self-disclosure.

"In the name of self-disclosure and e-governance, the technical

## CAPACITY CREATION

Growth of seats in different programmes across technical institutions.



education regulator is harassing education entrepreneurs. Unless you allow private participation in higher education, it will be difficult to provide higher education to all those who deserve to be in this system," said H. Chaturvedi, director of Birla In-

stitute of Management Technology in Greater Noida and alternate president of Educational Promotion Society for India, a lobby group representing private educational institutions.

The Central government wants to encourage around 30 million

more students to opt for higher education over the next decade. Currently, around 15 million students are pursuing higher education programmes in technical and non-technical subjects.

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal has previously said that India needs to add at least 25,000 more colleges to achieve this target, and also stressed on the importance of private schools. At present, only 13% of students eligible to enrol in a technical programme do so; the global average is 27%.

Mantha claimed that the new approach would improve the quality of education. "Quality of technical education is the need of the hour. Else we will end up producing graduates with hardly any skill and knowledge."

In 1947, India had 44 engineering colleges and 43 polytechnics, including pharmacy and architecture colleges. Currently, there are 10,364 technical colleges, including 3,241 engineering colleges, 3,000 polytechnics and 1,102 pharmacy colleges.

The self-disclosure "is good for colleges," said Prashant Bhalla, vice-president of Faridabad-based Manav Rachna International University, who admitted that uploading all the documents on AICTE's website can get "tedious". "When all the information about you is available to the public, it adds to your credibility."

Hindu ND 28.06.2011 p-13

# “UGC regulations for deemed universities a retrograde step”

## VIT University Chancellor writes to Manmohan Singh

Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI:** The ‘UGC Regulations for Deemed Universities 2010’ is a retrograde step that interferes with the autonomy and freedom of private university administration, according to the founder-Chancellor of VIT University, G. Viswanathan.

Mr. Viswanathan has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in response to the MHRD’s recent announcements with regard to reforms in higher education. He said the Ministry had announced certain policies with good intention, but steps to implement them seemed retrograde, which “strengthened the permit raj and discouraged the participation of the private sector.”

Pointing to regulations that prohibit the managing trustee or any other trustee of the trust which runs the



*G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT University, during an interview with *The Hindu*, in Chennai on Monday. - PHOTO: M. VEDHAN.*

University from holding the positions of Chancellor as well as the Chairman of the Board of Management (BoM) and limit the number of trustees on the BOM to 2, he said: “The focus ought to be

on how sound the governance is, the quality of education and the outcomes of the institution rather than on disallowing trustees to take part in governance without regard to their capability, dedication and honesty.”

### “Unfair to fix fees”

On the proposal to fix the fees to be collected by deemed universities, Mr. Viswanathan said that while the government did not fix the fees to be charged by private hospitals for various essential services rendered to the public, it would be unfair to fix the fees for deemed universities.

Referring to the Tandon Committee report on deemed universities, he said it had “tarnished the good reputation of most of the deemed universities” and prevented the “creation of many new private deemed universities.” It also replaced

a report that a UGC Committee comprising leading academicians had put together.

### “Laudable move”

Calling ‘The Foreign Educational Institutional Bill 2010’ a “laudable initiative,” Mr. Viswanathan sought a level-playing field for deemed universities with the same autonomy outside the regime of the UGC and the AICTE.

Talking to *The Hindu* on Monday, he said: “There is a need for expanding both the public and private education system. Since the government is unable to spend money, it is unable to expand the state education system. In the same breath, it is disallowing expansion of private universities. Given the acute shortage of seats in the country, there will be enough elbow room for all students only if there is expansion of the higher education sector.”

Mail Today ND 28.06.2011 p-4

**FACTOIDS**

IITK has always been at the forefront of cutting-edge research. Besides developing Jugnu, a remote-sensing nano satellite, IITK is working on creating small, synthetic structures that help regenerate natural heart tissue cells, which may have been damaged in a cardiac arrest. This is especially important for India with a high incidence of heart disease.

# Building Foundations Engineering Dreams

By Piyush Srivastava

**T**HE Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) is widely recognised as one of the top technological learning centres in India. The institute is expanding fast, and is looking forward to opening a centre in Noida soon, to enable those present in the National Capital Region to have access to this premier institution for on-site studies, just like those in the main institute.

## IITK STUDENTS ARE BUSY WORKING ON REDUCING THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF HEART DISEASE IN INDIA ALONG WITH BROWN UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS

"The Noida campus will be a distance study centre to be opened by 2012 and will function with the help of the best technocrats imparting education through conferences. It will also offer short-term management and refresher courses," says Sanjiv Kashalkar, registrar of IITK. But then, IITK has always been at the forefront of innovation — being the first educational institute in India to offer computer sciences as far back as 1963, or in more recent times, working on Jugnu, a remote-sensing nano satellite scheduled to be launched this year.

One of the more interesting projects that the institution has been working on is to find a way to bring down the incidence of heart attacks in the country. In collaboration with Brown University of Rhode Island, USA, an Ivy League institution, IITK has created a small synthetic structure that regenerates natural heart tissue cells. Says IITK director Sanjay Dhande: "This technology can regenerate previously dead cells due to cardiac arrests. Clinical trials for this are on."

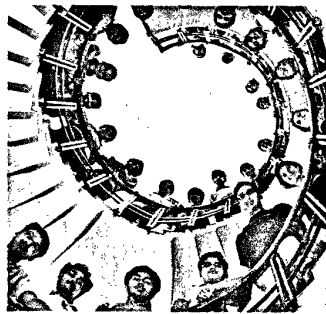
An innovative area of research is safe signalling and navigation for the Indian Railways. A small device using (Global Positioning System) GPS and (General Packet Radio Services) GPRS technologies, senses the presence of other trains on the tracks and can help avert collisions even in the dense fog in zero visibility conditions. This system can be used to keep a track of the running status of a train, so real time information can be uploaded on to stations along a train's travel path. This initiative has been successfully tested as a pilot project on the Allahabad-Kanpur track.

Another initiative of IITK is the SIDBI Innovation and Incubation Centre (SIIC), set up in partnership with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to foster innovation, research and entrepreneurial activities in technology-based areas. The idea is to provide a platform for start-ups to



IITK was one of the first institutes to offer computer courses in India, under the guidance of leading American universities. Today, it has fostered a close relationship with the IT industry to stay at the cutting edge of technology.

## IITK is the place of choice for all those who aim to pursue engineering courses in India



Those who make it to IITK are amongst the country's most brilliant engineering minds.

Placement record of IITK: IITK has to its credit a number of known luminaries amongst its alumni. The placement record for its B.Tech students hovers around seventy per cent, with top MNCs recruiting directly from the campus.

**Notable Alumni:** N. R. Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys and Satish Kaura, founder of SAMTEL are alumni.

develop their ideas into viable products. Spread over 4.3 square kilometres, IITK has its own airfield for flight testing and gliding — since it offers a B.Tech programme in Aeronautical Engineering. The institute boasts of a National Wind Tunnel Facility, an advanced centre for material sciences, a Bio-technology centre, an advanced centre for Electronic Systems, the Samtel Centre for Display Technology, a centre for Mechatronics, a centre for Laser Technology, the Prabhu Goel Research Centre for Computer and Internet Security, and a facility for ecological and analytical testing.

The P. K. Kelkar library, so named after IITK's first director, has over

300,000 volumes on its racks and adds 4,500 more a year. Around 1,000 magazines are found on the shelves of this library, which is spread over three floors.

IITK offers a number of undergraduate (B.Tech.) courses ranging from Aerospace Engineering, Biological Sciences and Bio-engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering to Mechanical Engineering. A two-year M.Tech is also offered in some of the areas, and what many are not aware of is that a two-year MBA and M.Sc degree in some disciplines is also offered over here.

## HISTORY OF IITK

- Established by an Act of Parliament in 1959, IITK had humble beginnings in a room in the canteen building of the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute at the Agricultural Gardens in Kanpur.

- The Institute moved to its present location in the outskirts of the city, into an area of 4.3 square kilometres in 1963.

- A consortium of US universities, including MIT, University of California, Berkeley; California Institute of Technology; Princeton University; Carnegie Institute of Technology; University of Michigan; Ohio State University; Case Institute of Technology and Purdue University, helped IITK for over ten years in setting up its research laboratories and configuring various academic programmes.

- It was the first Institute in India in August 1963 which started offering courses in computer education under its electronic engineering department. In 1977, IITK started higher academic programmes for the M.Tech and Ph.D. degrees. Today, it works very closely with the IT industry.

Times of India ND 28/06/2011

p-1 (DelhiTimes)

# DU's got scam bags!

The fake caste certificate scam is just one trick out of DU's admission bag. Be cheat smart

Garima Sharma

**T**he Himanshu Gupta admission racket, where he got DU seekers admissions with fake caste certificates, may have caused a furore, but if truth be told, no admission season at DU is complete without its share of swindlers. Every year, DU's admission-lore adds a new con to its encyclopedia. But *fuchchas*, not to worry: We did a little digging around and found the most common tricks that you must watch out for:

## ADMISSION KI 'GARAANTEE'

The helpless-looking girl with a fancy car and flashy mobile phone, or the depressed dude with the low waist jeans and a Mercedes in tow, are the easiest targets for touts looking to make a quick and easy buck. Amrita Arora \* (24) came across a man who could make fake certificates for sports trials, when she went to fill the admission form for a prestigious north Delhi college with her father. She tells us, "He asked for ₹25,000 for making me two state-level certificates, and I am ashamed to admit that I agreed. We gave him half the amount as advance, and when we went looking for him the next day, he had vanished. His phone was switched off and we obviously did not have any address. Needless to say, I never went for that sports trial."

Between extra-curricular activities (ECA) and sports, admission touts make a killing providing fake certificates to DU aspirants. While there's always the risk of getting caught, says Amrita, you should realise that the tout himself can swindle the money and vanish.

## HALF RATE MEIN HAI

Sample a pretty regular story – a guy runs towards a DU student and offers to sell him a cellphone he found on the road, for one third the original price. He's already thrown away the SIM card, so the student need not worry about it. The guy who found the phone needs the cash to take the next bus for some urgent work. So, the student must decide in two min-

utes. The student buys the phone for ₹5,000 and bids adieu to the salesman. Later, the student finds out that the phone, obviously, doesn't work.

But just in case you think you are smart and will never buy a phone (and that too stolen) from a stranger, you need to know that there's so much more on offer – iPods (₹500), pen drives (₹50-100), external hard disks (₹500), Being Human watches (₹200) and what not. Looking for a bargain? DU may not be the best bet.

## ROLE MOLE

Think the hundreds of auditions that happen in DU may give you that one chance to make it to the silver



screen? Well, not always. Kritika Ahuja (21)\* registered with an auditions company for DU students that approached her through a social networking site, and paid them ₹2500. She was called to audition for an ad for a Kerala NGO, but wasn't selected. When Kritika contacted the audition incharge again, she was told that he had moved on from the company and her name was never in the list of those shortlisted for auditions.

## GIVE VOTE, GET ATTENDANCE

There are some give and take options too: *Fuchchas* are often promised things like attendance in return for votes in upcoming college elections (*yaar, tujhe main ECA ki attendance dilwa doonga, bas paanch votes dila de*). Of course, the seniors will never recognise you once they're elected.

(\*Names changed on request)

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# Corporates opt for in-house social networks

Verne G Kopytoff

What would Facebook look like without photos of drunken nights out and tales of misbehaving cats? It might look a lot like the internal social network at the offices of Nikon Instruments. The tone is decidedly businesslike, as employees exchange messages about customer orders, new products and closing deals.

The general rule is that "if you don't want your company CEO to see it, don't post it", said John G Bivona, customer relations manager at Nikon Instruments, which makes microscopes.

As social networks increasingly dominate communications in private lives, businesses of all sizes — from tiny start-ups to mid-size companies like Nikon to behemoths like Dell — are adopting them for the workplace. Although it is difficult to quantify how many companies use internal social networks, a number of corporate software companies have sensed the opportunity and offer various systems, some free to existing customers, others that charge a fee per user.

It's one more instance of how consumer technology trends, like the use of tablet computers, are crossing into



© Eyecandy Images/Corbis

## INSIDE JOB

office life. Because of Facebook, most people are already comfortable with the idea of "following" their colleagues. But in the business world, the connections are between colleagues, not personal friends or family, and the communications are meant to be about work matters — like team projects, production flaws and other routine business issues.

At Nikon, for example, which employs 500 people in offices throughout the United States, Canada and Brazil, a code of conduct for using the service leaves little room for the idle chit-chat that is pervasive on Facebook. NYT NEWS SERVICE