

Newspaper Clips

June 29, 2011

Times of India Kolkata 28.06.11 p-9

US court heat on IIT-Kgp

Institute Leaked Mobile Computing Tech, Claims Firm

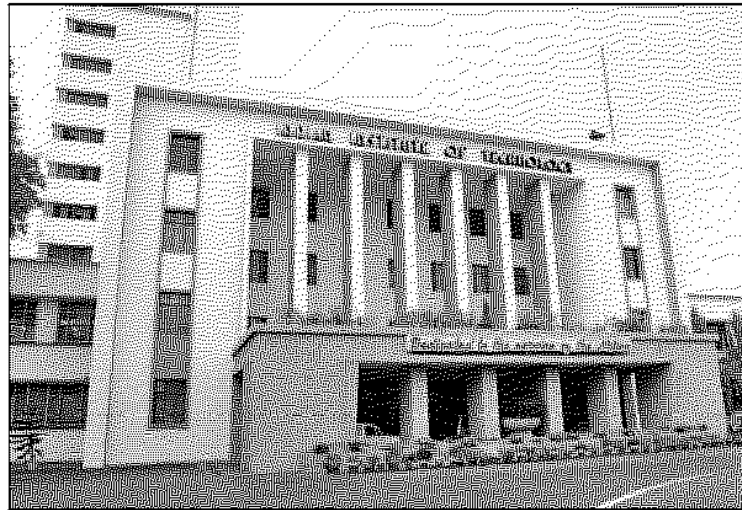
Akshaya Mukul | TNN

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 Kharagpur 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



STORM BREWING: IIT Kharagpur

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 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 to a detailed questionnaire. He told TOI that the “matter is subjudice and the institute would not like to comment”.

In the 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 agents of IIT-Kgp, operating under the direction of and in coordina-

tion 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 affiliate 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”.

Mint ND 29.06.201 P-5

STATUS QUO

Govt shelves NIT fee increase proposal

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday shelved a proposal to raise the tuition fee at 20 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) by 40%.

More than 22,000 students are enrolled at NITs, which are regarded as top engineering and technology schools next only to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in stature.

The NIT governing council had proposed to raise the tuition fee from ₹35,000 per year to ₹50,000 for BTech and MTech programmes. *Mint* has reviewed a copy of the proposal.

But a meeting on Tuesday chaired by human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal did not accept the proposal, a ministry spokesperson said.

"It will now be referred to a committee," the spokesperson said. A ministry official said growing criticism over rising inflation and a recent hike in fuel prices prompted the ministry's decision.

"At a time when the government is facing criticism from both political parties and the public on a number of issues, it

would not have been just to go for a fee hike in NITs," the official said, asking not to be named.

An increase in fuel prices last week led to protests in many parts of the country.

Earlier this month, education ministers from various states did not agree with the Central government's proposal to increase university fees by 10% every three years.

Bharat Gulia, senior manager with audit and consulting firm **Ernst and Young**, said unless institutes such as NITs are allowed to hike fees, it will be difficult for them to attain financial autonomy. "They need more funds to improve infrastructure, research and impart quality education," he said. "Poor students should get subsidy, but everyone studying in these colleges should not enjoy low-fee, high-quality education."

The meeting on Tuesday, however, approved proposals to provide merit-based scholarships to undergraduate students and promote the admission of foreign students by holding the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination online. Students for NITs and some top architecture institutes are selected through this examination.

M.Sc in IIT

Q. While pursuing B.Sc Chemistry (2nd year) at Panjab University, I have developed a great interest in biochemistry. I have heard that one can do M.Sc from IITs also. Will I be eligible for this - particularly at IIT Delhi?

— Minal Punj

A. Sure you are ranked among the top centres for higher education in chemistry in the country, IIT Delhi's Department of Chemistry is an attractive destination for students pursuing M. Sc., M.Tech and Ph.D degrees and research.

And luckily for you, the unique feature of IIT-D's M.Sc curriculum is that biochemistry is treated on an equal footing with the traditional sub-disciplines of chemistry: inorganic, organic, and physical.

Besides, the basic courses in these four sub-disciplines you will be exposed to the state-of-the-art in various research fields in the elective courses. You will learn design and synthetic principles, use analytical instruments, and sharpen your writing skills during your year-long project work on cutting-edge research problems to prepare yourself for a career in modern day R&D in chemistry.

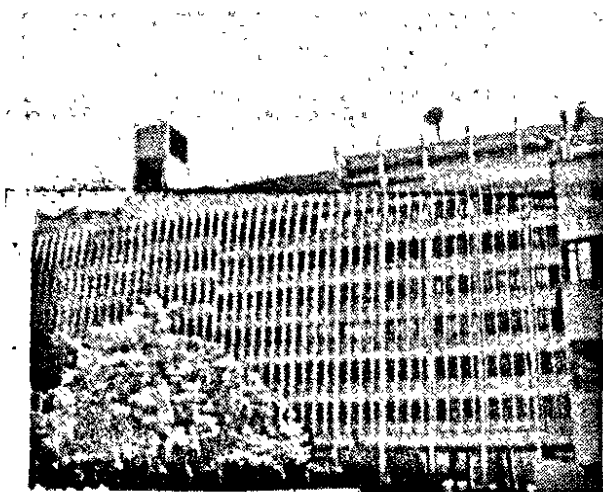
You can then work in major chemical companies or pursue your doctoral work in top class institutes and universities across the globe.

IIT-D also offers a unique M.Tech in "Molecular Engineering: Chemical Synthesis & Analysis".

This two-year post-MSc programme prepares students for a career in the chemical industry.

To pursue M.Sc at any of the IITs, you need a bachelor's degree with chemistry as a subject for three years/six semesters and mathematics at (plus II) level.

Selection is on the basis of a Joint Admission Test (JAM) for M.Sc in May.



Hindustan Times ND 29/06/2011

P-15 HT Horizon

news brief

IIM Kozhikode marks gender diversity landmark

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) continued its novel mission on the promotion of gender diversity and subject spread for the second consecutive year. The academic batch of year 2011-2013 will include 35% women as compared to 30% of last year. Out of the total number of 341 students admitted, 121 are women.

Given its niche positioning, IIMK has again proved to be a thought leader by sustaining its diversity of student profiles. IIMK has been the trendsetter for business schools in the country with its consistent gender diversity drive, which is now emulated by others. The fact that there is significant representation from the lower income groups in the

socio-economic profile of the parents of the incoming students speaks for the social diversity the Institute has been able to achieve.

IIMK has also got the credit of proactively enacting the affirmative action of implementing the government norms on reservations to the backward and the economically weaker sections.

Out of the women admitted, 84 have Common Admission Test percentile between 90 and 100. IIMK director Debashis Chatterjee says, "Giving prominence to girl students has become a trend in IIM-Kozhikode. Last year too we had the maximum number of women-students among all IIMs." He says girls have always performed better than boys. "This is all on merit. The female students have brought greater diversity both in the learning environment as well as in their academic and social profiles. It is truly a transformation process at IIMK whereby students whose parental income is less than a lakh per year end up with top jobs around the world" he says.

स्पेशल हैं आईआईटी टॉपर्स

आईआईटी एंट्रेस एग्जाम क्वॉलिफाई करना अपने आप में ग्रेट अचीवमेंट है। आइए जानें क्या कहते हैं टॉपर्स:

आ आईआईटी एंट्रेस एग्जाम 2011 के टॉप रैंकर्स वाकई स्पेशल हैं। टॉपर प्रध्वीतेज इम्मादी मात्र 16 साल का है। उसने कभी लगातार लंबे समय तक बैठकर पढ़ाई नहीं की, न ही टॉप करने के लिए उन्होंने जी-जान लगाई। इम्मादी का कहना है कि उसे जो भी मुश्किलें आईं, 11वीं कक्षा में आईं। उस दौरान कुछ चीजों को समझने में परेशानी हुई थी, लेकिन आगे चलकर वह भी खत्म हो गई।

इम्मादी का सपना अब आईएएस ऑफिसर बनने का है। अपनी सक्सेस की एक वजह वह यह भी बताते हैं कि उन्होंने कभी इसको अपना अंतिम लक्ष्य नहीं माना। उनका इससे आगे भी बहुत कुछ करने का सपना रहा, इसलिए यह लक्ष्य उसके सामने छोटा हो गया। यही वजह थी कि आईआईटी एग्जाम से एक दिन पहले श्री चैतन्य जूनियर कॉलेज, विजयवाड़ा का यह एक्सट्रा ऑर्डिनरी स्टूडेंट आईपीएल मैच देख रहा था। इनकी चाहत आईआईटी-पोवई में जाने और इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग करने की है।

कुछ भी भूलता नहीं

दूसरे नंबर पर रहे शुभम मेहता। इनकी सफलता का श्रेय उनकी जबरदस्त याददाश्त क्षमता को जाता है। कोटा स्थित उनके कोचिंग इंस्टीट्यूट के एक टीचर का कहना है, 'शुभम जो एक बार पढ़ लेता था, भूलता नहीं था।' शुभम ने बताया कि उसके परिवार में कभी किसी ने आईआईटी नहीं किया था। इसलिए उसने आईआईटी को चुना। अब शुभम का सपना पोवई में एडमिशन पाना है।

सोचा न था

लड़कियों में टॉप रैंक में और ओवरऑल 12वें स्थान पर रही सुमेधा गर्ग। सुमेधा के परिवार की खुशियों का तो ठिकाना ही नहीं है। सुमेधा से पहले इसके भाई अंकित ने कुछ साल पहले छठा स्थान हासिल किया था। बकौल सुमेधा, मेरे भाई की सफलता ने मुझे आईआईटी के लिए प्रेरित किया। हालांकि उसने यह कभी नहीं सोचा था कि वह लड़कियों में टॉप रहेगी।

टॉप टेन की थी उम्मीद

मुंबई के टॉपर और ऑल इंडिया में 13वें स्थान पर रहे कनदर्प खंडवाला ने 10वीं के एग्जाम में 98.6 प्रतिशत मार्क्स के साथ सीबीएसई का एग्जाम टॉप किया था। आईआईटी एंट्रेस एग्जाम में इसे टॉप टेन में रहने की उम्मीद थी, लेकिन वह 13वां स्थान प्राप्त करके भी खुश है। अब वह आईआईटी-पोवई से कंप्यूटर साइंस की पढ़ाई करना चाहता है।

11वीं में स्ट्रगल

10वें स्थान पर रहे तन्मय रंधावने की कहानी वाकई दिलचस्प है। 18 साल का यह स्टूडेंट दो साल पहले इंग्लिश मीडियम स्कूल से 11वीं पास करने के लिए स्ट्रगल कर रहा था। उसने कभी सोचा भी नहीं था कि एक दिन देश में 10वां स्थान हासिल करेगा। मराठी मीडियम से 10वीं तक पढ़ाई करने वाले इस स्टूडेंट ने ओबीसी कैटेगरी में पूरे भारत में दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया है। अब आईआईटी-पोवई में पढ़ाई करेगा।