

## Newspaper Clips

March 2, 2011

Times of India Kolkata 01.03.11 p-8

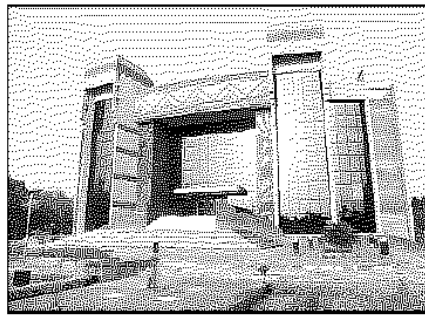
# Pranab's bounty for IIT, IIM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** The Left parties termed the Budget as the "most insensitive" one in history, but Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee gave this Left-ruled state reasons to smile. Giving a piece of the 24% hike in education budget pie, the budget doled out reasonably hefty grants to three of the state institutes. It is another matter that none of these institutes is run by the state, but sponsored by the Union ministry of human resource development.

IIT Kharagpur stands to gain the most with a whopping ₹200 crore, IIM Calcutta has been allocated Rs ₹20 crore, while Aligarh Muslim University's Murshidabad campus will get Rs 50 crore.

IIT Kharagpur had asked for Rs 500 crore to revamp its old hostels, sewerage and water supply system. These had come into being immediately after the institute was found-



Reasons to smile for IIM-C

ed in 1950 and have outlived their utility. Extra funding was also sought for creation of academic facilities for advancement of nano sciences, life sciences, water and sustainable development, a medical technology centre, agro-based engineering and environment engineering.

"We will be celebrating our diamond jubilee this year and hence asked for extra fund. We were expecting ₹500 crore but are happy

with whatever has been given," said deputy director of IIT Kharagpur A K Majumdar.

On a recent visit to IIM Calcutta, Pranab Mukherjee had been requested for ₹20 crore to expand the newly established financial trading laboratory. This laboratory is connected with major stock markets of the world and also part of the IIM-C curriculum. "We are happy that he remembered to incorporate our request in the budget. An expansion of this laboratory had become an immediate necessity," said a senior faculty member of the institute.

Meanwhile, 300-acre plot was acquired for Aligarh Muslim University campus at Ahiron village under Suti police station in Murshidabad, but its construction is yet to begin. Officials said construction would start in the new fiscal year and the allocated ₹50 crore would be utilized. The campus would be complete in three years.

Times of India ND  
2/03/2011 P-21

## Forget mouse, laptop tracks gaze to scroll over screen

**New York:** Ever wish your eyes were lasers? A laptop prototype brings that wish closer to reality.

It tracks your gaze and figures out where you're looking on the screen. That means, among other things, that you can play a game where you burn up incoming asteroids with a laser that hits where you look. In another demonstration, the computer scrolled a text on the screen in response to eye movements, sensing when reader reached the end.

In the future, a laptop like this could make the mouse cursor appear where you're looking, or make a game character maintain eye contact with you, according to Tobii Technology Inc, the Swedish firm that's behind the tracking technology.

The eye tracker works by shining two invisible infrared lights at you. Two hidden cameras then look for the "glints" off your eyeballs and reflections from each retina. Rather than a replacement for the traditional mouse and keyboard or the newer touch screen, the eye-tracking could be a complement, making a computer faster and more efficient to use. AP

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Mar 2, 2011; Section: Times Global; Page: 23;

# Copycat PhD? Gaddafi son under LSE lens

Ashis Ray | TNN

London: The London School of Economics is investigating allegations that Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi's son, Saif el-Islam Gaddafi, plagiarized his 2008 PhD thesis at the prestigious institution, British media reported.

The LSE in a statement said it is investigating two specific claims against Saif al-Islam, 37, and was aware of allegations that he may have used a ghostwriter for his thesis. "The allegations are in the public domain about possible plagiarism in Saif Gaddafi's PhD thesis," an LSE



**DUBIOUS DOCTORATE:** Saif

spokesperson said. "We have also received direct allegations and are seeking more specific information in a couple of cases. We are also carrying out our own checks."

The LSE's Centre for the

Study of Global Governance director David Held said there was a rumour that he may not have been the sole author of the thesis. "I wrote straight away to his supervisor but there was no substantial evidence." He said there are accusations of several sections in the thesis being reproduced virtually verbatim from elsewhere without due credit. Saif al-Islam studied at the centre.

The matter could be particularly embarrassing for Indian origin LSE economics professor Meghnad Desai, who examined Saif al-Islam before doctorate was awarded. "I read the thesis, I examined him with

an examiner, he defended his thesis very very thoroughly, he had nobody else present, and I don't think there's any reason to think he didn't do it himself," said Desai.

Saif al-Islam said eminent Harvard University economist Joseph Nye read parts of his manuscript and offered advice and thanked the US-based Monitor Group for providing empirical data for his writing in his acknowledgements. The group advises governments on economic development. It has a branch in London, where Rahul Gandhi reportedly worked before entering politics.

**Times of India ND**  
2/03/2011 P-21

## Now, a mobile phone app that helps spy on others

**W**ant to know what your spouse or child does when you are not around? Don't worry, scientists have developed a new mobile phone spying application which can help you keep a tab on their activities. Made by Retina Software, ePhoneTracker allows users to monitor every move made on a person's mobile phone. It silently records everything including text messages, call info, GPS locations, websites visited, contacts added and retrieved. Even deleted e-mails and texts can be retrieved by the new application, its developers claimed. Logs are then e-mailed to your e-mail address. According to the company, the application has another unique feature called SpyCall. Using this feature, "you can call the phone and listen to surroundings without anyone knowing you've called", the company said on its website.

Times of India ND P-21  
2/03/2011

# Finger length ratio may predict risk of diseases

**London:** Want to know if you are likely to catch a cold or develop joint ache as you get older? Well, diagnosis is at your finger length, say scientists.

According to the scientists, studying the length of your fingers, specifically your ring and index fingers, could help you determine your risk of more serious health complaints such as cancer and heart problems. For example, if your ring finger is longer than index finger, you could be twice as likely to develop osteoarthritis of the knee, researchers from Nottingham University found when they measured the fingers of 2,000 people with the condition.

Likewise, another study led by John Manning of Swansea University involving 200 students found those with a long ring finger suffered more colds and illnesses generally than those with longer index fingers. There were also more reported cases of chickenpox and German measles among this group.

The scientists claim that one's finger length is determined in the womb, by how much one's exposed to the sex hormones oestrogen and testos-



The length of ring and index fingers may help determine a person's risk of serious health complaints, say experts

terone. Testosterone, the "male hormone", encourages growth of the ring finger, and oestrogen, female hormone, fuels growth of index finger. Whether one's index or ring finger is longer is a signpost to you having more testosterone or oestrogen in one's body. And, exposure to these hormones early in life seems to influence risk of disease, say the scientists.

According to Manning, with further research, finger lengths may be used as a guide to determine who could be at risk of what. PTI

Times of India ND 2/03/2011 P-21

# Fizzy drinks linked to high blood pressure

**Washington:** In one more reason why one should avoid or reduce taking sugary drinks, a new study has claimed that soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages such as fruit drinks may lead to increased blood pressure levels in adults.

The international research, published in the journal *Hypertension*, found that every extra sugary beverage per day increases higher systolic blood pressure by 1.6 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure by 0.8 mmHg (millimetres of mercury). The researchers, who looked at 2,696 participants in the US and Britain for their study, found higher blood pressure levels in individuals who consumed more glucose and fructose, the most common sugar sweetener used by the beverage industry.

Higher blood pressure was also found more pronounced in people who consumed high levels of both sugar and sodium. Study author Paul Elliott of the Imperial College London said, "These findings lend support for recommendations to reduce the intake of sugar sweetened beverages, as well

## 'Higher education lowers BP, makes one live longer'

**T**he more advanced degrees you have, the higher your chances of living longer, according to a new study. The study by researchers at the Brown University in the US found people who went to college or university had lower blood pressure as they aged than their counterparts who did not finish high school. And biggest health benefits were found among those with master's degrees or doctorates, and were stronger for women, the Daily Mail reported. PTI

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as added sugars and sodium in an effort to reduce blood pressure and improve cardiovascular health.

"One possible mechanism for sugar-sweetened beverages and fructose increasing blood pressure levels is a resultant increase in the level of uric acid in the blood that may in turn lower the nitric oxide required to keep the blood vessels dilated," said Ian Brown, research associate at Imperial College London. PTI

Times of India ND  
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## Gene therapy raises hope of AIDS cure

**I**n a bold new approach ultimately aimed at trying to cure Aids, scientists used genetic engineering in six patients to develop blood cells that are resistant to HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

It's too early to know if this scientific first will prove to be a cure, or even a new treatment. The research was only meant to show that, so far, it seems feasible and safe.

The concept was based on the astonishing case of an Aids patient who seems to be cured after getting blood cells from a donor with natural immunity to HIV nearly four years ago in Berlin. This is the first time experts have permanently deleted a human gene and infused the altered cells back into patients. Other gene therapy attempts tried to add a gene or muffle the activity of one, and have not worked against HIV. AP

# Healthcare, education crying out for reforms: Mukesh Ambani

## Our Bureau

New Delhi, March 1

Health and education sectors are in crying need of radical reforms, said Mr Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Ltd.

Mr Ambani, while giving the valedictory address at FICCI's 83rd Annual General Meeting, said, "Despite the growth in GDP numbers, we house 40 per cent of the world's poor.

"All through there have been successes in the last two decades, the health and education sectors are in crying need of radical reforms."

He added that the outlay on health needs to increase by five times to ensure the health of young India.

"Health spending in India is already getting skewed. Given our demographics, the accent cannot be limited to

sustaining the diseases of the affluent and managing the old. We will need to radically transform healthcare delivery to all our people," said Mr Ambani.

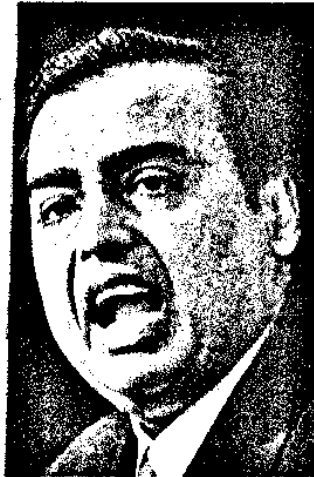
Commenting on education he said that there is a need to create necessary education infrastructure and environment of learning.

"We should create universities as academic centres of excellence which will feature in the top 100 in the world. Achieving this will be one of the cornerstones of a new India that we will need to build. The Right to Education Bill and the Innovation University Bill are great steps in this direction," said Mr Ambani.

## AGRICULTURE

The RIL Chairman also pointed out the large opportunity in agriculture.

"India has about 13 per cent



The RIL Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Mukesh Ambani, at the FICCI AGM. - Kamal Narang

of the world's arable land. In the next 10 years there is an opportunity to add \$500 billion year-on-year in this sector. Given the rising food prices, the time is opportune for India to invest in agriculture and try to become the

food basket of the world," he said.

He added that to change the low productivity of Indian agriculture modern farming methods and plant biotechnology need to be used. "Increasing productivity will require new water-saving micro-irrigation practices," said Mr Ambani.

On manufacturing, Mr Ambani said that the sector will be redefined by technology. He also said that the industry has to carefully target export markets and focus on scale, technology and customer needs.

"Development of an export market necessitates a synergistic partnership between industry, Government and labour. It requires a commitment to the consumers to assure them best quality at affordable prices," said Mr Ambani.

## Education, skill development will boost employability

### Our Bureau

Chennai, March 1

The allocation of Rs 500 crore for the National Skill Development Fund to promote vocational skill building is a welcome move.

"It ensures that new entrants are 'gainfully' employed by making it easy for them to acquire

vocational skills at affordable cost," said **Mr E. Balaji, MD and CEO, Ma Foi Randstad, a**



Netherlands-based HR company.

About 12 million people enter the labour market every year, out of which only 5 per cent possess a training certification, he said.

Similarly, if the Indian industries have to move the public expenditure into innovation and R&D should be increased.

In this context, it is heartening to note the Finance Minister announced the government's intention to set up innovation councils and linking 1500 institutes with National Knowledge Network by next year.

These measures should produce more research skill.

It is estimated that India currently has around 120 researchers per million of population compared with 1,564 in China, he said.



According to **Mr P. Kishore, MD,**

**Everonn Education**, the Finance Minister's proposal to introduce a scholarship scheme for needy students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes studying in Classes IX and X would benefit about 40 lakh students

"Education forms the backbone of economic development. The Government has been supporting the education sector with a missionary zeal," he said.

The 24 per cent increase in allocation towards education sector reinforces the Prime Minister's commitment to Right to Education and is a clear indicator that the Government is 'surefooted' on its commitments to scale up efforts in the education sector, said **Mr Sanjeev**



**Mansotra, Chairman and Managing Director, Core Projects and**

### Technologies.

The Government has balanced its allocation between skill development, sustainable employability generation in socially backward sections and strengthening primary education across the country.

With the increase in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan budget of 40 per cent to Rs 21,000 crore, there will be a larger role for the private sector in K-12 and teacher training space built around the public-private-partnership model, he said.



Financial Express ND

2/03/2011

P-7

# B-schools approach apex court against AICTE guidelines

**Kirtika Suneja**

**New Delhi, Mar 1:** Business schools impacted by the norms laid down by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) regarding admissions, fee and curriculum have moved the Supreme Court by filing a writ petition against the council.

B-schools represented by the Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI) and the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) filed the petition last week against the new AICTE norms relating to fee, curriculum and admissions of the post graduate diploma in management (PGDM) programmes.

"The petition has been filed with the Supreme Court and will come up for hearing on March 7. We approached the court because we got no respite from the minister. We requested him for a second meeting but didn't get any response," said H Chaturvedi, alternate president, EPSI and director of Birla Institute of



Management Technology.

The EPSI has more than 250 management schools as its members while 500 B-schools are a part of AIMS.

The writ petition challenges the AICTE's norms on three grounds. The first one relates to the Gazette Notification in the AICTE's Approval Process Handbook 2011-12 which "not only takes away the autonomy of the petitioners but also excessively interferes with the management and the affairs of the petitioner institutions which are private unaided educational institutions imparting education to the students."

## Business Standard, ND 02-Mar-11

p-11

# Boosting human capital

*Budget's focus on education is pro-growth and pro-equity*

In the pre-Budget Economic Survey 2010-11, the Union finance ministry made a strong pitch for the pro-growth impact of investment in human capital adding, "fortunately, there is awareness of this in India and efforts are afoot in terms of budgetary allocation and actual initiatives to boost the development of skill and human capital." Given this leading comment, it was only natural that Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee laid special emphasis on the 24 per cent hike in the budgetary allocations for education as a whole and the 40 per cent hike in allocations for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, with total spending of ₹21,000 crore. Total spending on education in the current fiscal is targeted at ₹57,660 crore, split between "general education" (₹52,000 crore) and "technical education" (₹5,660 crore). "school education and literacy" directed towards primary and secondary education has been sanctioned three fourths of the General Education Budget (₹38,957 crore) while the rest goes to "higher education" (₹13, 100 crore). The decision to target primary and secondary education comes not a day too early. Indian education policy since independence has been justifiably criticised for favouring higher education to the detriment of primary and secondary education. Considerations of equity aside, the neglect of secondary education has had tangible ramifications, most notably impeding the growth of a robust manufacturing sector. It is equally heartening that programmes like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, launched to universalise education and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme have boosted enrollments and lowered dropout rates in primary schools. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Ab-

hiyan (RMSA) launched in response to the increased demand for secondary education indicates an increase in school life (the number of years of education an average student receives).

The 36 per cent increase for technical education is impressive and will clearly have to be persisted with. India lags far behind China in the number of technical training institutes, where imparting technical education was an important element of development strategy. However, it is important to focus on improving the quality of education imparted in technical institutes. Studies across the board have pointed to serious shortcomings in the nature of training, which forces employers to spend considerable resources in retraining fresh hires. The government must avail of offers by the private sector to participate in training, by way of curriculum design, internships and other mentoring programmes so that graduates hit the ground running.

Both for reasons of economic growth and social mobility and equity, investment in education is vital. Even India's official literacy rate of 70 per cent compares unfavourably with its BRIC peers. While Russia has universal literacy, the corresponding figure for Brazil and China is slightly over 90 per cent. The picture is even less flattering when the absolute number of people without basic literacy is considered. Current expenditures on education at 5 per cent of GDP are comparable in India, China and Brazil, while Russia invests close to 8 per cent of its GDP on education. No modern industrial nation has less than 80 per cent literacy. Thankfully, this Budget fills a bit of the resources gap.

# Statesman ND

## 02/03/2011 p-10

**Holcim-IIT pact**  
**KOLKATA, 1 MARCH:** The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and the Swiss-based Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction will together champion the use of sustainable construction practices in India. Under their cooperation agreement, IIT Bombay has become the Partner University of the Holcim Foundation for the Asia Pacific region. sns

DAINIK BHASKAR ND 02/03/2011 P7

# महज एक नियुक्ति पत्र नहीं

अलका आर्य

लेखिका स्वतंत्र  
पत्रकार हैं।

**आ** ईआईटी, आईआईएम, विश्वविद्यालयों व जाने-माने कॉलेजों में कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट की खबरें अब हमें उतनी नहीं चौंकाती, लेकिन प्लेसमेंट से जुड़ी यह खबर आप को हैरत में डाल सकती है। 25 फरवरी को देश की राजधानी दिल्ली की तिहाड़ जेल में जेल प्रशासन की तरफ से कैदियों के लिए कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट का बंदोबस्त किया गया था।

दरअसल, तिहाड़ जेल के इतिहास में पहली मर्तबा कैदियों के पुनर्वास के लिए इस तरह का जो प्रयोग किया गया है, उसके दूरगामी प्रभाव हो सकते हैं। दस कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों (वेदांता समूह, अग्रवाल पैकेज, रिलेक्सो फुटवियर, गुड ह्यूसकीपिंग आदि) ने 43 कैदियों के इंटरव्यू लिए और 14 कैदियों को तो नौकरी का ऑफरलेटर भी मिल गया। इनमें से किसी की नियुक्ति बतौर रिसर्च एसिस्टेंट, एसिस्टेंट मैनेजर व कंप्यूटर ऑपरेटर हुई है। कई कैदियों को तो एक से ज्यादा कंपनियों ने अपने यहां नौकरी के लिए ऑफर दिया है और जेल अधिकारियों को उम्मीद है कि इंटरव्यू देने वाले बाकी कैदियों को भी जल्द ही जॉब ऑफर लेटर मिल जाएंगे।

समाज व कानून की नजर में घोषित अपराधियों के लिए ऐसी पहल क्यों? गौरतलब है कि इस समय तिहाड़ जेल में 25 प्रतिशत कैदी युवा हैं। इनमें अधिकांश सिर्फ पढ़े-लिखे ही नहीं, बल्कि कई के पास व्यावसायिक डिग्री भी है। जेल अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, जेल में ऐसे सैकड़ों कैदी हैं, जिन्होंने एमए की पढ़ाई के अलावा एमबीए, एमसीए और अन्य प्रोफेशनल कोर्स किए हैं। ऐसे अधिकांश कैदियों का व्यवहार भी जेल में बेहतरीन रहा है।

कैदी जेल से छूटने के बाद कोई रोजगार न मिलने के कारण फिर से अपराध की दुनिया में लौट न आएँ, इस आशंका के मद्देनजर राज्य की तरफ से यह पहल की गई है। दरअसल, न तो अपना समाज इतना उदार है और न



ही वह इसके लिए तैयार दिखता है कि कैदी को जेल से बाहर निकलने के बाद वह समाज में उसे एक गरिमामय जिंदगी जीने का मौका दे। उसे सुधारने में सहयोग करने की बजाए उसकी हर गतिविधि को शक की निगाह से देखा जाता है। ऐसे में कैदी फिर से अपराध की दुनिया में लौट सकता है।

दरअसल, अपराधियों को सुधारने और उनके पुनर्वास के सवाल पर हमेशा विवाद रहा है। सजा संबंधित प्रचलित दो प्रमुख सिद्धांतों में से एक के अनुसार सजा का काम अपराधी को डराना है तो दूसरे सिद्धांत का मानना है कि सजा का मकसद अपराधी को परचाताप कराना व सुधारना है। उसके भीतर ऐसे विचार पैदा करना है कि समाज व कानून की नजर में दोषी सजा के दौरान ही खुद को एक बेहतर इंसान बनाए। उसे ऐसा माहौल प्रदान करना कि वह कैदी होते हुए भी बाहरी समाज से जुड़ रहे और रिहा होने के बाद उसका सामाजिक पुनर्वास भी सहज ढंग से हो जाए।

विदेशों में, खासतौर पर अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, कनाडा में अपराधियों को सुधारने व पुनर्वास के लिए पर्याप्त बुनियादी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई गई हैं। विदेशों में समाज विज्ञानी अपराधियों के सामाजिक माहौल, उनके मनोवैज्ञानिक व्यवहार पर शोध करते हैं, जिससे अपराध के कारणों की

तह में जाने का मौका मिलता है। फिर उनके रोकथाम की योजना भी बनाई जाती है अर्थात् दोषी को जेल में डालने मात्र से अपराध कम हो जाता है, यह नजरिया बदलने की जरूरत है।

जाहिर तौर पर कानून की नजर में अपराधी ने जो अपराध किया है, उसकी सजा का वह हकदार है, पर जिंदगी यहीं खत्म नहीं हो जाती। इस सजा के बाद उन्हें जो नई जिंदगी शुरू करनी है, उसे किस तरह बेहतर बनाया जाए, यह सवाल भी महत्वपूर्ण है। ऐसे में तिहाड़ जेल की इस अर्थवान पहल का अपना एक महत्व है और समाज में इससे यह संदेश भी चला गया है कि जेल से छूटने के बाद इनका आर्थिक पुनर्वास उन्हें समाज में खोई हुई इज्जत लौटाने में मददगार साबित होगा। वे गरिमामय जिंदगी जी सकें, इस दिशा में यह कदम उठाया गया है।

संदीप भटनागर, जिसे इस कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट में अग्रवाल पैकेज एंड मूवर्स ने एसिस्टेंट मैनेजर की नौकरी के लिए नियुक्ति पत्र दिया है, यह नौकरी हासिल करने के बाद उसकी पहली प्रतिक्रिया थी, 'यह मेरे लिए महज एक नियुक्ति पत्र नहीं है, बल्कि समाज में मेरे पुनर्वास का आश्वासन है, वरना यह समाज मेरे से किनारा कर लेता। अब मैं अब अपनी पत्नी व बच्चों को दिल्ली में एक गरिमामय जिंदगी देने का आश्वासन दे सकता हूँ।' पिछले पांच साल से विचाराधीन कैदी संदीप अब जल्द ही जेल से छूट जाएगा।

दरअसल, इस कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट में इंटरव्यू देने वाले जिन कैदियों को चुना गया, वे सभी छह महीने या एक साल में रिहा हो जाएंगे। इनकी उम्र 25 से 30 वर्ष है और कुछ कम पढ़े-लिखे भी हैं। इनका जेल में अच्छा आचरण भी चुनने का एक आधार बना। हालांकि, कॉर्पोरेट जगत को इस सुधारवादी प्रयोग से जोड़ना राज्य के लिए इतना आसान नहीं था, पर समाज इस पहल में राज्य के साथ खड़ा है या विरोध में, इस प्रतिक्रिया का इंतजार है।

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