

# Newspaper Clips

## May 29, 2013

Times Of India ND 29/05/2013

P-12

# 4 yrs on, row over IIT-Patna director

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Four years after the appointment of Ashok Bhowmick as director of IIT-Patna, a battle has ensued within the HRD ministry as to who issued him a vigilance clearance.

Bhowmick was indicted by the CBI in the Coalnet scam. As dean of the Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy Centre, he accepted the work order issued by the Coal India Limited, which prohibited outsourcing without the CIL's approval. The CBI, while recommending departmental inquiry against Bhowmick, had said, "Still, he outsourced the entire job to another firm and thus violated the condition of work order."

The matter came to light on April 1, 2013 when the Central Vigilance Commission asked the HRD ministry about the vigilance clearance to Bhowmick. The HRD ministry said no clearance was given by its vigilance wing. Now, the vigilance wing of the ministry has asked the technical bureau to clarify "whether any vigilance clearance was obtained from the CVO of the ministry prior to the appointment of Professor Bhowmick and

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**Ashok Bhowmick was indicted by the CBI in the Coalnet scam. As dean of the Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy Centre, he accepted the work order issued by the Coal India Limited, which prohibited outsourcing without the CIL's approval**

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if not the circumstances for not doing so may please be indicated to enable us to sent a suitable response to the CVC".

Sources said it was likely that IIT-Kharagpur misled the technical bureau of the HRD ministry in accepting the institute's vigilance clearance as the final one. Damodar Acharya was the director of IIT-Kharagpur and Sankar Kumar Som the CVO of IIT-Kharagpur when Bhowmick was made director.

A senior official said, "It could turn out to be a serious embarrassment for the ministry as well as the IIT system if the CVC at this stage recommends removal of Bhowmick."

Times of India Mumbai 28-05-2013 P-12

# 'JEE virtually shuts IIT doors for the blind'

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

**New Delhi:** Science student Kartik Sawhney, who has scored 95% in his CBSE class XII exams, would have liked to study at one of the IITs, but he said changes in IIT joint entrance exam rules introduced last year have made it impossible for blind students to qualify.

Kartik said, till last year, blind students taking the JEE had "exemption from visual input". They could attempt only the theory questions and their ranks would be determined by their performance in those. "We could also have a scribe and reader from science background," he said.

But this year, blind students were no longer exempted. Nei-

## Two girls commit suicide after results

**New Delhi:** Two girl students committed suicide in Delhi and Ghaziabad after CBSE results were declared on Monday. In Chhatrapur Extension, south Delhi, a 17-year-old girl reportedly hanged herself from a ceiling fan. Police said she was upset over her low aggregate and felt humiliated.

The other suicide was reported from Ghaziabad district where a 17-year-old girl jumped before a moving train in Muradnagar after failing in her exams. In another incident, a girl tried to commit suicide by consuming poison in Modinagar near Meerut. She is stated to be critical. TNN

ther were they allowed to use assistive technology. "They expected me to multiply 11,652 with 651 mentally," said Kartik. "And according to the new policy, I could have a scribe and reader only from humanities or commerce streams."

It is argued that a scribe with a science background can

help the candidate with his answers. As a result, Kartik had to work with readers who were not able to identify symbols and terminology in question papers. "I've had one reader describe a symbol as an "ultra V", he said. It could've been a pi or a lambda. "But I don't know," he said, "I've never seen a 'pi'."

If the education system had prevailed, Kartik wouldn't have come this far. He had to write more than two dozen letters to the CBSE and its controller of exams, had an NGO campaign and his school negotiate for him before he was allowed to opt for science in class XI.

"It was very difficult to convince the authorities to let me study science," says Kartik, the son of a car-accessories store owner. Once he finally got to study science, his school — Delhi Public School, RK Puram — found ways to help him. "For practicals, the teacher explained the apparatus and in the test, I got multiple choice questions based on the practical curriculum," he said.

Kartik's case is exception-

al. Said George Abraham, CEO of Delhi-based Score Foundation, "After class VIII, most blind were exempted from studying maths and science. They would be offered subjects like music. Now, some schools allow science but the number is low." Abraham adding that from 2012, CBSE has allowed multiple-choice questions in lieu of practicals and computer-based exams.

In school, Kartik was even allowed to perform experiments, but none that were hazardous, involving toxic chemicals. He also used a range of assistive devices and software — he used one to convert graphs into verbal descriptions. But there was little material available that was accessible.



# Is Delhi University Dying?

*Its reforms make this the most exciting time to be a college teacher in DU – or a college student*

Harish Trivedi



Delhi University (DU) has been so constantly in the news in recent weeks as to have become a spectacle. Some

of the finest minds in our public life have issued alarmed and alarming statements about its future direction. Day after day the media has carried extensive reports on the critical state of DU's health, as if it were a hapless victim of brutal violation about to die. In turn, the vice-chancellor of DU has been accorded the kind of space in media which could be the envy of ministers and film stars.

So what's all the hullabaloo about? On the face of it, it's only a syllabus and a new degree structure, so when did these dry academic matters become so newsworthy? In a competing narrative, the battle really is between the David of CPM and the Goliath of American imperialism – but what's new in that? In yet another version, it's not what's happening in DU but the headlong pace at which it's happening that needs to be checked. Just postpone the whole thing by a year, some say, and all will be well.

Academic reforms are notoriously long in the making. When I took over as the head of the English department in DU, I inherited a syllabus reform that had already been going on for nine years. And according to

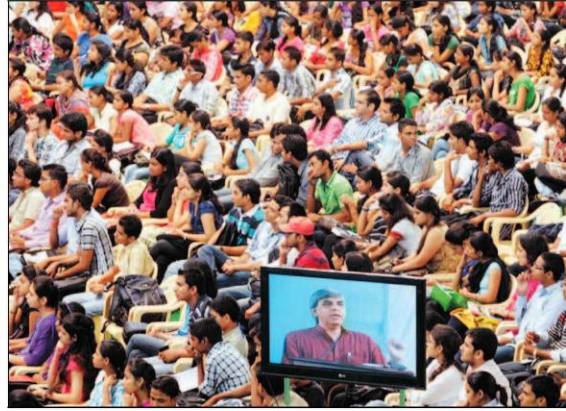
recently published archival research, it took DU "almost two decades of discussion" to change from a two-year BA to a three-year BA. In this sempiternal perspective, a vice-chancellor in a hurry must seem a contradiction in terms.

Given the seeming haste, it was widely suspected within DU that these reforms will be enforced through a last-minute diktat, bypassing the sacrosanct Academic Council (AC). But the meeting of the AC that passed the reforms in December 2012 was near-unanimous in its support for the reforms. There is in the AC a block of 26 elected college teachers who are all highly politicised activists

“ Back in 1943, it took DU almost two decades of discussion to change from a two-year BA to a three-year BA but numerous universities promptly followed its example ”

and eloquent champions of the interests of the teaching community. They always sit together, speak as one and vote as one. But at this meeting, only six of them voted against the reforms.

DU has always had a healthy tradition of radical dissent, rather more among its teachers than among its students. Now, teachers (unlike students or vice-chancellors) have a tenure



Vice-chancellor is getting the kind of attention film stars could envy

of about four decades, and in some cases dissent hardens into an attitude. Many DU teachers who oppose the reforms now are precisely those who had opposed the semester system a couple of years ago, but now they are working with it.

It is immensely flattering to DU, of course, that when it sneezes the whole education system catches a cold. It is the one bright beacon of liberal education in the country, and the public outcry now should be regarded primarily as a well-meaning token of widespread goodwill for DU. But it hardly follows that DU's business should be rendered everyone's business. One can't ask for external intervention one day and for autonomy the next.

In all the controversy over pace and process, the sub-

stance of the reforms has been eclipsed. The new system achieves three major breakthroughs. First, all students will now start on the level, with no segregation between Pass and Honours initially. Secondly, some students will do an extra year if they choose, but some will do one year less and still get a university qualification.

And thirdly, in the extra fourth year, teachers in each college will get to frame and teach their own courses and supervise research according to their academic strengths. Numerous college teachers in DU are better qualified and better published than professors and deans in many other universities; they will finally get some job satisfaction if not professional justice. There's

hardly been a more exciting time to be a college teacher in DU – or a college student.

But this whole crisis would be wasted if DU does not learn from its some vital lessons. First, it should learn to communicate better, within itself and with the wider world. The new syllabus promotes e-learning; let DU learn to e-talk. The vice-chancellor recently sent an email to all teachers; let him send out one every month. Let everyone be in the loop and feel constantly consulted. The DU website gets up to two lakh visits on some days; let it be a buzzing and interactive community site on all days.

Let DU also assure all stakeholders that if a whole new syllabus can be brought in so briskly, any emendations that may arise when it is implemented in the classrooms will be processed with even greater speed and alacrity. This pioneering syllabus must remain a work in progress.

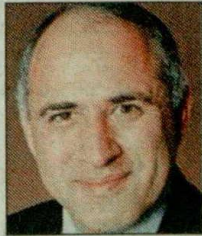
The three-year BA was first brought in 70 years ago in DU in 1943, and numerous universities promptly followed its example. DU has now again shown the way. The elephant that is the emblem of DU has not gone berserk, nor is it marching off into an academic wilderness to lie down and die. It is forging a new path through the thickets of higher education, and where it goes today the country will follow tomorrow.

*The writer taught in DU from 1969 to 2012 and is now advisor, Academic Publications.*

# Indian to head GMAT's parent co

Hemali Chhappia | TNN

**Mumbai:** The Graduate Management Admission Council, which owns the prestigious GMAT exam for admissions to B-schools across the world, has announced the appointment of **Sangeet Chowfla** as its new president and CEO.



Chowfla, who began his career in New Delhi with IBM, joins the league of Indian-Americans ruling the management education sector in the US, including Soumitra Dutta (Cornell University), Nitin Nohria (Harvard B-School), Dipak Jain (Kellogg, INSEAD), Sunil Kumar (University of Chicago's Booth School of Business).

Following this trend of US

**“I know for myself that taking the GMAT exam and the opportunities it opened up for me were life-changing**

**SANGEET CHOWFLA**  
GMAT president and CEO

B-schools plumping for Indian-origin heads, the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) appointed Chowfla to head the prestigious company taking over from David A Wilson, who served the company as CEO and president for 18 years.

Chowfla will take charge as president in September and assume the CEO's role on January 1, 2014.

“I know for myself that taking the GMAT exam and the opportunities it opened up for me were life-changing,” said Chowfla, highlighting the significance of the ex-

am, which management aspirants from across the world take to realize their dreams, just as he himself had done.

“My job will be to take the strong foundation — GMAC 2.0, if you will — build on it, shape it for the future and establish a new, even stronger GMAC: GMAC 3.0. I am excited by the challenge and gratified that the board has chosen to entrust me with this great company, its terrific management team and its world-class staff,” Chowfla added.

An Indian by birth, Chowfla is a US citizen living in India. He will relocate to Northern Virginia to assume this new responsibilities.

“Sangeet Chowfla is just the kind of chief executive the GMAC board had in mind when we began our CEO search earlier this year,” said James Bradford, outgoing chairman of the board of GMAC and dean and Ralph

Owen Professor of Management at the Owen School of Management, Vanderbilt University. After graduating in BA (economics) from St Stephen's College, he did his MBA with specialization in marketing and finance from the Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University.

Chowfla's career took off in New Delhi with IBM and then he went on to spend 18 years with Hewlett-Packard. His next post was Timeline Ventures where he was a partner in the venture capital firm with experience of both acquisition and post-acquisition management issues.

He left Timeline Partners in 2007 to become the chief strategy officer and executive vice-president of mobile services and global market units of Comviva Technologies, an Indian telecommunications software company.

For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)

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e-paper

## Indian students in race to make jet of future

### Chennai Team Among Top 5 In Global Contest To Find Greener Ways For Aviation Industry

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**London:** Three Indian aerospace-engineering students' ambitious plan to help create an aircraft of the future has taken them to the finals of a global competition floated by aircraft manufacturer Airbus and Unesco.

The team from SRM University, Chennai — consisting of Balakrishnan Solaraju Murali, Michael Thomas and Anita Mohil — is among the five teams that have made it to the finals of the 'Fly Your Ideas' contest that saw 6,000 students from 618 teams and 82

countries vie for the €30,000 top prize. The other four teams are from Australia, Brazil, Italy and Malaysia.

Ideas floated by students included planes powered by body heat, luggage floating on a bed of air and an aircraft running on liquid methane.

The Indian team's top-line idea is called “Engine air cooling system for noise reduction”. Murali, Thomas and Mohil have found a way to reduce propulsion noise by modifying the shape of the jet exhaust using intelligent materials (shape memory alloys). These alloys are power-

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**Over 6,000 students from 618 teams and 82 countries took part in the event which has a top prize of €30,000. The other four winning teams are from Brazil, Australia, Italy and Malaysia. Ideas floated by the students included planes powered by body heat, luggage floating on a bed of air and an aircraft running on liquid methane**

ed by harvested electricity generated by advanced thermoelectric materials using

engine heat source.

On June 12 the students will present their ideas to a ju-

ry of Airbus and industry experts at Airbus's headquarters in Toulouse, France.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony at Unesco's headquarters in Paris two days later. The competition challenged aerospace engineers from across the globe to develop new ideas for a greener aviation industry covering one of six themes: energy, efficiency, affordable growth, traffic growth, passenger experience or community friendliness.

“The entries were assessed by experienced Airbus engineers who were extreme-

ly impressed by the quality of work and innovation,” said Charles Champion, Airbus's executive vice-president, engineering, and ‘Fly Your Ideas’ patron.

“These talented students from around the world represent the future of our industry and I am looking forward to welcoming them to Toulouse for the final round.”

Throughout the competition, Airbus mentors have worked with the teams to provide guidance and support with their projects in addition to a member of staff from their university.

Hindu Chennai 28-05-2013 P-4

# Device promises first line of eye screening

Staff Reporter

**CHENNAI:** When there is a lacuna in healthcare service and shortfall in manpower, technology often provides an answer. One such innovative technology from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Madras has now made delivery of affordable and accessible eye care possible.

Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) of IIT-Madras has created Eye-PAC, a computing technology for extracting information from eyes.

This information enables screening for eye diseases even in the absence of an expert. HTIC has joined hands with Forus Health, an Indian med-tech company, to take forward this technology through an affordable eye screening device developed by the latter called ‘3nethra’.

“We started working on Eye-PAC two years ago after observing that there is a huge need for eye screening. Over 80 per cent of cases of blindness in India are preventable

but there is a lack of qualified ophthalmologists in the country,” said Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam, a faculty of IIT-Madras, who heads the HTIC.

Eye-PAC can be used to create screening and diagnostic solutions for a range of eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration.

Powered by HTIC’s Eye-PAC technology, ‘3nethra’ has been installed in over 140 locations across 10 countries including India, China, France, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mauritius and Somalia.

This custom solution enhances visual appearance of eye images produced by the device and helps in locating disease signs that might lead to vision loss at an early stage, according to a press release.

Those in need of medical attention could be referred to an expert for diagnosis. “We are working on making Eye-PAC technology more powerful and cover more diseases,” Professor Mohanasankar added.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MUMBAI, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2013

# THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Revise formulae, respect time limits and de-stress to stay ahead of others in the pen-and-paper based JEE (Advanced) exam to be held next week

The last lap of the race to that elusive engineering seat in the most elite institutes in India, the IITs is almost here. On June 2, the 1.5 lakh candidates will try their best to crack the JEE Advanced paper. If you are among them, you may have a lot of plans and strategies in your mind, along with the worry that whether or not they will be properly executed.

My advice to the students is to stop thinking how the paper will be like, and think that whatever the pattern of the paper will be, it will be same for all the candidates. Few things I would like to emphasise for the D-Day.

## 1. BEFORE THE PAPER BEGINS:

You will be asked to fill a lot of details about yourself in the five minutes before the paper. Fill them carefully; see if the paper code and the OMR sheet code matches correctly. In case of any mistakes, do not panic. Contact the instructor and ask them to help you with every small mistake.

## FOR JEE ADVANCED ARCHITECTURE ASPIRANTS

- The syllabus for physics, chemistry and maths in this section will be the same as that for engineering aspirants. Remember to bring your own set of geometry box, erasers, pencils and crayons. Maintain your composure in sections such as freehand drawing, three dimensional perception, as these require high concentration while attempting.

Architectural awareness can be highly scoring, so browse through the famous architectural designs and designers.

- Expect some good questions in imagination and aesthetic sensitivity.

- Geometrical drawing can be a cakewalk if you have sound mathematics fundamentals about geometrical structures.

Summarily, it is more of an aptitude test that assesses your ability to visualise things.

- Keep track of time as some sections of freehand drawing may be time consuming. There is no definite method to approach the paper as it will vary from individual to individual.

The author is senior faculty, chemistry, IIT-Ian's PACE

## 2. KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW:

While writing your paper, you should not attempt what you don't know. This will ensure that you don't get stuck and will improve your accuracy too.

## 3. LET GO OF THE EXTRA PRESSURE:

The stress of revising or not revising builds on many students, but try to let it go. Simply think that your two-year preparation will be tested in six hours, and this preparation has already been done from your side. So panicking at the last moment and

cramming won't help.

## 4. PRACTICE DURING THE EXAM SLOT EVERY DAY:

You need to put your best foot forward on the final day, so you have to be extra active during the examination hours. Most students complain about feeling sleepy during the second paper. So in the week prior to JEE Advance, adjust your study timing so that you study during (9am to 12pm) and (3pm to 6pm)

## 5. DURING THE BREAK:

Do not discuss about the paper after paper one is over, whether it is good or bad.

This discussion will unnecessarily divert your focus, which is not conducive for the performance in the second paper. Take a light meal, followed by a power nap of 30 minutes. When you enter the examination hall for the second paper, you should be fully charged, irrespective of how you fared in the first paper.

## 6. BE CAREFUL WHILE MARKING:

This is the most common and dangerous problem which many students encounter every year - Not marking the answers on the OMR sheet. Do not put off filling your answers to the last

moment, because your OMR responses are the only source for your marks.

## 7. DECIDE THE TIME LIMITS:

There is an individual cut-off of Physics, Chemistry and Math, which you need to clear other than the overall cut-off score. The maximum time that you can give to one section should be from 65 to 70 minutes. If it takes more, then leave it and move forward to the next section. You can come back to attempt the section later.

Make sure that you reach an hour prior to the starting time on the day of the examination, as being late is the last thing you would want on the big day. You are just one step away from making it big, so just give it your all. Best of luck for JEE Advance to all the students.

Article courtesy Vipul Mehta, faculty, IITan's PACE

