Newspaper Clips

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'Appoint vigilance officer at IIT-Kgp'

FAKE INSTITUTE Central Vigilance Commission asks HRD ministry to nominate a dedicated vigilance officer

ht IMPACT

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NEW DELHI: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has directed the government to appoint a full-time chief vigilance officer (CVO) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur after a senior professor doubling up as CVO was found running a fake institute, thereby misusing the IIT campus and brand.

The CVC — India's apex anti-corruption watchdog — has twice written to the HRD ministry directing it to appoint a full-time CVO at the IIT, citing the fake institute scam exposed by HT on October 18, 2010, top government sources told this newspaper.

No other IIT or central higher educational institution has a full-time CVO, and professors

A SENIOR PROFESSOR DOUBLING UP AS CVO WAS FOUND RUNNING A FAKE INSTITUTE, THEREBY MISUSING THE IIT CAMPUS AND BRAND

are asked to double up as the institutions' top vigilance officers.

But a series of scams at IIT Kharagpur, and particularly the fake institute run by aerospace engineering professor Amit Kumar Ghosh — while he was the CVO — have forced the CVC to direct a special case for one of the the oldest premier engineering schools of the country.

Ghosh, officials said, used his post as the CVO to cover up the scam, under which an unrecognised institute called the Institute of Electrical Engineers duped poor students by offering them courses with no validity.

Ghosh — who has also accused two former IIT directors — is currently on bail, and at least a dozen other former or current faculty and employees are under the scanner.

These include IIT registrar TK Ghoshal, who remains in his post despite documents that suggest that he aided in the fraud. Ghoshal and others too are under cloud but they have denied the charges.

Repeated irregularities also suggest the need of a dedicated CVO, sources said.

The recurrent irregularities started with the IIT repeatedly changing its stance on the formula it claims to have used to arrive at the 2006 Joint Entrance Examination cut-offs, and also include a secret and illegal faculty quota (exposed first by HT on July 27, 2010).

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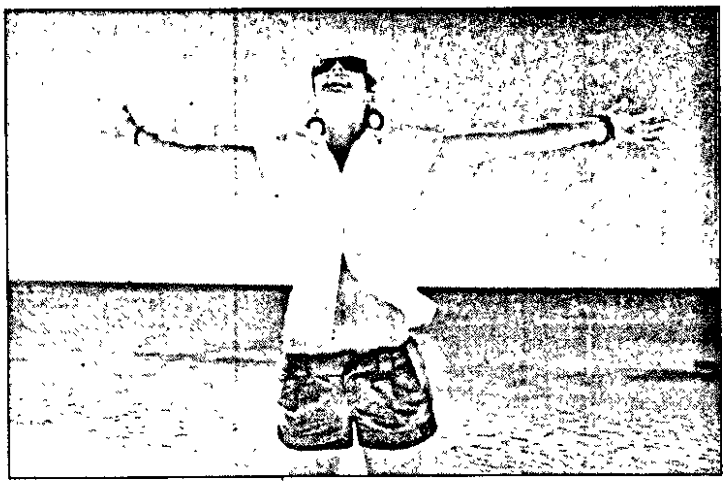
Today you can see Mercury

NASA craft enters planet's orbit for the first time



SPOT THE WEIRDEST PLANET AS IT PAIRS WITH JUPITER

Washington: Earth is about to get better acquainted with Mercury, a rocky wonderland of extremes. Sure, Mars may fascinate science fiction authors, Jupiter looms large and Saturn has stunning rings, but tiny Mercury can claim the title as weirdest planet in the solar system. It has the wildest extremes from hot to cold. A day on Mercury lasts longer than its year. And scientists think it holds tons of ice in dark craters despite being the planet closest to the Sun.

On St. Patrick's Day (March 17), for the first time, a small NASA spacecraft called Messenger will enter Mercury's orbit, circling at times as close as 125 miles from the planet's surface. Barely bigger than our moon but much more distant, Mercury is not easy to see without a telescope. However, an odd pairing with giant Jupiter will make it easier to spot it with the naked eye starting Sunday, said Geoff Chester at the US Naval Observatory in Washington.

Chester said people in the northern hemisphere should look to the west after sunset. Jupiter will be about 10 degrees above the western horizon. Mercury will be about finger's width to the right of Jupiter.

"Mercury has sometimes been called the forgotten planet," said Sean Solomon, the Carnegie Institution planetary geologist who is Messenger's chief scientist. "It is extreme in many respects. It is the smallest, closest to the Sun. It is made of the densest materials."

NASA's Mariner probe flew by Mercury in 1974 and 1975, and Messenger has whizzed by it in 2008 and 2009. But this is the first time a spacecraft will attempt the tricky manoeuvre of entering Mercury's orbit, circling it for a year. To do that, Messenger will have to thwart the enormous pull of the Sun. The overall heat on its sunny side will melt some parts of Messenger's instruments. These will act as a heat buffer for the more sensitive parts. Then the melted parts will refreeze when the spacecraft hits a cooler zone, said Messenger system engineering chief Eric Finnegan.

One myth about Mercury is that it's the hottest planet. Actually, that would be Venus. But Mercury has a tenuous atmosphere with wild swings in temperature. When parts of Mercury face the Sun, it can be 800 degrees. On the opposite side, it can be 300 degrees below zero, said mission scientist Ralph McNutt of Johns Hopkins University. Near Mercury's poles there are deep craters gouged by comets and asteroids that "never see any sunlight and haven't for maybe a billion years," McNutt said. AP

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Earth's axis wobbles, your day's shorter

Subodh Varma | TNN

The earthquake-cum-tsunami packed such fury that it has moved Japan's main island, Honshu, by about 8 feet. It's also caused the Earth's axis to wobble by about 4 inches – something that experts say will lead to the shortening of the day by 1.6 microseconds, or just over a millionth of a second.

These very tiny changes happen because of changes in the speed of rotation of the Earth as surface mass gets shifted around in earthquakes, says Patrick Dasgupta, professor of astrophysics in Delhi University.

As portions of the Earth's surface shift, there is a bit of an extra wobble in the planet's rotation around its axis. This causes an increase in the speed of spinning, resulting in shortening of the day, said Dasgupta. This, however, will have no impact on life on Earth, he added.

The 2004 Asian tsunami had clipped the Earth's day by 6.8 microseconds and shifted its axis by about 3 inches. The Chilean quake of 2010 too shortened the day by 1.26 microseconds and changed the axis by 3 inches.

The shifting of islands was observed in the 2004 tsunami too. The southern Nicobar group of islands saw permanent subsidence of about 15 feet while the northern Andaman Islands rose by up to five feet.

After the 2004 quake which caused the Asian tsunami, some of the smaller islands off the coast of Sumatra moved by as much as 20 metres and its north-western tip shifted to the southwest by 36 metres. That temblor was considered more powerful than the recent Japanese one, measuring 9.1 in magnitude.

The Japanese quake caused a 400-km-long and 160-km-wide rupture in the Earth's crust as one tectonic plate dove under another off the coast of northern Japan. This led to an upheaval in the sea above it sending a 30-foot wall of water racing up to 10km inland in Japan and reaching California across the Pacific Ocean 10 hours later. Several small island states in the Pacific experienced 2-3 feet high waves, which were ripples of the Japanese tsunami as it went bouncing across the ocean.

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NOW, NUCLEAR CLOUD OVER JAPAN

Huge Explosion At Reactor, Frantic Bid To Contain Meltdown

Fukushima: Radiation leaked from Japan's earthquake-crippled nuclear plant on Saturday after a blast blew the roof off, and authorities prepared to distribute iodine to people in the vicinity to protect them from exposure.

GROUNDED: A ship is swept on to the street in Miyagi Prefecture

The government insisted radiation levels were low because the explosion severely damaged the main building of the plant, but it had not affected the reactor core container.

Local media said three workers suffered radiation exposure at the plant in the wake of Friday's massive earthquake, which sent a 33ft tsunami ripping through towns and cities across the northeast coast.

The blast raised fears of a meltdown at the power facility, 240km north of Tokyo, as officials scrambled to contain what could be the worst nuclear disaster since the Chernobyl explosion in 1986 that shocked the world.

The trouble began at the plant's Unit 1 after the massive quake and tsunami it spawned knocked out power there, depriving it of its cooling system. The explosion was brought on by hydrogen interacting with oxygen outside the reactor. The hydrogen was formed when the superheated fuel rods came in contact with water being poured over it to prevent a meltdown.

"They are working furiously to find a solution to cool the core, and this afternoon in Europe we heard that they have begun to inject sea water into the core," said Mark Hibbs, a senior associate at the Nuclear Policy Program for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "That is an indication of how serious the problem is and how the Japanese had to resort to unusual and improvised solutions to cool the reactor core."

▶Evacuation radius goes up, P 20

Officials have not given specific radiation readings for the area, though they said they were elevated before the blast: at one point, the plant was releasing each hour the amount of radiation a person normally absorbs from the environment each year.

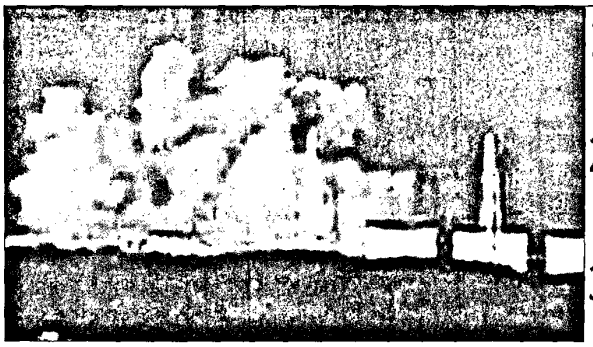
However, experts said Japan should not expect a repeat of Chernobyl. They said pictures of mist above the plant suggested only small amounts of radiation had been expelled as part of measures to ensure its stability, far from the radioactive clouds Chernobyl spewed out.

Valeriy Hlyhalo of the Chernobyl nuclear safety centre was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying Japanese reactors were better protected than Chernobyl. "Apart from that, these reactors are designed to work at a high seismicity zone, although what has happened is beyond the impact the plants were designed to withstand," Hlyhalo said. AGENCIES

How safe are our N-plants?

Scientists say Indian nuclear plants are safe from natural disasters as was evident in the Kalpakkam reactor of Tamil Nadu emerging unscathed in the tsunami of 2004. The Kaiga plant in Karnataka is built at a high point far from the coast, they point out. Scientists, however, will undertake a detailed safety audit of the entire setup in India once the unforeseen factors in Japan are fully revealed. P 21

ON THE EDGE OF DISASTER



1 Quake causes **automatic shutdown** of reactors. Power supply cut, backup diesel generators kick in. Tsunami waters reach facility, **diesel backup breaks down.** Battery backup doesn't last long

2 As power peters out, **water can't be pumped** into reactor for cooling the core. Remaining water gets heated & evaporates, **raising pressure** inside vessel. Without cooling, uranium dioxide core continues reacting

3 Heat increases, causing gases and steam to build up. Radioactive substances leak and **radiation climbs to 1000 times normal.** Fortunately, sea breeze disperses it. Finally, **explosion disperses pressure** and radiation level drops

> "The situation has the potential of (turning into) a nuclear catastrophe. It's basically a race against time, because plant operators have not been able to cool down the core of at least 2 reactors
>
> **Robert Alvarez**
> INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES, WASHINGTON

REACTION TIME: (Top) Smoke billows out of the Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima after Friday's quake triggered an explosion; policemen in anti-radiation masks cordon off the city for evacuation

FULL COVERAGE PAGES 15, 20 & 21

Over half town's people missing, toll set to soar

Tokyo: The toll, now being placed at 1,300 to 1,700, could rise dramatically. Around 10,000 people are unaccounted for in Minamisanriku alone—that's more than half the port town's population of 17,000—in the worst-hit Miyagi prefecture. Near the heart of the quake zone in Sendai, 200 to 300 bodies were found washed up on local beaches. As Japan was filled with scenes of desperation, officials said several districts in an area near Sendai's airport were annihilated, raising fears that the toll could multiply as the missing begin to be counted as dead. Four passenger trains had not been accounted for as of Saturday night.

There have been more than 160 aftershocks in the first 24 hours— 141 of them measuring 5-magnitude or more on the Richter scale, which are actually major earthquakes in their own right.

▶Japan surprised despite training, P 20

Most of the deaths from the earthquake-tsunami have been from drowning, but firefighters and Japan's Self-Defence Forces were rushing to prevent a higher toll, flying in helicopters and struggling to put out fires ignited by exploding gas lines or overturned space heaters in Japan's many vulnerable wooden homes.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan called it an "unprecedented national disaster", saying the full devastation is only just beginning to emerge. On Saturday, the stunned nation mobilized its biggest rescue effort to pluck survivors from collapsed buildings and rush food and water to thousands under siege, without water, electricity, heat or telephone services. Entire villages in parts of the north have vanished under a wall of water. Agencies

Amar Ujala ND 13/03/2011 P-7

संभावनाओं को इंगित करता है आविष्कार

विज्ञान भवन में कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन करने पहुंची राष्ट्रपति

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

- दिल्ली तकनीकी विवि की ओर से किया गया कार्यक्रम का आयोजन

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा देवी सिंह पाटिल ने विज्ञान व अध्यात्म को एक दूसरे का पूरक बताया है। राष्ट्रपति शनिवार को विज्ञान भवन में आयोजित विज्ञान व अध्यात्म क्वेस्ट कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन कर रही थीं। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन दिल्ली तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय ने किया था। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने भारतीय छात्रों द्वारा पूरी दुनियां में परचम लहराने पर संतोष जताया और भविष्य में इसके बेहतर परिणाम आने की संभावना जताई। इस तीन दिवसीय सम्मेलन में 500 से ज्यादा छात्र व विशेषज्ञ शामिल हो रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि विज्ञान मानव मूल्यों की रक्षा के लिए काम करता है। इसी कारण सुई से लेकर सेटेलाइट तक का आविष्कार हो सका। आविष्कार संभावनाओं को इंगित करता है। जब तक आकांक्षा नहीं होगी तब तक आविष्कार नहीं हो सकता। मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने कहा कि विज्ञान और अध्यात्म के बीच हमेशा से विरोधाभास रहा है। लेकिन दोनों ही प्राणियों की रक्षा और विकास के लिए उपयोग में आते है। उन्होंने पूरी दुनियां में भारतीय छात्रों के परचम लहराने पर संतोष जाहिर करते हुए कहा कि भविष्य में भारतीय छात्र ही आईटी और तकनीकी क्षेत्र का नेतृत्व करेंगे। इस मौके पर डीटीयू के कुलपति प्रो. पी.बी. शर्मा ने विवि की उपलब्धियों पर चर्चा की। सम्मेलन के अध्यक्ष व आईआईटी गुवाहाटी के प्राध्यापक प्रो. एस.सी. मिश्रा ने कहा कि तार्किक स्तर पर विज्ञान व अध्यात्म एक दूसरे से जुड़ा हुआ है। असंतुलित होने पर स्थिति खराब हो जाती है।

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आईआईआईटी में शोध प्रदर्शनी

नई दिल्ली। इंद्रप्रस्थ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईआईटी) द्वारा पहली शोध प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन किया गया। दो दिन तक चले इस कार्यक्रम में संस्थान ने अपने प्रमुख प्रोजेक्ट्स का प्रदर्शन किया। प्रोजेक्ट को विभिन्न श्रेणियों में बांटा गया था। शोध प्रदर्शनी में कुल 34 प्रोजेक्ट दिखाए गए। इसमें से 14 प्रोजेक्ट शोध प्रोजेक्ट की श्रेणी में थे और 21 प्रोजेक्ट कोर्स श्रेणी में। आईआईआईटी के निदेशक पंकज जलोटे ने कहा कि हमारा मकसद है कि युवाओं को शोध कार्यों के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाए। इस प्रदर्शनी में दिली ट्रांजिट, एसएमएसयिन, लाइवपीएंनआर, सीवीडी स्नीज डिटेक्शन जैसे प्रोजेक्ट्स का प्रदर्शन किया गया। गौरतलब है कि इंद्रप्रस्थ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईआईटी) 2008 में स्थापित हुआ था।