

# Newspaper Clips

March 14, 2012

Hindustan Times ND 14/03/2012 HT Education

Event: CIMA Global Business Challenge



**National champions:**  
IIT Delhi has won the India finals of the 2012 CIMA Global Business Challenge. The team will now represent India and compete with teams from countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, Mainland China, Ghana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Ireland, Malaysia, Middle East, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka and UK in the global finals to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June this year

Dainik Jagaran ND 14-Mar-12 P-3

## आइआइटी छात्र मामले में डीआइजी ने दाखिल किया जवाब

कानपुर : दिल्ली आइआइटी छात्र के मामले में डीआइजी विवेचक मुल्जिम को न्यायालय में पेश कर चुका था। ने मंगलवार को अदालत में अपना जवाब दाखिल कर अदालत ने मामले में आदेश सुरक्षित कर लिया है। दिया। इसके बाद छात्र के अधिवक्ता ने मुकदमे से जुड़े चार अन्य दस्तावेज तलब करने की मांग की। दिल्ली आइआइटी के छात्र सुरेंद्र भोकिया को कल्याणपुर पुलिस ने छात्रा के अपहरण व दुष्कर्म के आरोप में गिरफ्तार कर जेल भेजा था। छात्र के अधिवक्ता ने अदालत में दलील दी थी कि उच्च न्यायालय से गिरफ्तारी पर स्टेट के बावजूद पुलिस ने छात्र को गिरफ्तार किया, जबकि न्यायालय के आदेश की प्रति फैक्स के जरिये डीआइजी को भी भेजी गई थी। इस पर विशेष न्यायाधीश एससीएसटी अरूण प्रकाश ने डीआइजी को रिपोर्ट देने के आदेश दिये थे। मंगलवार को डीआइजी की ओर से पेश रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि 9 फरवरी की सुबह 11:13 बजे अप्रमाणित फैक्स प्राप्त हुआ था लेकिन इससे पहले

Tribune ND 14/03/2012 P-4

# IIT-Delhi to help restore Harmandir Sahib sheen

**SAURABH MALIK**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, MARCH 13**

The Golden Temple in Amritsar will soon get back its sheen. Dulled by pollution to an extent, its gold will get back its glitter with New Delhi-based Indian Institute of Technology carrying out a study in this regard.

As a petition based on a letter to the Prime Minister on the matter came up for hearing, the Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Mahesh Grover was informed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board that the IIT was being consulted on the issue.

The board, in its status report dated March 12, said it had consulted the IIT "for studying" the problem. "The IIT has agreed to undertake the study and suggest ways and means to restore the sheen", the report said.

Taking up the affidavit, the Bench observed: "We have also noticed that the IIT has estimated that a period of six months will be required to undertake the study and submit a report".

Fixing July 18 as the next



## TAKHT HAZUR SAHIB BOARD ELECTIONS SOON

**Amritsar:** Following directions of the Maharashtra Government to hold elections to Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Gurdwara Board, the management of shrines associated with Takht Sri Hazur Sahib, Nanded, has been handed over to District Collector Dr Srikar Pardeshi. Management Committee Superintendent DP Singh said the date for the polling would be announced soon. The board has a tenure of three years, but it has been over a decade since elections were held. After dissolution of the board in 1998, the charge was handed over to the District Collector. — TNS

date of hearing, the Bench added the progress "as may have been made by the IIT" be intimated to the court.

The havoc that environmen-

tal pollution is playing on the Golden Temple had come under judicial scanner about a year ago with the court calling for putting in place a mechanism to check pollution in the temple vicinity.

The matter was placed before the Bench after Justice Ranjit Singh took suo motu cognizance of the letter written by one Gursewak Singh to the Prime Minister, with a copy addressed to him.

Justice Ranjit Singh asserted: "One Gursewak Singh has addressed a letter in Punjabi to the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh...

"I have received a copy of this letter through post, which is enclosed in original. The letter says that industry in and around the area is causing pollution to the gold plates fixed on the domes of Gurdwara Sahib.

"There has also been discoloration of the white marble... some invaluable mural paintings are also getting spoiled.

"Considering the importance of the issue, I thought it appropriate to place it before the Chief Justice for taking notice in public interest, if considered appropriate".

# No science in 'cut and paste'

There is an urgent need for an institutional mechanism to deal with plagiarism and other violations of academic ethics

Rahul Siddharthan

A few months ago, I helped to organise a workshop on Academic Ethics at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. It was a well-attended meeting, with many eminent participants from sciences and social sciences, including the heads of some of our leading institutions. Over two days of talks, several themes were emphasised relating to various forms of academic misconduct. Now that one of our leading scientists has hit the headlines over plagiarised text in some of his own publications, it seems time to revisit these issues and discuss them more widely.

It was widely reported in mid-February that an apology had appeared in the December, 2011 issue of the journal *Advanced Materials*, by the authors of a paper that had been published in that journal in June, 2011, for incorporating verbatim text from an earlier paper by a different set of authors. The newsworthiness of this arose from the identity of the last author: it was C. N. R. Rao, former director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, founder of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, fellow of the Royal Society (UK), scientific advisor to the Prime Minister of India, and one of the most celebrated living Indian scientists.

## How it unfolded

The initial reaction of many scientists, including myself, was that this was a non-story: the plagiarism was in the introductory section, probably committed by a junior author inadequately schooled in the ethics of writing, and unnoticed by the senior authors; it was a short passage that did not affect the reported results in the paper; and, once alerted to this transgression, the authors quickly issued an apology. And there the issue should have ended.

Unfortunately, the senior authors (Rao, who was the last author, and S B Krupanidhi of IISc, Bangalore) did three other things. They both publicly blamed the first author, a graduate student of Krupanidhi. They both denied that it was plagiarism. And Rao declared that he had had little personal involvement with this

paper. Suddenly, many topics discussed at the ethics meeting appeared starkly relevant.

Some major issues that came up for discussion in that meeting were plagiarism and data manipulation; authorship issues; and institutional mechanisms for dealing with reported transgressions. (Numerous related matters were discussed, including inadequate citation, victimisation of scientists, gender issues, and perspectives from scientific journals and funding agencies.)

It was observed by many speakers that students have a limited understanding of what plagiarism is; and the Indian educational system, which encourages rote learning and verbatim reproduction of answers from

new language, and fails to cite the original? Here, in my opinion, Rao's paper is in a grey zone. The paper that they plagiarised the introduction from deals with a very similar material (graphene thin films; Rao et al also consider nanoribbons); measures similar physical properties (photo-current, electrical transport properties, time response) using similar techniques (infrared laser); and even contains similar graphs. Rao and colleagues were undoubtedly aware of the previous paper, since they plagiarised from it; yet they cite it only once, briefly and without discussion, in the introduction. Not only do they fail to compare their results with a very relevant prior publication: they nowhere even hint to the reader that such work exists.

contain plagiarised text; none of these have, I believe, been apologised for. One paper, published in *Applied Physics Express* in 2010, is notable in that it does not include the aforementioned student as an author; the three authors are Rao's own student, Krupanidhi, and Rao. It lifts the first part of its abstract, much of its introductory paragraph, and some text elsewhere, from a 2008 paper by Matheu et al published in *Applied Physics Letters*. Both papers deal with scattering from gold nanoparticles in silicon photovoltaic devices (in addition, Matheu et al consider dielectric silica nanoparticles, while the Rao paper considers metallic  $\text{ReO}_3$  nanoparticles); the figures in both papers deal with I-V characteristics and photocurrent response. Rao and coauthors refer to Matheu et al. only once in the results section, despite substantial similarity in their works.

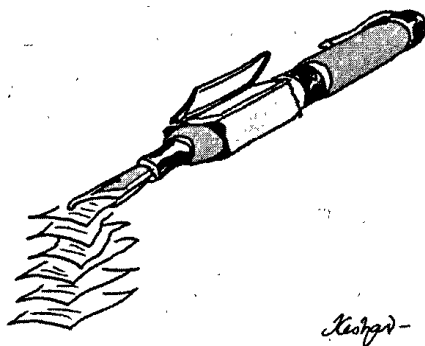
Another paper from Rao's group, published in *Journal of Luminescence* (2011), borrows text from a paper by Istkos et al in *Nanotechnology* (2009), has scientific similarities with that paper, but does not cite it at all.

## Ethics body

So the *Advanced Materials* paper cannot be dismissed as a one-time incident, and it seems inappropriate to blame it entirely on one student.

This does not, of course, invalidate the work that Rao has earned respect for over the decades. Rao is a prolific scientist -- he has over 1,500 published papers, an unthinkable number for most scientists. Five questionable papers may seem a small number in comparison, but they should not be ignored. A scientist of Rao's stature needs to ask himself some hard questions, and then share his answers with the scientific community.

There was widespread agreement among the participants at the ethics meeting on the need for institutional (and perhaps governmental) mechanisms to deal with cases of lapses in academic ethics in an impartial manner, without fear of influence or conflict of interest. Rao himself has previously urged the necessity of such a body. It is a pity that he is now demonstrating, in word and deed, the need of such a mechanism. (Rahul Siddharthan is with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai.)



memory, was squarely blamed. Rao and Krupanidhi, by denying that plagiarism occurred, have demonstrated that the understanding of senior scientists is not much better. Plagiarism in the introduction is better than plagiarism of the results, but it is plagiarism nonetheless. It is disheartening to see a scientist of Rao's eminence claiming that a verbatim cut-and-paste is not plagiarism. But, on the bright side, one speaker (T A Abinandanan of IISc, Bangalore) noted that, since automatic plagiarism-detection software became widespread, about four years ago, the number of retracted papers from India (as reported by the PubMed database) has plummeted: most such cases are now caught by journals at the pre-publication stage.

## Grey area

But cut-and-paste plagiarism is only the simplest kind. What if a researcher borrows the essential ideas from a previously published paper, re-expresses them in

## Issues of authorship

Rao's response to journalists, essentially passing the buck to Krupanidhi and his student, also raises questions of appropriate authorship. There is a widespread convention in the experimental sciences that the student who does the hard work is the first author; the student's advisor, who plans and conceives the experiment, is the last author; and anyone else who contributes appears in the middle of the author list. In this case, by Rao's own account, the work was primarily that of Krupanidhi and his student: yet Rao is the last author (which is usually the case in Rao's papers). To claim "senior authorship" and then disclaim the paper in this manner is rather unsatisfactory.

## Other cases

Though media attention has focused on just one paper (for which an apology was published), an anonymous commenter on my blog has given four other examples of papers authored by Rao that

**Cut-and-paste plagiarism is only the simplest kind. What if a researcher borrows the essential ideas from a previously published paper, re-expresses them in new language, and fails to cite the original?**

# The death of Anil Meena

**M**ERIT is important — students have to go through grueling entrance tests to prove their worth before joining any educational institution to become doctors, engineers, scientists.

In 2010, Anil Meena, from a tribal family of agriculturalists, a school topper, with 75 per cent marks in 10+2, covered the distance of over 500 km from his village in Baran district, Rajasthan, to Delhi. He had again proved his merit in one of the toughest medical entrance exams to become a doctor at one of the country's prestigious educational institutions — the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

However, within two years of his stay at this prestigious institution, on March 3, 2012, he hanged himself. The reasons, according to the AIIMS administration, are that he was "depressed", developed "psychiatric" problems because of his inability to cope with the rigorous academic environment combined with his lack of skills in the English language. Anil was 22 years old.

It is mere coincidence that on the same day, March 3, in 2010, Balmukund Bharti, a Dalit student at AIIMS, committed suicide in similar fashion, but this coincidence does not end with the date. A son of a Class III employee, a native of village Kundeshwar, Tikamgarh district, Bundelkhand (MP), one of the most backward regions of the country, Balmukund was also a school topper from Navodaya Vidyalaya and possessed many certificates of academic excellence, including one from the president of India, before getting admission into AIIMS after proving his merit in its entrance exam.

We are told that he was also "depressed" and committed suicide by hanging himself in his hostel room due to "his inability to cope up with academic performance" demanded by the institution. Balmukund was 25 years of age, and was just a couple of months away from becoming a doctor from AIIMS, something



Suicides by Dalit and tribal students is a story of discrimination

ANOOP KUMAR

his parents say has not happened in the surrounding areas in the last 50 years.

AIIMS is not a lone institution. There is a long list in the recent past that includes almost all premier educational institutions — various IITs, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, University of Hyderabad and many more, where otherwise brilliant Dalit and Adivasi students, school and college toppers, gave up their hopes and chose to commit suicide.

The conventional wisdom is that these students got admission through reservations with "lesser merit" and gave up their lives unable to match the academic expectations of these premier educational institutions. And the definition of this "merit" is defined

**It is not the academic pressure that these students are unable to cope with; it is the environment of these campuses, with their entrenched casteism, that Dalit and Adivasi students are not able to deal with.**

strictly in terms of marks at the entrance level, conveniently discounting various other factors like social background, family, medium of instruction in school, the rural-urban divide that play a major role in the performance of the students.

So a student from an urban-based upper-caste/ upper-class background with both parents literate and from much better schools, most often elite private English-medium ones, is considered more "meritorious", more "deserving" with her 85 per cent marks, than those "quota" students with their 75 per cent marks scored fighting against all their debilitating social realities.

This perceived "lack of merit" among Dalit and Adivasi students and their admissions through "quotas" breeds so much resentment among other students, facul-

ties and college administrations that these students feel totally alienated from campus life, which is dominated by upper-caste students and faculty, and have to go through constant harassment and daily insults in class, in hostels, in playgrounds, in messes.

It is not the academic pressure that these students are unable to cope with; it is the environment of these campuses, with their entrenched casteism that gets displayed in defining "merit", resulting in caste discrimination from both students and faculty, that Dalit and Adivasi students are not able to deal with.

It is not their lack of efforts in studies that force them to give up their lives after developing "psychiatric" problems, but the feeling

of rejection that they experience from these institutions that forces them to take this extreme step.

With their brilliant academic performances in schools, these students enter professional institutions with immense self-confidence and faith in the system that promises a bright future and fair treatment solely based on their academic performances but in reality judges them, from Day One, on their social identities and family background without giving them the chance to prove their merit. That is what shatters them.

In 2006, the Indian government constituted a three-member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Professor S.K. Thorat, the then UGC chairperson, to look into the complaints of Dalit and Adivasi students of AIIMS.

The first of its kind to probe

into caste discrimination in institutes of higher learning, the committee came out with a detailed report and brought out the horrors of caste discrimination suffered by "quota" students on this campus that included physical assaults, boycott by fellow students, deliberate failing by faculties and total insensitivity shown by the AIIMS administration.

The committee also gave various recommendations like establishing equal opportunity cells, transparency in grading, strong punishment for caste discrimination. But the AIIMS administration, rather than engage in introspection, declared the report biased and refuted every allegation of casteism on the campus and even threatened to sue the Thorat committee for bringing disrepute to the institute that promotes excellence and is engaged in the service of the nation.

If one visits the illiterate parents of Senthil Kumar, a PhD student in physics from Tamil Nadu, who committed suicide on February 24, 2008, at the University of Hyderabad, the first thing they produce for the visitors are his certificates that bore the testimony of his merit and his efforts, making him the first from his pig-rearing pannandi caste, the lowest in caste hierarchy, to enter the portals of higher education.

Along with the certificates you can find a diary where Senthil wrote: "I want to bring Nobel prize for my country." If you flip through its pages, you will also find a picture of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam from a newspaper cutting, with a title in Senthil's handwriting: "My Role Model."

These students came up by beating all odds and proved their merit in more than one way. Do our premier educational institutions, AIIMS, IITs and universities, have the required merit and efficiency to be able to teach such brilliant students?

*The writer started Insight Foundation, a platform for Dalit and Adivasi youth, focused on higher education issues*

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# THEY NEED HELP

AIIMS has set up a committee to advise it on 'academic and welfare enhancement' of students



Rahat Bano

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After a student took his life at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) recently, the authorities are scouting for solutions that can act as support and safeguards for aspiring doctors who may need help, including those from rural, non-English-medium, and/or reserved class backgrounds. Following students' protests after the tragedy, the director issued a letter appointing Sukhdeo Thorat, former chairman, University Grants Commission, as head of a committee that will give suggestions on "academic and welfare enhancement" of undergraduate students at AIIMS, particularly those from the reserved categories. (See box for details)

Meanwhile, AIIMS' remedial English course calls for a

review. The course with weekly classes was started about three-four years ago on the Thorat committee's recommendation, said Rakesh Yadav, sub-dean, AIIMS. A few students say it focused on spoken language and was not well-publicised on campus. The deceased MBBS student who had studied through the Hindi-medium in school though described as talented (he ranked 500 out of 50,000 AIIMS entrance test takers and second in the ST category) reportedly had problems with English lectures. Medical students do not just have to have a good command of the English lexicon and grammar; they have to also learn scientific terminology in English.

While AIIMS director RC Deka says there are "a lot of" support systems for students including English tutorials, he adds, "Some of the classes were not regularly held. That is

## WILL THIS PANEL ON STUDENT WELFARE HELP?

AIIMS appointed a committee headed by former chairman, University Grants Commission, to advise it on "academic and welfare enhancement" of its undergraduates, particularly those from SC/ST and OBC categories. With one month to finish the task, the committee's brief is to:

- "examine the extent of implementation of the recommendations of (a previous) Thorat Committee by the institute
- identify gaps and recommend short-term and long-term measures to be implemented in a time-bound manner
- propose the creation of a permanent oversight mechanism for ensuring that the support

my suspicion." He says that they have held discussions on putting technical terms in Hindi script.

The course is not compulsory. Yadav says they realise "it is not sufficient."

"We are now thinking why not have a one-month crash course. We are encouraging faculty to speak Hinglish. We are trying to contact a lot of NGOs and are planning to go in the same direction...of a structured English language course," says Yadav. AIIMS is

considering roping in Centre for Research & Education for Social Transformation (CREST), an autonomous entity under the Kerala government, which has organised enrichment programmes for IIT Delhi students.

Authorities insist that there are "in-built mechanisms" for psychological cases as well, the majority of which are reported to the academic section. "There are clinical psychologists in our psychiatry department.

structures for UG students do not become dysfunctional

- suggest further measures for the welfare and academic enhancement of UG students, particularly those from the SC/ST/OBC categories"

It is also expected to examine if IIT-Delhi's support structure can be replicated at AIIMS

Students are given psychological advice when they come in the first year. There are classes on stress management embedded in the MBBS curriculum. We'll be enhancing those things," says Deka. is the faculty sensitive and proactive in spotting and reaching out to students in distress? According to Deka, it is, and the teachers "should" report a student, if, for example, he is absent for a long time. "Sometimes senior students help and report

the student to the psychiatry department. In this (suicide) case, there was no reported ailment." But a reserved category student said they have to have a psychologist because it's a medical college. Moreover, "he runs his OPD." Among the things the students wish for is interaction with the faculty, mentorship, notifying students about their attendance record after every semester and a committee which redresses grievances in a time-bound manner. New proposals are on the cards and the committee has to suggest more solutions. We hope it'll usher in change for the better.

**f Reaching out**  
Find out what IIT Delhi does for its students and tell us what support services are in place at your institute. Post your responses at [www.facebook.com/HTEdU](http://www.facebook.com/HTEdU)

## Get support when you need it



Two students tell Gauri Kohli how counselling helped them develop resources and skills to cope with problems

The last decade has been tough for 20-year-old Mudra Sharma, who has been shifting cities, adjusting to new peer groups and coping with studies. It all started at the age of 10 when Sharma experienced a culture shock of sorts after moving to Bangalore from Delhi and found herself feeling alienated. "I had difficulty expressing my discomforts and anxiety to my parents. I approached a counsellor who could listen to me impartially. At first, I was quite unconvincing and apprehensive at the thought of going to a counsellor but after attending the first few sessions, I felt better," says Sharma who took therapy sessions for eight months.

As she entered her teens, Sharma had other worries. "In Class 7, I developed a severe mental block against maths. I approached a counsellor who used psychological techniques and other aids to help me," she says. When she moved back to Delhi in 2008 at the age of 17, she had developed anger, impatience and

## GO, SORT OUT THE PROBLEM

- Give yourself the benefit of doubt in a crisis
- Go back to the root of the problem and try solving it on your own
- Take a crisis as a phase and capture the learnings from it
- Try to change your perspective in a difficult situation
- Experienced culture shock? Make an attempt to be friends with people in your new city/country
- Try to study in groups, if students are difficult ask your teacher/professor for help
- Reward or motivate yourself in case of low self-esteem

irritability. This time she sought help from the Delhi Psychiatry Centre.

"I am not ashamed of the fact that I have had to visit a counsellor several times," says the second-year student of BA (majors) in social sciences and humanities at Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Another student, Simran Ahluwalia (name changed on request), who recently finished her studies from IIT Delhi, had problems adjusting in the sprawling metro. "The girl from Kota in Rajasthan was suddenly on her own, finding it hard to meet the demands of a competitive academic schedule and a

"drastically changed social life." She approached a counsellor at IIT Delhi who helped her maintain a work-life balance and build decision-making ability. "I allowed myself to get pressurised by situations and life became very difficult, until I was counselled. I'm more confident now," says Ahluwalia.

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**f Tell us more**  
How has counselling helped you? Post your responses at [www.facebook.com/HTEdU](http://www.facebook.com/HTEdU)

## Let's get talking

Don't keep everything bottled up. If you feel stressed, tell friends and family members how you feel

The 21st century has made lives more complicated for youngsters. Stress often builds up for students because of parental, peer and performance pressure.

While many find an outlet talking to friends and

extended family members about their problems, others bottle up their feelings - creating all sorts of complications which can impact their health as well as academic performance.

"Guilt, hopelessness, helplessness, frustration are just

some of the feelings that can force an individual to take extreme steps. When people feel they are not able to fulfill what is expected of them, feelings of despair may arise. It is at this moment that you should talk about these feelings with someone," says Dr Nupur Lal, a clinical hypnotherapist based in Noida. Sarkka, a clinical psychologist, adds, "It is a fact that mental health problems are associated with suicidal tendencies - depression being one of the major causes of attempted or completed suicides. Consulting a well-trained mental health pro-

fessional would be of definite help."

What then is the 'right' time for someone to consult a specialist? "When you feel that you are unable to attain your goals, that your progress is being blocked and you are vulnerable to things around you, when frustration takes over, understand that you need to talk and share your thoughts with others. Apart from visiting a counsellor, you can also talk to and seek help from the elders in your family (like grandparents/parents) or friends," suggests Dr Lal.

- Garima Upadhyay

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- If depressed, get help
- Make sure you are not alone when you feel depressed.
  - Talk about your feelings to people you are close to. Get support by contacting support groups, calling the hotline
  - Take the focus off yourself. Reach out to others who are ill or poor
  - Your family loves you. Take care of your health and happiness for their sake

## Remedial classes, fee waivers, English training... IIM-A has 'good lines of defence'

**M**any students at the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad need assistance in adjusting to the demands of a demanding course like theirs. For this and other issues, the institute boasts several lines of defence. Gopal Balakrishnan, general secretary, Students' Affairs Council, 2012-2013, IIM-A, tells us about the services for students in need:

One important point is that IIM-A students do not have to disclose their category status — whether general, ST, SC, OBC or any other. This information is not available to students. For those who find it difficult to cope, the assistance provided is:

**Moneywise:** The institute is needs blind. No one is denied education on financial grounds. There are various fee waivers/scholarships/ financial packages, some especially for SC, ST and OBC candidates and for those who cannot afford the fee.

**Prep 'em up:** Some students are identified by the faculty (at the interview stage) and asked to join a preparatory course in communication skills and MS Office and Excel. With about 10% of the batch enrolled, it is quite substantial and runs for a month before the regular course begin. This is again not on the basis of categories but for promising candidates who would need this extra bit of help because of their professional or educational background. This also takes care of candidates from the vernacular medium.

**Peer tutoring:** Students

hold remedial sessions for each other. This is usually done two or three times every slot (each year is divided into six slots of exams and courses). These sessions are the best ways to brush up on every lost bit of topics. Since it's being administered by students there is no pressure and no one feels inhibited asking questions. These can last for an hour or three to four hours per session.

**Student mentors:** More than 50 second-year seniors are linked with first-year students. Each mentor is responsible for eight or 10 students. The first year at IIM-A is rigorous and student mentors are usually the best way to navigate through this. The mentors are a point of contact for any and all situations and usually are assigned as soon as the admission letters are rolled out. The mentors remain so after graduating from the institute.

**Development cell:** The institute also has a Students' Personal and Career Development Centre (SPCDC) for individual cases. The centre has a professional counselor. The students' council works makes sure that the facility and its benefits is well known throughout the student community.

**Dorms, too, help:** There are 19-39 friends who share their lives. A dorm representative and a group of friends are always available for any student, and can usually detect the first signs of trouble. In each of these steps, the students' council is the enabler.

- Rahat Bano

## Sibal moots tougher fines for bogus univs

**R**esponding to BJP president Nitin Gadkari's letter expressing concern over bogus universities and colleges, HRD minister Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said that the ministry was aware of the problem and had even drafted a legislation to bring in stringent punishment. TNN

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Mar 14, 2012; Section: Times Business; Page: 24

# Yahoo sues Facebook for infringing 10 patents

**Y**ahoo sued Facebook over 10 patents that include methods and systems for advertising on the Web, opening the first major legal battle among big technology companies in social media.

The lawsuit, filed in a San Jose, California federal court on Monday, marks a major escalation of patent litigation that has already swept up the smartphone and tablet sectors and high-tech stalwarts such as Apple, Microsoft and Motorola Mobility Holdings. Yahoo's patent lawsuit follows Facebook's announcement of plans for an initial public offering that could value the company at about \$100 billion.



**LEGAL TANGLE**

Facebook spokesman Jonathan Thaw said Facebook learned of the lawsuit through the media.

"We're disappointed that Yahoo, a longtime business partner of Facebook and a company that has substantially benefited from its association with Facebook, has decided to resort to litigation," he said. In an emailed statement, Yahoo said it is

confident it will prevail. "Unfortunately, the matter with Facebook remains unresolved and we are compelled to seek redress in federal court," the company said in a statement.

Yahoo, one of the Web's pioneering companies, has seen its revenues decline in recent years at a time when rivals such as Facebook and Google have thrived. In January, Yahoo appointed former PayPal President Scott Thompson as its new chief executive, replacing Carol Bartz, who was fired in September.


Yahoo said late last month it was seeking licensing fees from Facebook over its patents and that other companies have already agreed to such licensing deals. **REUTERS**

## How to keep that IIT dream alive

Hindustan Times (Mumbai), Pravin Tyagi, md, IITian's PACE

**Starting this week, we take a look at how you can ace the last of the current IIT-JEE version. Here are three things to remember while you prepare**

For every engineering aspirant, getting into IIT is a dream. Lakhs of students every year (Approx. 5 lakh in 2011) compete for few thousand seats (9,800 in 2011). The competition is intense.



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AIEEE	<b>May 7, 12, 19 and 26</b>	All the National Institute of Technology (NIT) branches
CET	<b>May 12</b>	State institutes including University Institute of Chemical Technology (UICET), Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai (VJTI) and others.

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Approximately five

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Begin your preparation here, with some tips that will go a long way in these final stages of preparation. 1. You will be hearing of how students completed preparing for the JEE at younger ages, or feel shaky because you didn't score as well in mock tests. A lot of students start giving up at this stage. It is imperative to remain confident. Believe in yourself and keep going. 2. No one, till date, has scored 100% marks in IIT JEE. In fact, the IIT topper scores around 80% marks. If you score around 55 %, you are still in the top 1000 ranks in the country. The cut-off is as low as 40% marks! So even if you have not finished the full syllabus, you still can make it. You will not be solving all the questions on all the topics so one can safely skip a few questions and still be a top ranker . 3. Understanding the dynamics of peer expectations and family role will be important for the student. The IIT JEE preparation itself gets you a semi-celebrity status, putting you in the spotlight for your friends and family. So much attention adds to anxiety and nervousness. Avoiding is impolite and updating



everyone about whole preparation is a task in itself and loss of energy. Switch off your cell phone and let Facebook rest for a while. Avoid meeting too many people and focus all your energy on preparing for the exam.

## Legislative delay holds up degrees of 1,800 students

14 Mar 2012, The Times of India (New Delhi edition)

New Delhi: With their future in limbo, around 1,800 students of the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, have written to HRD minister Kapil Sibal urging the government to pass the legislation giving their institute legal sanctity. The 'Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill 2011' has been pending before the Rajya Sabha for almost a year.

The students of 2010 and 2011 batches have been waiting for their degrees for a year now thanks to the legislative delay. "As the bill is getting delayed in the Rajya Sabha, it is creating serious problems for our future careers. The uncertainty over the conversion of IT-BHU to IIT-BHU is also creating an unhealthy atmosphere in the campus," the letter said. The communication has been signed by all the students.

The move to upgrade the institute to an IIT was made after several rounds of consultations and discussions with HRD ministry officials and was passed by the Lok Sabha in March 2011.

The bill seeks to amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, which declares certain institutes of technology to be institutions of national importance and to add eight new IITS in Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar. It also seeks to integrate the IT-BHU within the ambit of the Act and is likely to increase its functional autonomy.

Speaking in Lok Sabha, Sibal had assured agitated BJP members that Banaras Hindu University would not be bifurcated in the process of giving IIT status to its Institute of Technology. The legislation is also expected to address issues of shortage of staff and quality faculty.