

Newspaper Clips March 3, 2015

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Mary Kom flags off Box Out

Five-time world boxing champion **MC Mary Kom** on Monday flagged off a

campaign named 'Box Out' against social evils like sexual abuse and cor-

ruption. The vision behind the campaign is to 'Box Out' the evils in the society and also to create awareness for challenges like sexual abuse, eve teasing, acid attacks and graft. While addressing an event at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), the Olympic bronze medallist also unveiled the blogging page of the and registered herself on it.



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HAL to set up chair at IIT Madras

Rozelle Laha

An exclusive chair for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), to be set up within three months in IIT Madras, will be responsible for carrying out research in various areas related to aerospace technologies, providing technical consultancy and facilitating training programmes

"Through the chair, MTech and PhD programmes may be organised through external registration and all subjects will be taught online. HAL officers deputed for these courses are required to come to IIT Madras only for

laboratory classes. Final examinations may also be conducted at HAL under the supervision of an authorised officer of HAL," says Professor R Nagarajan, dean, IIT Madras.

HAL will make a onetime payment of ₹1.5 crore for funding the chair to the corpus of the institute. Other subsequent expenses will be covered from the interest earned on this endowment.

HAL has made similar tie-ups for research with IIT's in Roorkee, Kanpur, Mumbai and Kharagpur. "We expect the difference to be in the intensity of execution," Professor Nagarajan added.

Times Of India ND 03/03/2015 P-12

IN PARLIAMENT

HRD min struggles to appoint VCs to 16 central varsities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A bulk of the 16 central universities remain headless more than a year after vice-chancellors demitted office on completion of their term. Few months before the general election, UPA-II had set up search-cum-selection committees for eight of them, but the new government scrapped the panels and new ones were put in place.

Faced with the long-process of appointing VCs, HRD ministry has now decided that the process of appointment will begin at least a year before the incumbent retires. "We want to put in place a seamless system," one ministry official said.

The ministry informed Rajya Sabha on Monday that four VCs have been appointed in the central universities of Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat and Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University. Search committees have given recommendation for three central universities of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya. Search committees have been constituted for the posts of VCs for central universities of Haryana and Bihar. Process for appointment of VCs of Central University of Kashmir and Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya is at an advanced stage. Five central universities of Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and North-East Hill University, Meghalaya will soon be advertising for VCs post.

HRD sources said delay has been due to the time taken in scrapping search panels set up by the UPA. "Lot of complaints about the constitution of search committees and allegations of conflict of interest were made even before the new government came to power," a ministry official said.

HRD Ministry hikes stipend for PHD scholars

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-hrd-ministry-hikes-stipend-for-phd-scholars-2065745>

The [government](#) has hiked the stipends of PHD scholars in [AICTE](#) and centrally funded technical institutes, under which a junior research fellow will get Rs 25,000 as revised emolument per month.

Similarly, a senior research fellow with a JRF qualification and two years of research experience will be getting 28,000 per month. HRD minister [Smriti Irani](#) announced this in a tweet posted late on Monday evening.

The revised rates of fellowships will come into effect from October 1, 2014 for PHD students. The additional costs on account of this will be met by individual institute from their existing budgetary grant, said a ministry order.

Cut in education budget due to higher tax devolution to states: Smriti Irani

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/cut-in-education-budget-due-to-higher-tax-devolution-to-states-smriti-irani/531645-7.html>

New Delhi: The huge cut of 16 per cent in the education sector for 2015-16 has been attributed to the higher tax devolution to the states as has been recommended by the Finance Commission. The Union Budget presented for 2015-16 has proposed Rs 69,074 crore as against Rs 82,771 allocated in the previous fiscal.

"The Budget estimates for the HRD Ministry has been drawn up in the context of the 14th Finance Commission wherein a higher tax devolution to the states has been recommended," HRD Minister Smriti Irani said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

Delinking of some schemes to the states such as setting up of about 6,000 model schools has also been blamed by the Ministry officials for the cut in the budget allocation for the sector.

The Union Budget presented for 2015-16 has proposed Rs 69,074 crore as against Rs 82,771 allocated in the previous fiscal.

The slash in the education sector as compared to the revised allocation in 2014-15 is, however, 2.02 per cent. While the school education sector has got an outlay of Rs 42,219.50 crore for 2015-16, the higher education sector has got Rs 26,855 crore.

CBI questions NIT director Thorat

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/CBI-questions-NIT-director-Thorat/articleshow/46435307.cms>

DEHRADUN: The CBI for the first time on Monday called in for questioning director of NIT, Uttarakhand, H T Thorat, in connection with alleged charges of corruption revolving around purchase of lab equipment in the campus.

This comes following rounds of questioning in the recent past of the the institute's faculty and also the chairman.

According to the institute's staff, this is perhaps the last round of the investigation as CBI officials have already spoken

with most of the staff and have collected all necessary documents required in the case.

Speaking to **TOI**, whistleblower Bhole Shankar Sikhwal said, "I had objected to the procurement of lab equipment in the institute, something that resulted in my termination from NIT. Hopefully, there should now be some action taken against the guilty." It has been charged that the fraud involves an amount in excess of Rs 1.5 crore.

Sources added that the CBI will in the near future call two-three more individuals for further questioning.

"Only the director's statement was pending," a faculty member said. "Most probably a report will now be made and sent to the CBI head office for the final course of action."

On February 16, the institute's chairman and Titan industries MD Bhaskar Bhat had been called to the CBI's office in Dehradun in connection with the case. In the past, Sikhwal, too, has been questioned. He later claimed he has submitted a six-page written statement and a 20-page "enclosed evidence" on the corruption charges made by him. This, he said, is in the possession of the CBI.

All efforts to contact Thorat were unsuccessful. Some faculty members, though, did confirm to TOI that he had been questioned for more than four hours.

IIT-H first to introduce course on digital fabrication

Digital fabrication can be used not only in the manufacturing sector but also in healthcare, food and other segments in future

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/iit-h-first-to-introduce-course-on-digital-fabrication-115030200522_1.html

Indian Institute of Technology- Hyderabad is the first academic outfit in the country to introduce a course on [digital fabrication](#) or 3D printing technology, which, according to its director UB Desai, has wide range of applications.

Digital fabrication, also called additive manufacturing, can be used not only in the manufacturing sector but also in healthcare, food and other segments in future, Desai told mediapersons on the sidelines of an international symposium on the subject here on Monday.

The two-day symposium is being held jointly by IIT-Hyderabad, Keio University of Japan and Deakin University of Australia under the aegis of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to deepen interdisciplinary collaboration in the development of digital fabrication.

According to the organisers, digital fabrication enables fabrication using a wide variety of materials sans tooling, assembly lines or supply chains.

This is changing the way designing and fabrication is done, from that of machine parts, concrete structures, prosthetics, electronic components to almost anything. It entails digitisation of design as well as of the process with computer-aided design tools.

“The use of digital fabrication has spread in large manufacturing facilities over the past two decades, and interdisciplinary collaboration between academics and industry is serving to make the technology inexpensive and user-friendly,” Keio University Environment and Information Studies dean, Jun Murai, said.

Dean of Engineering at Deakin University, Guy Littlefair, said advances in materials, electronics, modeling interfaces and material distribution had vaulted digital fabrication from a simple method for producing three-dimensional prototypes to a viable option for low-volume manufacturing components.

Govt appoints RSS mouthpiece ex-editor NBT chief

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/463128/govt-appoints-rss-mouthpiece-ex.html>

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has appointed Baldev Sharma, former editor of RSS mouthpiece “Panchjanya”, as the new chairman of the National Book Trust (NBT).

A Sethumadhavan, who held the post, was forced to quit six months before his term was due to expire. A veteran Malayalam fiction-writer, Sethumadhavan was appointed NBT chairman for a three-year term on September 6, 2012. He tendered his resignation two days ago reportedly after a senior HRD Ministry official asked him to quit.

“I resigned two days ago, and got a confirmation about the acceptance today (Monday). I had received a call from an HRD Ministry official two days ago informing me that the government would like to appoint a new NTB chairman,” Sethumadhavan told Deccan Herald.

Making it clear that he did not want to cling on to the post, he said his “culture” was not to make a fuss about such things. “I have held very important positions over the past 40 years,” he said.

Asked about the way he was removed, Sethu, as he is popularly known in Kerala, said personally he was least bothered: “The government is well within its right to appoint anybody. The appointment letter also says they can remove me. I only feel perhaps they should have done it after six months.”

The HRD Ministry had earlier forced out National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) chief Praveen Sinclair halfway through her term.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, director Raghunath K Shevgaonkar also tendered his resignation halfway into his five-year tenure last December following consistent pressure from HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who was upset with him for many reasons, including non-settlement of arrears of Rs 70 lakh of former IIT faculty and now BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

The ministry, however, did not take any decision on Shevgaonkar’s resignation as a probe initiated by the ministry into his role in supporting Mauritius to set up an international institute of technology in the country backfired. Shevgaonkar resumed his duties after remaining on leave for a few days.

Though the HRD Ministry remained incommunicado, new NBT chairman Sharma, also a former journalist, confirmed his appointment.

“Yes, the ministry has appointed me as the new NBT chairperson. I got a communication from the ministry in this regard today (Monday) evening,” he said. Asked about his priorities as the new NBT chief, he said, “I cannot say anything on this at this point. I can share with you my priorities only after I join.”

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Deadly bio-terror agent leaked from lab

Officials Of High-Security US Research Facility Say Bacteria Pose No Risk To Public

Washington: US officials in Louisiana are investigating how a dangerous and often deadly bacteria got out of a high-security laboratory at a research facility, USA Today reported on Sunday.

Authorities told the newspaper there was no risk to public, though the extent of the contamination remains unknown after the safety breach at the Tulane National Primate Research Center.

The bacterium is called *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. Primarily found in Southeast Asia and northern Australia, the microbe can spread to humans and animals through contact with contaminated soil and water. It is classified as a poten-



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SAFETY BREACH: The lab was trying to find a vaccine against the bacteria

tial bioterror agent.

The release possibly came in November or earlier at the center, which was working to develop a vaccine against the bacteria. Officials say the pathogen has not been detected at the facility's outdoor grounds, though four rhesus monkeys kept in outdoor pens became sick, and two were euthanized, USA Today said.

Additionally, a federal inspector became sick after visiting the facility, though it was not clear if she had been exposed to the bacterium prior to her visit, as she had a history of international travel.

The research center did not immediately return a call seeking comment. "There continues

to be no known threat to the public," a release issued on February 24 read. "There are no known human or non-human primates ill as a result of possible exposure to *Burkholderia pseudomallei*."

USA Today, however, said some officials were pressing for more action. "The fact that they can't identify how this release occurred is very concerning," Richard Ebright, a biosafety expert from Rutgers University in New Jersey, told the newspaper.

Research center director Andrew Lackner said tests of 39 soil and 13 water samples from the facility's grounds did not find the bacteria. But USA Today said too few samples had been taken. AFP