

Newspaper Clips

March 3, 2012

Deccan Herald ND 3/03/2012 p8

Universities told to fill backlog vacancies soon

Govt sets March 31 deadline for VCs to comply with order

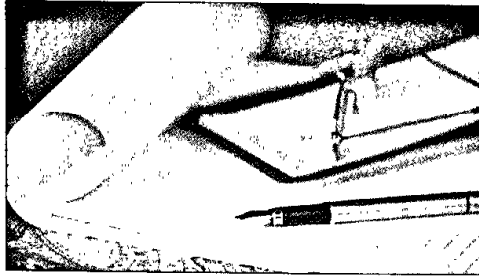
Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked vice-chancellors of universities to fill backlog vacancies reserved for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and persons with disabilities by the end of this month.

Directing the VCs of all 578 varsities including deemed to be universities to clear the

backlog through a special recruitment drive, the Ministry of Human resource Development has asked them to submit compliance report within fifteen days after filling all the identified teaching and non-teaching post.

The University Grants Commission, too, has written to the vice chancellors in this regard asking them to take the matter "urgent". "This exercise (filling of backlog posts) has to be com-



pleted by March 31," the higher education regulator has said.

The Ministry has asked the university heads to take "due

care" while making assessment of the backlog vacancies and maintenance of requisite registers and rosters as per in-

structions of Department of Personnel and Training.


"They (vice-chancellors) have been asked to ensure that such assessments are correct," sources in the ministry said.

Various organisations working for the welfare of persons with disability has told the HRD Ministry that backlog vacancies meant for them have not been reported correctly by many institutions in terms of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Several parliamentarians,

too have brought this issue to the notice of the ministry. In view of such reports, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal has asked all the vice-chancellors to look into the matter personally and take corrective steps, if any required, ministry sources said. The minister also has exhorted the VCs to meet the deadline of March 1 set for the filling of the backlog vacancies, as identified on November 1, 2008, for SCs, STs and OBCs and on November 15, 2009 for persons with disabilities, sources added.

DH News Service

Article rank  | 3 Mar 2012 | Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

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CM'S LETTER TO SIBAL ADDS TO UNIV ACT ROW



MUMBAI: Even as the Bombay high court is examining whether the amended Maharashtra **Universities** Act 1994 existed when vice-chancellors of **universities** including Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur were appointed by the state, a letter to the Centre by chief minister Prithviraj Chavan has added to the confusion.

On April 25, 2011, Chavan had written a letter to the union human resources minister Kapil **Sibal** informing him that the state amended the law on June 25, 2009. But it has now emerged that the State Legislature has no records to prove that the law was amended on the date mentioned in the

Sunil Mishra, a petitioner who is pursuing the case in the Nagpur bench of the high court, told HT that he suspected officers had furnished wrong facts before Chavan, who had then completed five months in office.

Business Standard ND
3/03/2012

P-20

SC clarifies CMAT not 'sole' test

BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 2 March

B-schools across the country can heave a sigh of relief. The Supreme Court, in a judgment delivered on March 1, stated that the All India Council for Technical Education's (AICTE) Common Management Admission Test (CMAT) is just another MBA entrance test and not the 'sole' and 'mandatory' entrance exam for B-schools.

Supreme Court has stated that CMAT is the sixth MBA entrance test in India and that B-schools can continue to use other five nationally recognised tests namely: Common Admission Test (CAT), Management Aptitude Test (MAT), Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT), AIMS Test for Management (ATMA) and Joint Management Entrance Test (JMET).

JMET, used for admission to the B-schools run by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), has since been scrapped. IITs would now be using CAT to admit students to their B-schools.

Responding to an application made by Education Promotion Society for India which sought clarification in public interest, a Supreme Court bench of Justice A K Patnaik and Justice Swatanter Kumar passed the order: "We clarify that as per the interim order passed by this court on 26 July, 2011, PGDM institutions may continue to admit students for 2012-13 who have taken CAT, MAT, XAT, ATMA, and JMET". CMAT was announced by AICTE in December 2011. B-schools by this time had already frozen their admission process using CAT, XAT and other exams.

Business Line ND
3/03/2012 P-14

Harvard Business School opens new classroom in Mumbai

Our Bureau

Mumbai, March 2

Harvard Business School (HBS) recently announced the launch of the new amphitheatre-style classroom in Mumbai, which replicates the classrooms on its Boston campus, giving participants and students a true Harvard Business School case-method learning experience.

Built and owned by Taj Lands End, an initiative of the Indian Hotels Company Ltd, the launch of the classroom kicks off with a series of activities including research conferences and executive education programs.

The new classroom, with a seating capacity of up to 82 students, will offer multimedia facilities that augment the educational experience of the students.

This IIM charts a new course, looks east for global business

(Hindustan Times, Bhopal, March 3)

The programme has been designed for professionals with substantial work experience internationally A S H O K E K D U T T A , IIM Shillong director

NEW DELHI: At a time when everyone is looking westward, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong is adopting a 'Look East' policy even as it braces itself to start its new postgraduate programme (PGPEX) in international business with special focus on China. This programme becomes even more important because 2012 is being celebrated as the IndiaChina Friendship Year.

"We have a target of starting the course from April 2012. But considering the large number of applications received, we may be delayed by two weeks," Prof Ashoke K Dutta, IIM Shillong director, told HT.

The Executive Post Graduate Programme (PGPEX) in international business is an intensive one-year programme designed to enhance skills and capabilities essential for senior management positions at the global level with six-month stay and internship in China. IIM Shillong has entered into an MOU with Ocean University of China to start the new global MBA programme.

"At a time when everyone is looking westward, we have decided to look eastward. Is this not a good sign?" he said.

Listing other steps taken to look eastward, Dutta said they have had two advanced management programmes in January and February this year targeted towards heads of academic institutions and bureaucrats.

To begin with 20 bureaucrats were trained in China on the Chinese way of doing business. "We are having talks with the governments of other north- eastern states and by next year we may include more states for the programme."

The participants in the oneyear PGPEX programme will develop the 'financial mindset' to analyse, plan and make decisions to maximise corporate value, Dutta said, maintaining "They will develop an understanding of how international financial policy interacts with corporate strategy. A key challenge in developing a global business strategy is aligning the organization's resources with long term goals, while converging global forces and local issues."

"The programme has been designed for professionals with substantial work experience internationally and the key attribute of this Sino- Indian Global MBA programme is its focus on emerging economies such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa," Dutta said, adding: "These emerging economies have enormous potential and business opportunities in 2012-20. Sustaining spectacular growth requires capable senior executives with global exposure who acquire diverse skills to handle numerous challenges, which are in short supply."

The business model that have developed cater to business need of the western societies. With the advent of the emerging economies in the global business scene new challenges have opened up which are specific to the emerging markets, he said. LOVE, JEALOUSY BEHIND MASOOD MURDER: DIARY

Pervez, who is married to Asa Pervez, had an intimate relationship with the legislator for the last five years. Masood incurred Pervez's wrath for her growing closeness with the MLA.

"On August 15, 2011, a day before the murder, Pervez wrote 'for the last two-three days, [the legislator] has not talked to me. But he spoke to Shehla Masood for half hour'," the source said.

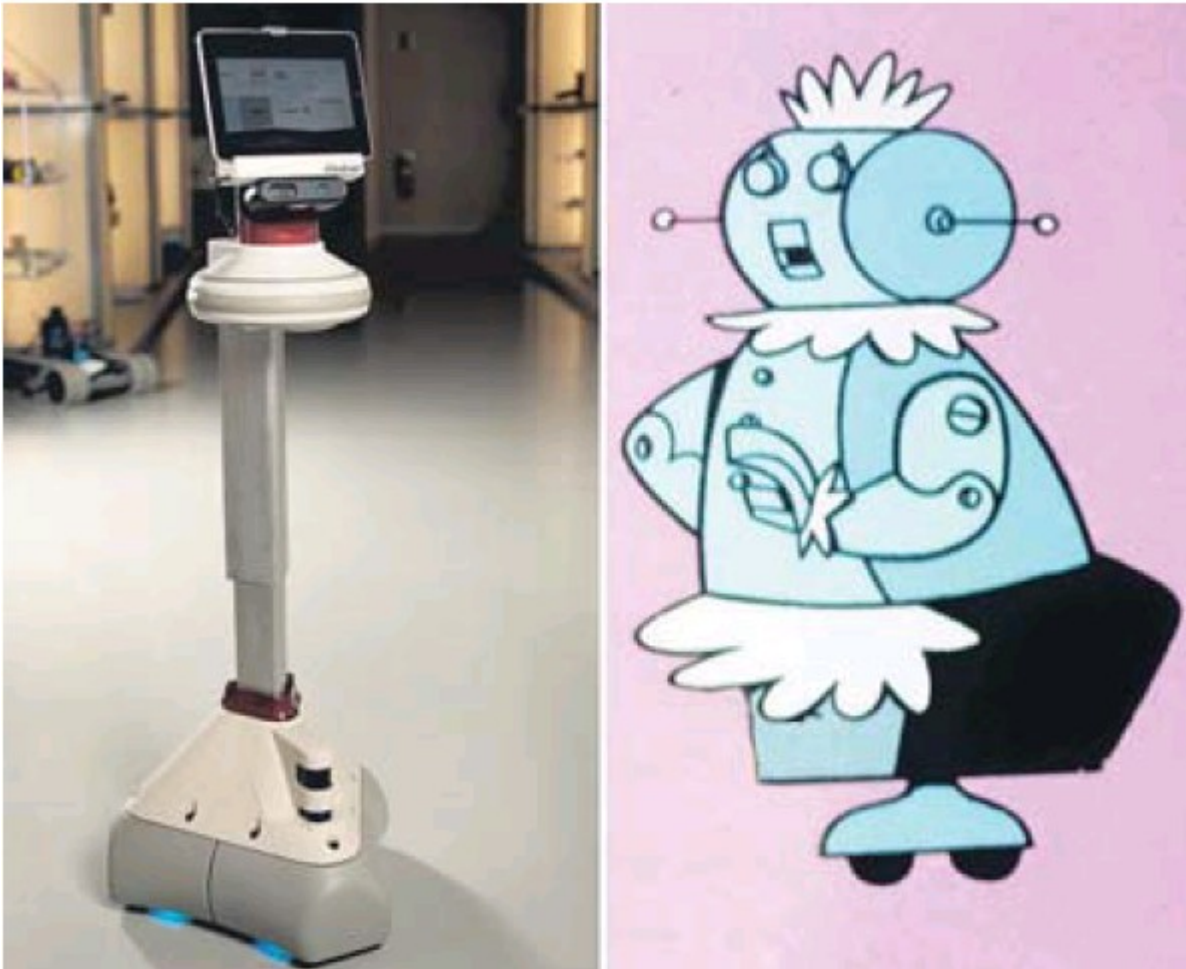
On August 16, 2011, she wrote, 'I was feeling very depressed...then Ali called me around 11.15 am. He said, mubarak ho, ghar ke saamney hi kaam ho gaya (Congratulations, the job has been done outside the house)'. According to the diary, which will be a key evidence against Pervez and others, the shooter Shanu Olanga had called Ali to announce that the deed has been done. At 11.26 am, Ali called Pervez again to discuss the incident. Pervez further wrote that the same evening, she "celebrated" with her friend and colleague Saba Faruqui, who allegedly knew about the contract to get Masood killed. ZAHIDA FRIEND ...

Aulanga was killed in Kanpur, later. While Irfan has been arrested, the hunt is on for Salim. CBI sources said Zahida was close to a BJP MLA but he had been avoiding her lately. This was reflected in the entries made in her diary. An entry made on August 16, the day Masood was shot dead, drew the attention of investigators. The diary has sad 'shayari' (Urdu couplets) apart from 'sensational' entries, say sources. But officials are silent on exact nature of the revelations.

A robot for work and home

(International Herald Tribune, March 3)

A U.S. company, irobot, is creating an assistant that will use recent video and computing advances to help with office work and household chores. The robot, Ava, will have an ipad or an Android tablet for a brain and Xbox motion sensors to help it get around. Ever since Rosey the Robot took care of "The Jetsons" in the early 1960s, the promise of robots making everyday life easier has been a bit of a tease.



JODI HILTON

FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES (LEFT); HANNA-BARBERA At left, the robot called Ava will use recent video and computing advances to help out with office work and household chores; at right, the mechanical maid of “The Jetsons.”

Rosey, a metallic maid with a frilly apron, “kind of set expectations that robots were the future,” said Colin M. Angle, the chief executive of irobot. “Then, 50 years passed.”

Now Mr. Angle’s company is trying to do Rosey one better — with Ava, a 5-foot-4-inch, or 1.6-meter, assistant with an iPad or an Android tablet for a brain and Xbox motion sensors to help her get around. But no apron, so far.

irobot, based outside Boston, has emerged over the past decade as one of the top U.S. robot makers. It has sold millions of disc-shaped Roomba vacuum cleaners, and its bomb disposal robots have protected soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, with Ava, it is using video and computing advances to create robots that could do office work remotely and perhaps one day handle more of the household chores.

In late January, irobot expanded a partnership with Intouch Health, a small company that enables doctors at computer screens to treat stroke victims and other patients from afar. And this past week, Texas Instruments said it would supply irobot with powerful new processors that could help the robots act more like people and gradually lower their cost.

“We have a firm belief that the robotics market is on the cusp of exploding,” said Remi El-ouazzane, vice president and general manager of the Texas Instruments unit that makes the new processors.

Mr. Angle’s hopes for broadening the industry’s appeal are shared by other robot companies, which have struggled to expand beyond industrial and military uses, toys and other niche products.

Programming robots to mimic human behavior remains difficult. But the ability to use the tablets as simple touchscreen controllers is attracting more software developers, who are envisioning applications that could enhance video-conferencing, provide mobile security guards and sales clerks and help the elderly live longer in their homes.

And with their own innovations now at the center of the effort, the technology giants — Apple, Google, Microsoft and the semiconductor companies — are also pushing things along.

But Mr. Angle, 44, who has been at the forefront of robotics since he was a student at M.I.T., said Ava was “one of the things in our pipeline that I am personally most excited about.” He cautioned that the robot was still a prototype and would not report for any actual work duties before next year.

Mr. Angle estimates that the early Ava’s will cost in the tens of thousands of dollars, high enough that the company is focusing first on medical applications with Intouch Health, based in Santa Barbara, California.

Intouch already has robots with video hookups in many smaller hospitals, and they have saved lives in emergencies when specialists could not get there in person. But the doctors have to drive and manipulate the robots with joysticks to see the patients.

Mr. Angle said that a tap on Ava’s tablet screen could dispatch it to the right room and free the doctors from the more mundane controls. Its new mapping system, based partly on Microsoft’s 3-Dmotion sensor for the Xbox, could enable the robot to hustle to the patient’s bedside without slamming into obstacles.

As time goes on, Mr. Angle thinks business executives could use the robots as proxies at meetings, speaking and watching wirelessly through Ava’s headgear and even guiding it into the hall for private chats. And if the sticker price eventually gets down to consumer levels, as he thinks it will, Ava could, with arms added, dispense pills to aging Baby Boomers or even fetch them cocktails.

Still, given how long other robotic breakthroughs have taken, Wall Street is not sure what to make of all this yet.

As sales of its vacuums and military robots grew, irobot’s earnings shot up to \$40 million last year from \$756,000 in 2008, and its stock surged to \$38 a share from \$7. But with pressure mounting for budget cuts at the Pentagon, Mr. Angle told analysts last month that military sales could drop as much as 20 percent this year, and the stock quickly tumbled to a range of \$25 to \$26 a share.

The company had laid off 55 of the 657 employees it had last autumn in anticipation of a slowdown in military sales in the United States.

Frank Tobe, an independent analyst who publishes “The Robot Report” online, said that until Ava was equipped to pick up and handle objects, it would have limited uses. But he said the partnership with Intouch gave irobot a much-needed toehold in health care.

Irobot plans to invest \$6 million in InTouch, and Mr. Tobe said by combining their technologies, the companies could produce the devices at a much lower cost and attract more business.

HindustanTimes

Title : Another Day It's just an exam, silly!

Author : NAMITA BHANDARE

Location :

Article Date : 03/03/2012

I see them huddled outside the school gates. Some are engaged in chit chat, others stare at unread newspapers as they wait for their children to emerge from the examination centre. They are this year's batch of anxious parents, prisoners along with their children in the annual rite of board examinations.

My daughter has another year to go. Yet, I'm already laying out commandments: coaching classes in the summer, no missing school and just forget about holidays. But I'm no tiger mother. My children have never sung nursery rhymes for uncles-aunties or competed for every trophy from elocution to compost-making. They were never packed off to the dozens of 'self-improvement' and hobby classes so popular in the city (hell, I said, my kids need time to dream). And when a child says she wants to bunk school because she's going to the book fair with her grandfather, I say, yeah, that's education too.

The board exams represent the culmination of 12 years of school but they don't represent education. Last year, CN Rao, head of the prime minister's scientific advisory council complained that India had 'an examination system but not an education system'. In October, Infosys chairman emeritus Narayana Murthy said the quality of students getting into the IITs had

It's just an exam, silly!

The purpose of education goes beyond a test that asks predictable questions

deteriorated due to coaching classes that teach limited sets of problems. And the only time the late RK Narayan spoke in his six years in Parliament was to lament the heavy schoolbags children were forced to carry.

Yet, no matter how high pitched the complaint or how extensive the reform — Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made the Class 10 Boards optional and has announced plans for vocational training — there seems to be no getting past this dreaded month. Performance is reduced to five, three-hour-long, 100-mark papers where the ability to memorise rather than analyse is tested, where intelligence is measured by academic ability, and where a half percentage point will determine your child's college and subject. The sheer numbers would make for stress. This year 1.3 million students will take the Class 10 and 12 boards, up from 1.2 million last year.

More numbers than before will compete for finite college seats, for the 1,200 seats at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) or the 5,000 IIT seats.

But it is parents rather than peers that account for much of the stress, says Roopak Kathpalia, a suicide counsellor with 13 years experience. It's parents who stake prestige on examination results. And it's parents who need to see their kids as individuals with different aptitudes and talents rather than as cogs in the board system. “It is natural to have some ambition for your kids,” says Kathpalia. But unre-

alistic and unrelenting pressure can rub off on the children, sometimes with disastrous results. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 5,857 students attempted suicide in 2006 due to exam-related stress. What can be more tragic than a promising life cut short because someone, somewhere determined that self-esteem was about the

ability to score high marks?

One of my closest friends failed his Class 12 board and is now at the very top of his career, a published author, a wonderful human being and a great dad. I was the sort of student who made parent-teacher meetings a nightmare for my mother but I blossomed in college and did OK. Others talk of the importance of failure: those who succeed in life are undaunted by the fear of failing; in fact failure prepares them for life's inevitable hardships while continued success makes people risk-averse.

The purpose of education goes beyond an exam that asks predictable questions. This year's English paper, for instance, asked students to report on a bomb blast and contained a comprehension passage, aptly, on stress and competition. Parents were reportedly furious for this out-of-the-box questioning. The purpose of education is not college admission; it is not to create skilled workers but well-rounded individuals with sound values. As this month unravels, perhaps we'd do well to remember that. These exams do not measure success or ability or failure. These exams are not a battle. These exams are not life.

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The views expressed by the author are personal

Another Day



NAMITA BHANDARE

3/03/2012

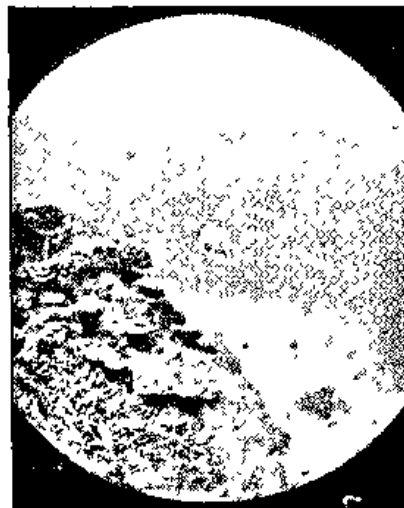
P-17

Oceans turning acidic at fastest pace in 300m yrs

Washington: The world's oceans are turning acidic at what could be the fastest pace of any time in the past 300 million years, even more rapidly than during a monster emission of planet-warming carbon 56 million years ago, scientists have said.

Looking back at this warm period in Earth's history could offer help in forecasting the impact of human-spurred climate change, researchers said. Quickly acidifying seawater eats away at coral reefs, which provide habitat for other animals and plants, and makes it harder for mussels and oysters to form protective shells. It can also interfere with small organisms that feed fish like salmon.

The phenomenon has been a top concern of Jane Lubchenco, the head of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who has conducted demonstrations about acidification during hearings in the US Congress. Oceans get more acidic



SEA OF TROUBLE: Quickly acidifying seawater corrodes coral reefs which provide habitat for flora and fauna

when more carbon gets into the atmosphere. In pre-industrial times, this occurred periodically in natural pulses of carbon that pushed up global temperatures, the scientists wrote in the 'Science' journal.

Human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, have increased the level of atmospheric carbon from about 280 parts per million at the start of the industrial revolution to 392 parts per million

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