

## Newspaper Clips

May 11, 2011

Mail Today ND 11/05/2011

P-7

# Typhoid scare at IIT-Delhi but dean says they are stray cases

IT'S NOT exam worry that's keeping students of IIT-Delhi awake at night. They can't have a good night's sleep as they are in the grip of the gastroenteritis virus and a typhoid scare.

Many students at the prestigious Institute have been diagnosed with the diseases, with some students skipping the annual exams.

Institute director Surendra Prasad, while denying the outbreak, admitted some cases had been reported. "Mosquito breeding has gone up this year. There are stray cases of typhoid and gastroenteritis but the situation is not alarming," he said.

But parents beg to differ. M.V. Prasad's son had to be admitted to hospital during his exams. "My son, a chemical engineer-

ing student, could not appear for all his exams. He is recovering from typhoid at a Vijaywada hospital," he said.

Aadesh Bansal, a resident of Jwalamukhi hostel just recovered from typhoid. "There were dengue cases last year too," he said. Many students buy mineral

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### Students forced to skip annual exams

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water. "It costs a lot but there is no option," a student said.

However, the dean of students' welfare Shashi Mathur said water samples from five hostels tested at the Institute's environmental lab were found potable.

*Mail Today Bureau in Delhi*

# Told Barapullah can't be put through tests, govt turns to IIT

**RAVI BAJPAI**

NEW DELHI, MAY 10

LOAD testing on the Barapullah elevated road that the government proposed last week to clear the air on its structural safety has hit a roadblock, sources said.

The government has sought advice from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, following apprehensions that such a bridge cannot be put through a load test because of technical constraints.

Chief Secretary P K Tripathi last week said the government plans to test the flyover's load capacity following vigilance findings that some concrete samples taken from the structure failed the core strength test.

The Chief Technical Examiner of the Central Vigilance

Commission had raised similar concerns for the flyovers built for the Commonwealth Games at the Raja Ram Kohli Marg and Ghazipur, East Delhi.

A major portion of the Barapullah road, built by the Public Works Department, is supported by vertical columns that sources said cannot be put through a load test because of technical reasons.

To check load capacity, analysts use equipment to apply measured pressure on stretches. They then tally it with the extent to which the beams that support the concrete from underneath bend, said a source.

"Such a test can be done only on stretches that are supported by horizontal beams. There is no way we can take these readings on a stretch mounted on a vertical column," the source said.

EXPRESS ARCHIVE



Close to half of the nearly 4.4-kilometre-long elevated corridor is supported by vertical columns and the remaining on horizontal beams, said the source.

Portions of the two other flyovers in East Delhi, that vigilance officials faulted on structural safety, are also mounted on vertical columns, sources said.

"As of now, we have hit a roadblock. We would have wanted the tests done right away but it seems we will have to wait," a top government official said.

Amid safety concerns and calls for strength tests, PWD engineers who built the flyovers have insisted all requisite tests were done during construction.

In fact, engineers in charge of the Barapullah road said vigilance concerns over the structure's safety are baseless, insisting the samples of cement inspected might have been of lesser quality but still met the quality criteria as per the tender.

The Central Bureau of Investigation this month also filed a case against Public Works Department officials, without naming anyone, for allegedly inflating the cost of the Barapullah flyover project.

Telegraph Kolkata 10.05.2011 P-7

# IIT director flouts recruit rule before leaving

**BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY**

New Delhi, May 9: IIT Madras director M.S. Ananth has been recruiting faculty and other staff although he has handed in his resignation and is set to demit office by July-end.

According to rules, the head of an institution cannot appoint anybody in the organisation during the last three months of his tenure.

Ananth's "hurry" has raised questions at a time the premier tech school is already

under the scanner for illegal appointments and financial irregularities.

The director, whose resignation has been accepted by President Pratibha Patil, the visitor to the IITs, appointed five deputy registrars and six assistant registrars last week.

The institute, which has been holding interviews for various posts since last month, is set to conduct more. It has advertised for posts of assistant professors for 16 departments.

Besides, the appointment process is on for posts of

deputy systems engineer, assistant systems engineer, junior systems engineer, security-cum-fire officer and medical officer.

"It seems the director is in a hurry to appoint people just before he demits office. It is not clear why he is in a hurry," said a member of the faculty.

The human resource development ministry had recently reprimanded former UGC chairperson Sukhadeo Thorat for his attempts to appoint the commission's secretary just before the end of his tenure. Thorat was asked not to con-



MS Ananth

duct the interview.

Ananth claimed he had the "right to recruit" as some 150 faculty posts and over 200

non-faculty posts were lying vacant.

"I have the right to recruit people against the vacant posts. The departments had advertised for the posts earlier. Now we are going to hold interviews and fill up the posts," he said.

Asked if he wasn't violating the rule by appointing people during the last three months of his tenure, he said: "I don't know if there is any such rule applicable for the IITs."

While Ananth's recruiting spree has raised eyebrows, there have been allegations

also of misuse of funds.

The IIT has set up an Indo-China study centre on its campus at a cost of over Rs 50 lakh and some members of the faculty have alleged misuse of the institute's fund for this centre.

Ananth, however, said the IIT council, the highest decision making body of the tech institutes, had asked all the IITs to set up such centres.

"This centre will work towards understanding the culture and other relevant issues on China. This has been done as per the decision of the IIT

council. There is nothing wrong in it," he said.

The controversies have come at a time IIT Madras is under scrutiny for flouting norms in the appointment of two registrars and allowing employees to switch from a contributory provident fund-cum-gratuity scheme to the more beneficial general provident fund-cum-pension scheme, causing losses to the institute.

In an unrelated development, the IIT directors met yesterday in Delhi where they proposed that the IIT council should have its own website.

Hindustan Times ND 11/05/2011 P-13

## IIT Kharagpur changes norms

ht **IMPACT**

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has barred employees on deputation to other institutions from drawing benefits from the IIT, after HT revealed how its former deputy director was simultaneously receiving medical benefits from two institutions.

IIT Bhubaneswar director Madhusudhan Chakraborty, who was deputy director of IIT Kharagpur till 2009, was drawing medical benefits from both IITs, drawing allegations of misusing public resources, as this newspaper first reported on February 27.

The IIT Kharagpur board of governors, at a meeting on March 4 decided to not allow employees who have taken up assignments at other organisations to seek benefits while on deputation or lien.

Chakraborty will also be asked to repay the costs of the benefits he drew from IIT Kharagpur while at IIT

**IIT TO AMEND STATUTES TO BAR STAFF ON DEPUTATION TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS FROM RECEIVING BENEFITS FROM BOTH PLACES**

Bhubaneswar under the decision taken by the BoG, and stated in a note to the Kharagpur Institute community by the registrar on April 12.

"The board also decided that such employees who are currently on lien/extraordinary leave and have availed allowances, including LTC and medical facilities of BC Roy Technology Hospital, be requested to pay the cost of all benefits," the registrar said in a note to the Institute community.

Chakraborty argued that he was drawing on medicines and consultation from IIT Kharagpur since "they know my medical history and are the best judge for medication administration." He argued he also needed to use emergency medicines facilities at IIT Bhubaneswar.

## MAHARASHTRA: CAN WE APPOINT UNDERQUALIFIED COLLEGE HEADS?

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Maharashtra has asked the HRD ministry to allow it to bend norms for hiring college principals. The state is driven into desperation by a shockingly high number of colleges, which have neither heads nor qualified candidates.

The state has told the ministry 1741 of its colleges currently have no heads because of the absence of eligible candidates. IT asked the Centre to relax norms that require college principals to hold PhDs, sources said.

Maharashtra has a total of over 2000 colleges, sources said, and the number cited by the state as having no principals represents a vast majority — suggesting the state's undergraduate educational institutions are largely leaderless.

The ministry has asked the University Grants Commission to study the Maharashtra request but the Centre is unlikely to agree to the proposal.

“There clearly appears to be a desperate situation in Maharashtra with so many colleges without full-fledged Principals. But the proposal to relax eligibility criteria seems problematic,” an official said.

UGC and HRD ministry officials said relaxing eligibility norms for Maharashtra could have long term adverse consequences both for that state and for the rest of the country. Relaxing the norms now may encourage other states to bend norms instead of working to find the best candidates.

“Hiring principals at such a large number of colleges is also likely to create a problem at these colleges in future and could affect the overall quality of Maharashtra's higher education system,” a source said.

The HRD ministry and UGC are instead likely to propose that the state government appoint acting principals from among the senior faculty members at the colleges, while it hunts for qualified candidates to hold the top job.

## SC refuses to stay AIEEE scheduled today

**PBD BUREAU/PTI**

**NEW DELHI, MAY 10**

THE AIEEE test will be held tomorrow as scheduled with the Supreme Court today refusing to stay government's decision to hold the examination again for candidates who could not appear in the May 1 test due to question paper leak.

A bench of justices D K Jain and H L Dattu declined to interfere with the Delhi High Court order which had refused to grant stay on the May 2 government notification announcing re-conduct of AIEEE (All India Engineering Entrance Examination) by the CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education).

The Bench, however,

issued notices to Ministry of Human Resource Development, the secretary of the AIEEE unit of the CBSE and its Director (Special Exams) and sought their reply within one week to hear the matter urgently.

The bench also directed the petitioner A P Sinha, former professor of NIT Jamshedpur, Jharkhand to respond in three days after receiving the replies of the respondents and posted the matter before the vacation bench for hearing.

Sinha had sought a stay on government notification to re-conduct the AIEEE exam on May 11 contending that if it was allowed his petition before the Delhi High Court seeking cancellation of the May 1 test would become infructuous.

Times of India ND 5/11/2011 P-9

## AIEEE aspirants to take re-test today

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**New Delhi:** Over 34,000 aspirants will get a chance to take the rescheduled engineering test today. The all India engineering and architecture entrance examination (AIEEE) will take place across 39 cities on Wednesday. In the absence of any online test, everyone will have to take it offline. The exam will begin at 9.30am.

The exam, which is being conducted by CBSE for admission to National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, deemed universities and many state institutions offering engineering and architecture courses, was postponed by three hours

on May 1 because of a paper leak in Lucknow. Many could not appear for the delayed exam on May 1 as the timing either clashed with the Armed Force Medical Course entrance test or their test centre was booked for another exam the same evening. CBSE immediately announced these students would be accommodated in a rescheduled test and fresh guidelines were issued to the students.

A committee was set up to prepare a question paper so that the papers for May 1 and 11 are of the same level. The Wednesday test will have 95 centres of which 18 will be in Delhi. Over 11.18 lakh students registered for the exam this year.

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But the technology upsurge has also led to higher expectations from the employer's side. In fact, in many cases, it can be argued that these technologies are actually disrupting an employee's life out of office by enabling him/her to carry the workload home. So, has science worked in favour or in opposition of employee comfort? PV

Narasimha Rao, VP, head of operations, Prithvi Information Solutions explains, "The increased output by the usage of technology is often misinterpreted as increased workload. Taking work home or bringing home to work is something that cannot be avoided. While an employee is expected to take business calls beyond working

hours, the vice versa needs to be acceptable by the businesses. Technological gadgets enable employees to balance work and personal time efficiently."

Observing the subject of accessibility more closely, it can be realised that it is essential that employees be available at the beck and call of customers to ensure their maximum satisfac-

tools as enablers that help them to take more control of their lives. Our people are happy about the benefits that such technology brings in terms of easier access to information and its ability to help them stay on top of their work without having to worry about their obligations when they are out of the office."

Interestingly, there are many companies who are working towards utilising the latest technology for providing top-notch facilities to their employees and making lives better and easier. NPS Sethi, VP - HR & administration at Jindal Intellicom tells us about their efforts, "We provide BlackBerry phones, laptops, iPads and high-speed internet to individual employees for their convenience. We encourage them to revert on urgent items using these facilities while they are home instead of physically travelling to work. Within the office, most of our computer systems have TFT (thin-film transistors) monitors installed, which ensure lesser strain on eyes."

Technology, thus, has opened new doors hitherto unexplored by industries. It is essential that both - the employees and employers - use these services positively for easing the load and delivering top results.

- Palak Bhatia

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to read more such stories.

## TECHNOLOGY - A BOON OR BANE?

It's difficult to deny the significance of technology today in our work-lives. However, is being entirely dependent on it for our various professional pursuits also causing any sort of hindrance?

If we were to rewind our lives by fifty years, we would realise the enormity of change that our lifestyles have undergone in this short span of time. For example, if someone was to talk to us about Windows at that time, the conversation would have revolved around glass, a wooden frame and the view outside it. Just as it is not possible for us to imagine our homes without a colour TV, microwave oven or an air-conditioner, it is not possible for an office to function today without laptops, or the internet. These facilities have truly enabled us to increase our output manifold and deliver optimum performances. In fact, companies today claim that these facilities are largely responsible for the achievement of work-life balance for their employees.



tion. But doesn't this invade their personal space? Sanjay Kamlani, co-founder & co-CEO - Pangea3 counters, "One of the key components of the objective of providing a fantastic customer experience is the assurance of 'instantaneous gratification'. This is facilitated by full-time availability and real-time responsiveness about receipt of a communication. So our lawyers and engineers are expected to be available on BlackBerry and check their emails on holidays and after regular work hours. The reality is that our people see these

Asian Age ND  
11/05/2011 P-3

## **First Indo-US meet on higher education soon**

**NITIN MAHAJAN**

NEW DELHI

**May 10:** India and the US will soon embark on a wide-ranging partnership in the field of education with the first Indo-US summit on higher education scheduled to be held in Washington in June. The proposed partnership between the two countries is likely to help the expansion of education sector in the country with the agenda including setting up of an Indo-US Education Council, collaboration in establishing higher education institutions and research, developing faculty for new established IITs and Central universities. Official sources stated that Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal and US secretary of state Hillary Clinton are likely to co-chair the education summit. The summit is scheduled to be held between June 15-16 in Washington.

Establishment of an Indo-US Education Council will be the most important part of the agenda as it aims to create an institutional mechanism for future cooperation in the field of education and training between the two countries and its constitution will involve educational institutions, industry partners, academics and the two governments.

# B-school students write off govt firms in good times

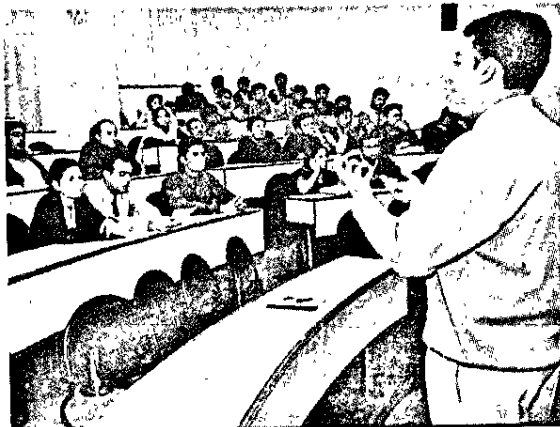
KALPANA PATHAK  
& VINAY UMARJI  
Mumbai/Ahmedabad, 10 May

PUBLIC sector undertakings (PSUs), which helped business schools ensure good placements in the last two years, are getting a raw treatment this year.

PSUs say with the economy back on track, the students are preferring private sector companies due to fatter pay packets. PSUs and nationalised banks, with their conservative salary structures, are losing out.

"The private sector increasingly made its presence felt this year, unlike the previous two years, when it was playing safe. PSUs and nationalised banks have been unable to compete on compensation," said Prakash Pathak, chairperson, placements, Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad.

In 2010, around 20 public sector companies visited IMT. This year, the number



## DWINDLING PSU RECRUITMENTS...

IMT	20	7
IIM-B	5	2
JBIMS	4	2
XIMB	4	5
	B-schools	
	2010	2011

is seven.

While PSU banks such as Central Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce are offering students ₹5-6 lakh per annum, private banks like Citibank, Axis, ICICI and HDFC are paying over ₹10 lakh per annum.

The numbers are starker for Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B). In 2008-09, seven PSUs made 24 offers. This year, two PSUs have made two offers. Five PSUs offered 16 jobs last year.

"Not only are PSUs and nationalised banks reducing recruitment, the students' preferences are also shifting towards the private sector," said Sapna Agrawal, head, career development, IIM-B.

PSUs such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, GAIL, IOCL, NTPC, SBI Cap, Sidbi, Sebi, United Bank of India and Union Bank of India, which picked up the highest number of students from IIM-Ahmedabad in 2009,

have recruited from other B-schools in good numbers this year.

M V Nair, chairman and managing director, Union Bank of India, said, "Now that the economy is picking up, we have not been able to pick up as many students from IIMs. They are preferring private sector companies."

In 2009, PSUs and banks made good the gap left by the private sector due to economic slowdown.

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## FROM PAGE 1

### B-school students reject PSUs in good times

B-SCHOOLS saw a 20-50 per cent increase in government companies visiting campuses. They recruited 40 students from IIM-A this year, with Union Bank among the top recruiters.

At Mumbai's Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS), only the Reserve Bank of India and Union Bank of India took part in final placements this year. In 2009, the institute was visited by 18 PSUs. Bank of Baroda, GAIL, ONGC, HPCL, Sebi, NISM and Union Bank of India were among the major PSU recruiters. About 17 per cent of the batch preferred to work with PSUs. In 2010, only four PSU came, according to the institute's website.

"We invited companies depending on student preferences. Many of them want to work with private sector companies," said a JBIMS placement committee member. B-schools said PSUs would do well to go the private sector way.

"While PSU compensation packages may not be higher than those in the private sector, they tend to fail in terms of presentation. Private companies, on their part, make their packages lucrative by presenting them well to students. Moreover, this year there has been an increased inclination among students towards the private sector," said a placement committee member at Xavier's Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar.



Times of India ND 5/11/2011 P-21

# Slowdown over? MBA job offers suggest so

## 54% Students Picked Up Before Graduation

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

**Mumbai:** When a global financial crisis struck markets across the world two years ago, with several countries finding their economies in recession, MBAs from the finest institutions found job offers shriveling up on campus. But a global management education survey conducted in 2011, shows that the market for B-school graduates seems rather robust, with over 50% of students surveyed receiving job offers before they graduate.

The survey involving 4,794 soon-to-be-graduates from 156 management institutions worldwide, conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council, which runs GMAT, a globally accepted entrance test, found that 54% of B-school students had job offers before they graduated. This is a significant rise from last year. Only 32% of the final year batch of B-school students in 2010 had job offers before graduation.

But the optimism this year needs to be tempered with the fact that the figures haven't yet touched the dizzying heights that they had reached in the year 2000, when 70% of all B-school graduates had job offers before gradua-



### BACK IN BUSINESS

tion. But when compared with a slump in 2003, the upswing seems to be a lot quicker this time round.

"I firmly believe that the current recovery is based on stronger fundamentals, as corporates are now more pragmatic after having learnt from the last few years," says Madhukar Kamat, CEO and MD of the Mudra Group. Kishore Biyani, CEO of Future Group, feels that a sharper fall this time has itself brought.

According to VK Menon, senior director, careers and admissions at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, MBA hiring patterns lag behind business cycles, both during an upturn as well as a downturn. "When there's a downturn there's a great deal of cost-cutting in companies, with employees losing their jobs. When the business cycle turns, there is some optimism, but companies are wary of taking any quick

decisions, or hiring in a hurry," says Menon.

Some, like Milind Sarwate, Group CFO and Chief HR officer at Marico believes that, both during an upturn as well as a downturn, there is an "over-reaction" when it comes to hiring patterns, with companies hiring more than they need on the one hand, and firing more than they need on the other. He too, feels that hiring patterns are a "lagging indicator of the economy."

The good news is that the Asia-Pacific region has contributed the most to the job offers that candidates have received this year (67%). "It's but natural that Asia has fared well, as many Asian economies have recovered faster, and some never went through a stringent recessionary phase at all," says Kamat.

"Clearly there are two worlds; while on the one hand, you have the developed countries where job creation is still an issue, on the other hand, you have the emerging economies in the Asia and Pacific region, where there's still very strong economic growth," feels Nitish Jain, president of the SP Jain Centre for Management, Dubai, Singapore.

# Another honour for Super-30 founder

AMARNATH TEWARY ■ PATNA

Countless they have become, but here is yet another prestigious award for the famed Super-30 and its founder Anand Kumar cap – this time from a Gulf country, Doha. Kumar will be conferred the 'Education in Excellence Award-2011' on May 13.

The founder of the famous coaching institute for the poor and underprivileged students, Super-30, Anand Kumar said the latest recognition "holds special significance for me as it would be given by the Bihar Foundation based at Doha".

The Doha chapter of the

**'SUCH AWARDS AND HONOURS ADD UP TO MY RESPONSIBILITY. I WANT THAT LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES SHOULD NOT COME IN THE WAY OF ANY POOR CHILD IN THE WORLD'**

Bihar Foundation, an association of people from Bihar and Jharkhand, would be organising a function, *Ek sham, Bihar ke naam*, on the occasion of Bihar's

centenary birth year. Anand Kumar has been invited as a special guest on the occasion.

Bihar Foundation is a State Government initiative set up in 2008. It has seven chapters across the world.

"It's been a matter of pride not only for Bihar but the whole world that a fellow Bihari has consistently been raising array of hope amongst the poor and underprivileged students aspiring to crack the prestigious IIT-JEE competitions", organising committee head Shakeel Kakwi said.

Kakwi, who runs a school in his village, further said, "We feel happy to honour Anand

who has undoubtedly become a role model for the entire world."

While expressing happiness over the recognition, Anand Kumar told The Pioneer that the credit for making Super 30 a global success should go to his team and his students who made it possible.

"Such awards and honours add up to my responsibility. I want that lack of financial resources should not come in the way of any poor child in the world," he added.

In the last eight years, more than 200 students from Super-30 have succeeded in the IIT-JEE, including all 30 in the last three years.