

Newspaper Clips

March 3-4, 2013

March 3

Hindu ND 03/03/2013

P-14

ISRO plans to push more satellites this year

Mars Orbiter Mission launch slated for October

Madhumathi D.S.

BANGALORE: The coming year's Rs.5,615-crore outlay for the Department of Space has no new or big-ticket projects even as it levels the allocation exactly with what was earmarked originally for 2012-13.

The prestigious Mars Orbiter Mission — floated some two years back and slated for October this year — looks the fanciest, while the launch vehicles continue to get their proud slice of the pie.

This year, apart from the Mars project estimated at Rs.450 crore, the space agency wants to push its first navigational satellite (NSS),

SLICE OF THE 2013-14 SPACE PIE *

Satellite/ launcher	Outlay in 2013-14 (in Rs. cr)
GSLV & MkIII (both operational)	222
ACTS/GSAT-11 satellite(+ foreign launcher)	203
Mars orbiter	167.5
GSLV MkIII development	139.5
NSS (navigational satellite)	135
GSAT 15 [+foreign launcher]	100 [+300]
GSAT 16 [+foreign launcher]	95 [+305]
GISAT	80
Semi-cryogenic engine devt	68.3
Chandrayaan-2	78
Human space flight	27

the dedicated GSAT-7 spacecraft (costing Rs. 462 crore with launcher) for the Navy; and the four-tonne ad-

vanced communications satellite ACTS or GSAT-11, a senior Indian Space Research Organisation official

told *The Hindu*.

The ACTS will be the heaviest satellite to be built to date by ISRO.

The advanced Geo-Imaging Satellite GISAT to be put in the medium Earth orbit is on the to-do list.

The completion of the GSLV rocket with its indigenous cryogenic engine; and GSLV Mark-III — its big brother version for lifting 4-tonne satellites — remain priorities, the official said. Mk-III is slated for the first trial in the second half of this year without the cryo-stage.

These two, along with the semi-cryogenic programme, get about Rs. 420 crore.

Non-Plan provision

Last year's outlay is now revised to Rs.5,615 crore from Rs.3,880 crore.

This year, DoS gets a non-Plan provision of Rs.1,177 crore.

An upgraded PSLV rocket will lift the 1,300-kg Mars spacecraft to the longest space haul that India has ever travelled — after the 4-lakh-km Chandrayaan-1 mission of 2008.

An outlay of Rs.167.5 crore has been set apart for the Mars mission in the budget.

In the absence of the GSLV to lift communications satellites above 2,000 kg, three procured or foreign launches have been factored in for the ACTS, GSAT 15 and 16.

Chandrayaan-2 and the human flight plan, which get relatively small outlays, have been put on the back-burner for now, the official said.

IIM gender sensitivity panel to be disbanded

REASON Woman prof finds bias in the probe

HT Correspondent

✉ editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

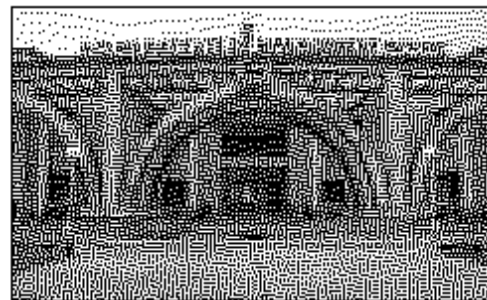
INDORE: The gender sensitivity committee at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM-I), which was investigating a complaint of sexual harassment filed by a female professor against a colleague, would be dissolved, according to sources.

The committee would now be reconstituted after the complainant reportedly expressed her concern about bias in the investigation as she had some issues with some of the members. Soon after the complaint last week, the committee had recorded the statement of the victim.

She had earlier registered her complaint with director of the institute N Ravichandran against the associate professor of marketing department on February 20.

This complaint was then forwarded to this committee, which looks into the matters of sexual harassment on campus.

The present committee is



COMMITTEE TO BE RECONSTITUTED AFTER THE COMPLAINANT EXPRESSES DOUBTS IN INVESTIGATION

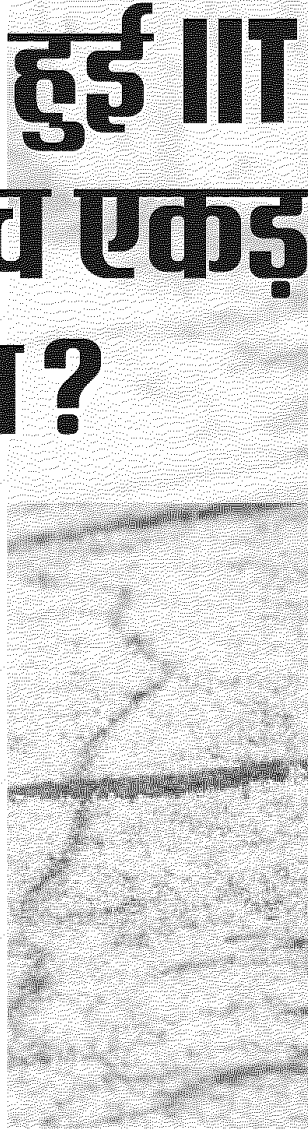
headed by Reba Majumdar, advocate and entrepreneur and the members include dean (administration) IIM-I, faculty members Abha Chatterjee and SK Ghosh from IIM-I, Mukta Gupta, AGM, State Bank of India, Bhavya Kapoor, officer (placement) from IIM Indore, Ankita Satija, student representative from PGP and Palka Chillar FPM representative.

IIM-I spokesperson Akhtar Parvez denied any comment. When HT contacted Majumdar she also refused to comment.

गायब हुई IIT की पांच एकड़ जमीन ?

» शासन ने अलॉट की थी 502 एकड़ जमीन, इसमें से रिकॉर्ड में ही नहीं मिल रही 5 एकड़

राज्य शासन ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) इंदौर को 502 एकड़ जमीन अलॉट की थी। मगर अब इसमें से बेशकीमती 5 एकड़ जमीन गायब हो गई है। दरअसल, जब राजस्व और भू-अभिलेख विभाग ने जब जमीनी पड़ताल की तो धरातल से लेकर नक्शे तक, ये जमीन ढूंढे नहीं मिली। जमीन के गायब होने में अब कई तरह की गड़बड़ियों के संदेह भी उठने लगे हैं। आईनेक्स्ट की ग्राउंड रिपोर्ट... » ...see pg 3



आईआईटी की जमीन हुई 'गुम'

» राज्य शासन ने आवंटित की थी 502 एकड़ जमीन

» एक पखवाड़े तक किया सीमांकन



indore@inext.co.in

INDORE (28 Feb.): राज्य सरकार द्वारा भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) को सिमरौल में आवंटित जमीन में से करीब 5 एकड़ हिस्सा गुम है। दरअसल, आईआईटी को 502 एकड़ जमीन दी गई थी, लेकिन धरातल और नक्शे में इसका मिलान नहीं हो पा रहा है। राजस्व और भू-अभिलेख के अमले ने करीब एक पखवाड़े तक जमीन का सीमांकन किया। अब

वे भू-अभिलेख और नक्शों पर जमीन को तलाश रहे हैं।

नक्शों में यह देखा जा रहा है कि किस खसरे में कितनी जमीन बँट रही है। कितनी जमीन बाहर है। इस काम में महू तहसील के राजस्व अधिकारी, एसएलआर, राजस्व निरीक्षक और पटवारी जुटे हैं। दिलचस्प पहलू यह है कि आईआईटी के लिए वर्ष 2009 में पहली बार जमीन का सीमांकन किया गया था। इसके बाद 2012 में पंजेशन दिया गया। तबसे अब तक दो-तीन बार सीमांकन हो चुका है, लेकिन आईआईटी प्रबंधन अब भी संतुष्ट नहीं

है। प्रबंधन आवंटित जमीन की एक-एक इंच जमीन को अपनी बाउंड्रीवॉल के अंदर लेना चाहता है। कुछ बिंदुओं को लेकर प्रबंधन को अब भी आपत्ति है। जमीन की सुरक्षा के लिए आईआईटी प्रबंधन बाउंड्रीवॉल बनवा रहा है। जमीन के तीन तरफ तो बाउंड्रीवॉल बन चुकी है, लेकिन एक ओर अभी ओपन एरिया है। यहाँ दो-तीन मकानों के अतिक्रमण और पहुँच मार्ग को लेकर अब भी समस्या है।

March 4

Times of India 04/03/2013

P-9

Coalnet scam: CVC for action on 3 IIT profs

Nitin Sethi | TNN

New Delhi: The Central Vigilance Commission has concurred with the CBI and recommended departmental proceedings against three IIT professors in the Coalnet scam. It has asked for proceedings to be carried out for 'major penalties' against Prof A K Bhowmick, Prof R N Banerjee and initiation of minor penalty proceedings against Prof P P Chakrabarti.

Major penalties in such departmental inquiries include dismissal from services.

The move comes in the Coalnet scam in IIT Kharagpur, for which the CBI in 2007 had recommended action against the three who were then professors at the institution.

In 2001, Coal India Ltd awarded a contract to IIT Kharagpur for implementation and training of a software called Coalnet. The award was for Rs 8.9 crore and the contract required IIT to maintain confidentiality of the data shared and not outsource the job further. But the institute sub-contracted the job to a company run by an IIT Kharagpur alumnus, TCG Software Pvt Ltd. It did exactly the same, again in violation of norms, with the second phase of the project which was worth Rs 18.8 crore.

Bhowmick was later selected to head IIT Patna in 2009 and Chakra-

barti was selected by a panel headed by the human resources development minister in 2012 to head IIT Kharagpur. Banerjee continues to work at IIT Kharagpur. The former two were selected to head the institutions without the mandatory vigilance clearance.

CBI found Bhowmick and Banerjee primarily responsible for outsourcing the project and Chakrabarti for misrepresenting facts to Coal India Limited. CBI in its report noted that the three faculty members had tried to manipulate records in their defence.

The CBI report was not acted upon for years. Then in 2009-10, the project came under the CAG's scanner with the apex government auditor concluding that implementation of Coalnet remained unfruitful even after seven years and an expenditure of Rs 39.58 crore.

In 2012, IIT Kharagpur's board of governors decided to not take cognizance of the alleged offences against the three professors leading to the HRD ministry's vigilance wing asking the institute to seek advice from the CVC.

The commission has withheld the vigilance clearance – the lack of which prevented Chakrabarti's appointment as director being formalized – and agreed with CBI that proceedings should be carried out against the three.

COALNETSCAM

CVC asks HRD Ministry to fire 3 IIT professors

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a first of its kind, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked the HRD Ministry to dismiss three IIT professors — including IIT-Patna Director and the Dean of the prestigious IIT-Kharagpur — from service.

These IIT top bosses have been indicted in the infamous ₹40-crore Coalnet scam for computerisation of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries between 2001 and 2004. The case has been reported in *The Pioneer* extensively.

The CVC's recommendation came after a meeting between CVC officials and HRD secretary Ashok Thakur last month. The CVC stepped in when Ministry's Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) sought its suggestion on the matter.

In a letter dated February 19, 2013, the CVC advised IIT-Kharagpur to initiate major penalty proceedings against IIT-Patna Director AK Bhowmick, IIT-Kharagpur Professor RN Banerjee and minor penalty proceedings against IIT-Kharagpur Dean PP Chakraborty. While Banerjee was re-engaged by IIT-Kharagpur post-retirement, Chakraborty was Director-select as a single-member panel of the institute. He was also in the race for the top post at IIT-Kharagpur.

A top HRD Ministry official said that advice of major penalty proceedings means dismissal from service

(Bhowmick and Banerjee) while options under minor penalty proceedings against Chakraborty are being weighed upon.

Bhowmick was appointed IIT-Patna Director in 2009 by then HRD Minister Arjun Singh, even though the former faced a CBI indictment for a major penalty, which included dismissal from service. The mandatory vigilance clearance was not sought from the CVC for his appointment.

Though Chakraborty, who has been Dean of the Institute



for a decade now, was also indicted by CBI in the Coalnet scam, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal too did not seek the mandatory vigilance clearance before nominating him Director-select of the institute in August last year.

With the selection procedure mired in controversy, IIT-Kharagpur is headed by an Officiating Director since October 2012.

Chakraborty was selected by a search-cum-selection committee, headed by Sibal, Chairpersons of UGC, AICTE, IIT-Kharagpur, and Kris Gopalakrishnan of Infosys were members of the selection panel.

Continued on Page 4

CVC asks HRD Ministry to fire 3 IIT professors

From Page 1

The search committee did not record the CBI case against Chakraborty. According to the documents available with *The Pioneer*, IIT-Kharagpur sought the CVC advice for quashing the CBI recommendations after Chakraborty's appointment.

In an unprecedented step, HRD Joint Secretary (Administration) and CVO Amit Khare had taken a bold step in overruling the decision of his then Secretary (Higher Education) Vibha Puri Das to quash the CBI prosecution against Bhowmick and Chakraborty. Instead, he sought advice of CVC in the case.

While Khare's decision was hailed as a step to rein in corruption, Das, who was also made a member of the Board of Governors of IIT-Kharagpur, was transferred to the Tribal Ministry.

Sources said that the HRD Ministry had already conveyed its helplessness to various authorities — including the Visitor (President of India) — in tackling many irregularities committed by

the chain of prestigious institutes, especially IIT-Kharagpur, in the recent times.

The CVC had repeatedly advised HRD Ministry that IIT-Kharagpur should have a full-time CVO.

The institute is also likely to face the music for ignoring the HRD Ministry's repeated directions to revoke suspension of IIT-whistleblower Prof Rajeev Kumar of Computer Science and Engineering Department. While the CVC is seized with the matter, the complaint has also reached the Visitor (President of India).

IIT-Kharagpur refused to place the procedural matter of allegations against Kumar before the HRD Ministry and the Visitor for a review. It, however, responded after a gap of four months saying an inquiry has already been conducted against Kumar and the report submitted to the IIT-Kharagpur Director.

The HRD Ministry has also taken serious note of IIT-Kharagpur making excess payment to the Inquiry Officer in order to implicate Prof Kumar.

टॉप 100 में आईआईटी दिल्ली और डीयू

नई दिल्ली | अचलेन्द्र कटियार

विश्व के शीर्ष संस्थानों की ताजा सूची में चार भारतीय संस्थानों को स्थान मिला है। ग्लोबल यूनिवर्सिटी की 2013 रैंकिंग में आईआईटी मुंबई, आईआईटी दिल्ली, आईआईटी कानपुर और दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय का नाम शामिल है।

क्यूएस वर्ल्ड यूनिवर्सिटी और टाइम्स हायर एजुकेशन के टॉप 200 संस्थानों में देश के किसी भी संस्थान को जगह नहीं मिली थी। दोनों रैंकिंग में किसी संस्थान के न होने पर देश में उच्च शिक्षा की स्थिति पर बहस छिड़ गई थी। प्रधानमंत्री से लेकर राष्ट्रपति सभी ने इस पर गहरी चिंता जताई थी। ग्लोबल रैंकिंग ने शीर्ष-100 संस्थानों की यह सूची 30 देशों के

संस्थान	रैंकिंग	देश
हारवर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी	1	अमेरिका
स्टैनफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी	2	अमेरिका
आईआईटी, मुंबई	19	भारत
आईआईटी, दिल्ली	27	भारत
आईआईटी, कानपुर	79	भारत
दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय	99	भारत

1100 संस्थानों का अध्ययन करने के बाद जारी की है। ग्लोबल रैंकिंग का यह सर्वे यूथ इनकॉर्पोरेटेड एंड रेडिफ डॉट कॉम की ओर से किया गया है।

दुनिया के शीर्ष-100 संस्थानों की यह सूची 6,500 चुनिंदा नियोक्ताओं के बात करने और संस्थानों के आकलन के बाद जारी की गई है।

सीधे चार गुना हुई संख्या

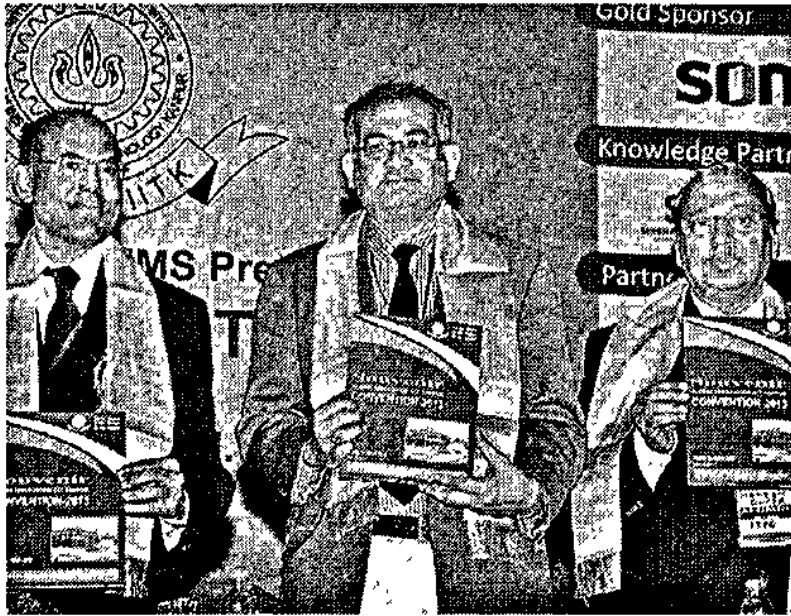
पिछले साल की रैंकिंग में सिर्फ आईआईटी मुंबई को जगह मिली थी। उसे 31वीं रैंकिंग दी गई थी। इस बार आईआईटी मुंबई ने ऊंची छलांग लगाई है और उसे 19 स्थान मिला है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय और आईआईटी दिल्ली और कानपुर का नाम ग्लोबल रैंकिंग में पहली बार जुड़ा है।

एशिया में मुंबई दूसरे नंबर पर

ग्लोबल रैंकिंग के टॉप एशियन यूनिवर्सिटी में आईआईटी मुंबई को दूसरे और आईआईटी दिल्ली को चौथे पायदान पर रखा गया है। पहला स्थान यूनिवर्सिटी टोक्यो का मिला है। इंजीनियरिंग प्रोग्राम्स के टॉप टेन में आईआईटी मुंबई और दिल्ली शामिल हैं।

Business Standard ND 04/03/2013

P-5



रविवार को आईआईटी-दिल्ली में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के गवर्नर दुवुरी सुब्बराव (बाएं) ने आईआईटी-कानपुर के निदेशक इंद्रनील मज्जा के साथ एक सांविनियर जारी किया। फोटो:पीटीआई

Punjab Kesari ND 04/03/2013 P-8



नई दिल्ली में आईआईटी अल्यूनमनो के सम्मेलन में रिजर्व बैंक के गवर्नर डी. सुब्बाराव, कंटआरओ सिस्टम्स के अध्यक्ष महेश गुप्ता से मिलते हुए। (छाया: यून्यू)

Financial Express ND 04/03/2013 P-12

Bill would enable IIMs to reach greater heights

Nikhil Kumar Ranjan

UNITY is Strength: this proverb is apt for the issue relating to the new IIM Bill, as teamwork always leads to better results. While the new IIM Bill aims at strengthening the power of the IIMs, it also might endanger their autonomy.

The main aim of the Bill is to strengthen the power of the IIMs by giving them the legal authority of granting degrees. Unlike the IIT council, it will not have the decision-making power. The Bill aims for coordination and doesn't, in any way, endanger the autonomy of the established IIMs. The flexibility enjoyed by established IIMs will not be compromised, it has been assured by the MHRD.

Another provision of the Bill is that the institutions will have to undergo a periodic review every five years, and they would be evaluated on innovation, entrepreneurship, research, impact on trade and society, quality of teaching and governance, achieving a global standing, etc.

In my opinion, the proposed Bill will strengthen the powers and even recognition of all the IIMs by making them degree-granting institutions. This would bring about a catalytic growth in the overall structure of the IIMs and would enable them to reach greater heights.

The author studies at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. This entry is part of the FE Mastermind contest. Views are personal

Financial Express ND 04/03/2013

P-12

Government should go ahead with the Bill

Ananta Reddy

THE proposed IIM Bill talks about the setting up of an apex body that will act as a coordinating avenue for all IIMs; it is similar to the IIT council. IIMs will be able to grant degrees rather than diplomas and can also confer academic titles.

The benefits of this Bill are manifold. First, it can facilitate alliance among the IIMs (earlier attempts to do so outside the formal system have not yielded favourable results). The council can facilitate research and sharing of resources between students and faculty. It will be beneficial to newer IIMs as they can learn a lot from possible collaborations and the ability to award degrees will go a long way

in international recognition to their programmes. Also, periodic reviews will make IIMs accountable.

IIMs are divided in their views on the proposed Bill, with the older ones (especially IIMA) opposing it as it will endanger their autonomy, while the newer ones supporting it, expecting it to fast-track their growth process.

I believe the government should go ahead with the Bill but it should make sure that institutes remain autonomous as each of the 13 IIMs are in different stages of growth.

The author studies at FMS Delhi. This entry is part of the FE Mastermind contest. Views are personal

Pioneer ND 04/03/2013 P-9

This parsimony is ill-advised

The Finance Minister's drastic cut in the budgetary allocation for teacher education has sent across a message that the Government is not serious about enhancing the quality in higher education, innovation and research



JS RAJPUT

When it is officially reported that out of the sanctioned 16,602 positions of academics in 42 Central universities, only 6,542 are occupied, it should not be difficult to visualise the levels of research and innovations. Quality in education is a national concern. The President and the Prime Minister recently addressed 40 Vice-Chancellors of Central universities on the state of affairs in education/higher education. This welcome step should kindle hope amongst all concerned that things shall be transformed for the better. One would even be considerably satisfied if the alarming downward slide in quality of academic attainments of students and output in research and innovations could just be halted.

Any improvements and initiatives to move towards excellence would only be the

next step. The hallowed position of the Vice-Chancellor is supposed to be occupied by persons of highest level of professional and scholarly attainments. He is supposed to be an embodiment of learning, and scholarship; and also a creator and disseminator of knowledge for people's welfare. The Vice-Chancellor leads his flock of researchers and scholars in the search for truth. Obviously such a person would be a role model in living a value-based life. One should presume that when appointments are made to the exalted positions of the Vice-Chancellors, the Union Government remains conscious of these high expectations from them. No considerations, other than merit, are taken into account.

Unfortunately, the day the President interacted with the Vice-Chancellors, (February 5) reports in the media said that

the Union Minister for Finance has communicated a Budget cut to Ministry of Human Resource Development which will adversely impact the Ministry's schemes to revamp this one of the most critical areas in education that needs resurrection at the earliest. It was probably this realisation that brought an allocation of ₹500 crore to HRD Ministry for teacher education in the budgetary allocations for the year 2012-13. The HRD Ministry was working enthusiastically on it.

Now that this allocation stands drastically reduced to ₹292 crore, motivation would be the biggest casualty.

It becomes the responsibility of universities to ensure that the primary teachers are endowed with all the necessary pre-requisites that would bring out the best from body, mind and spirit of the children under their charge. There are strong

suggestions that to move towards quality in higher education, the initiatives must accord top priority to the learner attainments in elementary schools. To begin with, improve teacher training institutions, remove the substandard ones ruthlessly and let the Government come in a big way to open more. We need teacher preparation institutions with same urgency, if not more, as we need more IITs and IIMs. This basic fact has been ignored all along. Reluctance on the part of the Government to put in more resources in teacher education has left the field free for unscrupulous 'investors'.

The quality in higher education depends upon the quality of innovation and research. These, in turn, depend on the commitment and devotion of the faculty members. It takes shape in an environment of encouragement and availabil-

ty of requisite resource support. No university can achieve excellence if it manages with part-time teachers. It is a ridiculous situation that has been permitted by the regulatory bodies in the universities.

It all began with appointments of school teachers on the pittance of an honorarium. This practice is now prevalent in most of the States. It is impossible to assess the damage that has been caused to the quality of higher education because of this one disastrous 'innovation'.

The Vice-Chancellors were justified when they pleaded for freedom to recruit short term faculty and young faculty from India and abroad. What is generally not taken up for discussions in such interactions is the issue of 'autonomy' of the Central university and also the relationship between the HRD Ministry and the universities. There is a general perception

that it is the dilution of the functional autonomy which restricts the Vice-Chancellors from taking bold decisions.

The National Policy on Education 1986/92, which is yet to be revisited, clearly asserts that 'no person can rise above the level of their teachers'. This is a universally acknowledged and experienced fact of human advancement and development.

The expression of anxiety is necessary but never sufficient. It must be augmented by serious and pragmatic initiatives at the implementation level.

The Union Finance Minister's cut in the teacher education budget once again sends a message to all concerned that the Government is not serious. This trend must be reversed. It also demoralises institutions that may really be keen to embark upon bold initiatives in various areas.

Times of India 04/03/2013

P-13

Curiosity in 'safe mode' after memory glitch

Mars Rover Op Hit As Nasa Tries To Fix Computer Problem

Washington: A computer glitch on Nasa's Mars rover Curiosity has forced the scientists to put the robot on 'safe mode' while engineers try to fix the problem.

The intentional swap put the rover, as anticipated, into a minimal-activity precautionary status called "safe mode," Nasa said.

The team will shift the rover from safe mode to operational status in a few days and is troubleshooting the condition that affected operations. The condition is related to a glitch in flash memory linked to the other, now-inactive, computer.

"We switched computers to get to a standard state from which to begin restoring rou-



TECH TROUBLE: Nasa is hopeful of resuming science investigations within a few days

te operations," said Richard Cook of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, project manager for the Mars Sci-

ence Laboratory Project.

Like many spacecraft, Curiosity carries a pair of redundant main computers in order to have a backup available if one fails. Each of the computers, A-side and B-side, also has other redundant subsystems linked to just that computer.

Curiosity is now operating on its B-side, as it did during part of the flight from Earth to Mars.

"While we are resuming operations on the B-side, we are also working to determine the best way to restore the A-side as a viable backup," said JPL engineer Magdy Bareth, leader of the mission's anomaly resolution team.

The spacecraft remained in communications at all

scheduled communication windows on Wednesday, but it did not send recorded data, only current status information.

The status information revealed that the computer had not switched to the usual daily "sleep" mode when planned.

Diagnostic work in a testing simulation at JPL indicates the situation involved corrupted memory at an A-side memory location used for addressing memory files.

Resumption of science investigations is anticipated within few days. The laboratory instruments inside the rover have been analysing portions of the first sample of rock powder ever collected from the interior of a rock on Mars. ☐

Space tourists' poop to shield from radiation

London: Astronauts onboard a privately-funded expedition to Mars in 2018 will use their own faeces to protect themselves against cosmic radiation.

The couple during the Inspiration Mars mission, funded by multimillionaire Dennis Tito, and set to fly-by the Red Planet in 2018, will face cramped conditions, muscle atrophy and potential boredom. However, their greatest health risk comes from exposure to the radiation from cosmic rays, "New Scientist" reported.

The project will develop a

radiation shield for the spacecraft by lining its walls with human waste, among other materials.

"It's a little queasy sounding, but there's no place for that material to go, and it makes great radiation shielding," said Taber MacCallum, a member of the team funded by Tito who announced the audacious plan earlier.

Solid and liquid human waste products would be put into bags and used as a radiation shield - as well as being dehydrated so that any water can be recycled for drinking, McCallum said. ☐

Hindu ND 04/03/2013

P-8

Education online

Aarti Dhar

Now colleges and universities, including those in remote areas, can interact, communicate, coordinate and attend meetings, all online.

An internet-based knowledge sharing platform named A-VIEW — Amrita Virtual Interactive E-Learning World — will soon connect 20,000 colleges across the country. The platform has been developed under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

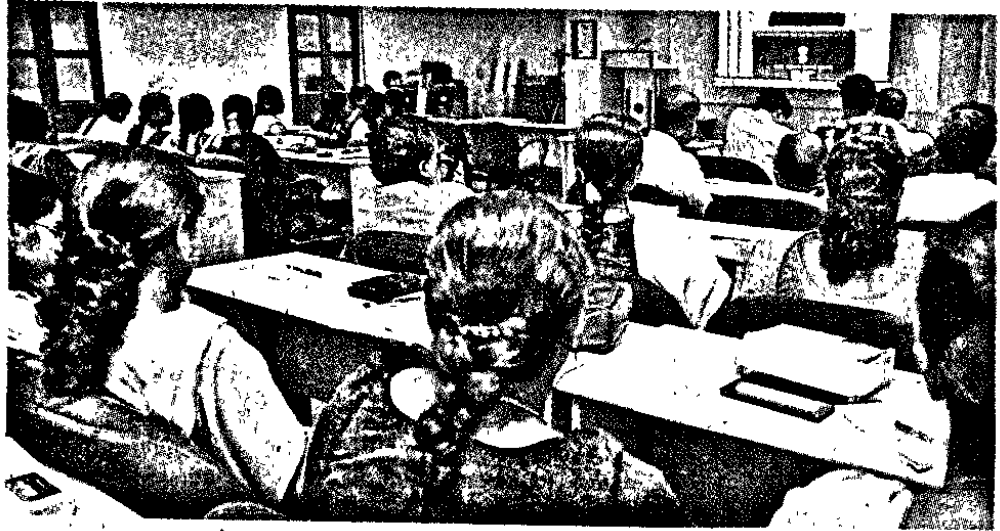
This was announced by the Union Higher Education Secretary Ashok Thakur at the meeting of the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities with President Pranab Mukherjee recently.

Mr. Thakur said most universities had a large number of affiliated colleges and form an ecosystem with their colleges. A-View — designed by Amrita University — can be used by these colleges for video-conferencing among themselves.

A-VIEW has been specially designed for online classes, faculty training and online meetings. The system enables online education and meetings using various communication modules like audio/video; Whiteboard collaboration content sharing and other advanced features.

Several universities are already actively using A-VIEW. Some of these include Mumbai University, Pondicherry University, IIIT Hyderabad, and Babasaheb Ambedkar

An Internet-based knowledge sharing platform will enable universities across the country to connect with their affiliated colleges



VIRTUAL REALITY: Teachers in Coimbatore attend a video conferencing.
PHOTO: SIVA SARAVANAN.

University. According to Rajpal S. Hande, University of Mumbai, "A-VIEW is working very well at our end. We have connected 300 colleges. We are running a programme known as EYES [Enlighten Yourself Every Saturday] and we telecast this programme to all colleges through A-VIEW."

This technology would enable Universities with colleges in remote areas to reach out to these difficult-to-reach colleges. Some such universities are Assam

University, Kashmir University, Bihar University, Jammu University and North Maharashtra University.

"A-VIEW is a very attractive programme especially for us here in the remote areas. We have around 300 colleges affiliated to us and they are all in remote place. This kind of facility will really help us," Bekington Myrboh, Pro-Vice Chancellor of North Eastern Hill University, said.

A-VIEW has already been installed at more than 450

universities and 2,000 colleges across the country. According to Prof Kamal Bijlani, Director E-Learning Research Lab, "A-VIEW addresses one of the most critical issues of India's higher education system today. Millions of students want to learn, but are not fortunate enough to have well-qualified teachers to train them. With A-VIEW, one good teacher can teach tens of thousands of students simultaneously at different locations all over India, as though in person."

HT Mumbai

Probe Nagpur VC forgery charges: HC

HT Correspondent

■ htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Nagpur bench of the Bombay high court has directed the police to probe allegations that the Nagpur University vice chancellor Vilas Sapkal had submitted forged documents to secure the post.

Justice Arun Chaudhari and justice Avinash Lavande on Wednesday asked the Nagpur police commissioner to probe the matter in four weeks and report to them.

Sunilkumar Mishra, former chairman of the board of mass communication studies at

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, had filed a plea in the court on the matter.

HT first reported the issue in September 2011, when Mishra had lodged a complaint against Sapkal with the Malabar Hill police because the Raj Bhavan comes under its jurisdiction and the governor is in charge of all universities in the state. Mishra later moved the court.

In the complaint, Mishra alleged that Sapkal, 52, had forged information while applying for the post. He has also named officials in the chancellor's office as co-accused.

The Mumbai police had

THE PETITION FILED CLAIMS THAT SAKPAL FORGED INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE HE HAD WORKED PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS VC

passed on the complaint to Nagpur, from where it was sent to the state government without being investigated.

Sapkal, a chemistry professor, took charge as the vice chancellor in September 2010.

Mishra, who challenged the guidelines for appointing VCs

in the state, sought information on Sapkal's appointment, but the governor's office in Mumbai University, Nagpur University and Amravati University, where Sapkal worked last, did not give him a copy of the document to prove Sapkal's claim that he worked at the Mumbai-based Ion Exchange (India) Ltd as a chemical engineer between 1987 and 1988.

Mishra's petition also alleges that apart from his stint at Ion Exchange, Sapkal has also lied about his job as a technical director in the Mumbai office of Sartorius AG, a German biotech company.

HT Chandigarh

FUTURISTIC TREATMENT

Robots to help PGI cure patients

HT Live Correspondent

■ chdlivedesk@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: The next time you undergo a surgery at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), a robotic hand may just make an incision and carry out the procedure on you, as the premier institute recently began the process of purchasing "robotic surgical systems".

PGI BEGINS PROCESS OF PURCHASING 'ROBOTIC SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS' FOR ITS UROLOGY DEPT

The institute had in January floated tenders for the purchase of robotic surgical systems on turnkey basis. A source said the systems on which the PGIMER is expect-

ed to spend Rs 20 crore would be first introduced in the department of urology. A robotically-assisted surgery, experts say, overcomes the limitations of minimally-invasive surgery and improves accuracy in case of an open surgery.

A source in the PGIMER said the institute was yet to chalk out a plan on how much would a robotic surgery cost. Robotic surgical systems have been in

the pipeline for long. Even the institute's director, YK Chawla, had last year announced that PGIMER was going to start robotic surgery soon.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi had introduced the same system in its urology department in 2010. Robot-assisted bariatric (weight-loss) surgery is also now performed at AIIMS.