Newspaper Clips

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Anti-corruption crusaders to face disciplinary action

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NEW DELH!: Being a part of an anti-corruption crusade may prove to be costly for the two controversial senior civil servants of the UP cadre and a professor of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

The government has decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the trio for figuring in the list of petitioners in the high profile case on bringing the black money stashed abroad currently pending before the Supreme Court.

The finance ministry, in a confidential letter to the department of personnel and training (DoPT), has pointed out: "Three of the petitioners — SK Dubey, a professor at IIT Delhi, VS Pandey and Jasvir Singh are IAS and IPS officers respectively of the UP cadre."

According to a letter by the revenue secretary to the DoPT on April 24, the trio "did not disclose their respective positions held under central/state governments in their petition against the government."

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All the three - Dubey, Pandey and Singh are members of the executive committee of the NGO, India Rejuvenation Initiative (IRI), actively involved in an anti-corruption crusade and safety of whistleblowers.

Former chief justice of India RC Lahoti, former chief election commissioner JM Lyngdoh and former comptroller and auditor general VK Shunglu are among the founder members of the IRI.

Interestingly, Pandey was shifted from the post of principal secretary (information) in the chief minister's office last month, after reports of his alleged links with Hasan Ali. Singh, who was serving as his officer on special duty (OSD),

was also transferred.

The government, however, had informed the Supreme Court that the Enforcement Directorate, had never named Pandey and Singh for having links with Ali.

The petition on black money filed by veteran jurist and former law minister, Ram Jethmalani alongwith the IRI, was on Wednesday reserved for judgment by the Supreme Court.

The government appears to have decided to come down hard on the trio, who being in service became a party in a case against their own employer.

"It would appear prime facie (on the face of it), an act of grave indiscipline that the three officials while in active government service, have been instrumental in filing a petition against the government of India casting malicious aspersions on some of its serving officials," states the finance ministry letter.

Copies of the letter have also been marked to the HRD ministry to look into the case of professor Dubey, and to home secretary GK Pillai.

Times of India ND 05/05/2011 p-9

Told he won't pass, final-yr IIT student ends life

Chennai: A final-year IIT-M student committed suicide in his hostel on Wednesday Nitin Kumar Reddy, a mechanical engineering student, ended his life minutes after he was told that he would not be able to pass out along with his batch mates this May.

Three months ago, another student of the same department killed himself for the same reason.

According to his batchmates, Nitin, 22, was upset after the head of the department Venkateshan SP told him that his course has been extended by six months due to poor academic performance when he went to submit the abstract for his project.

Nitin emailed his father Lakshmana Murthy Reddy, a DRDO official working in Delhi, saying that he was going to end his life as he was scared that the course extension might ruin the job he was offered by a software company. He also called his friend in Bangalore to inform her about his decision. By the time his parents and friend could alert his batchmates, Nitin hanged himself from the ceiling fan inside his hostel room with the bedspread. IIT-M officials refused to speak. Adyar DC V Sithanan said they were waiting for his parents to come. A suicide case has been filed.

Minutes before Nitin Kumar Reddy, a final year IIT-M student, ended his life, he wrote on his Facebook page — "I fought hard but lost". TNN

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AlEEE candidate moves court to appear in rescheduled test NEW DELHI: An AIEEE candidate, who sat for the exam after a delay of three hours due to question paper leak on May 1, on Wednesday approached the Delhi high court seeking a direction to allow her to appear in the rescheduled test, saying she was forced to give the entrance examination in adverse conditions. Schalka Tyagi said she was not given information about the rescheduling of the exam and was compelled to give the exam under adverse conditions and circumstances which is violative of fundamental rights.

Low-salt diet ups risk of heart attack death: Study

But Debate Rages As Some Experts Disagree With Findings

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Gina Kolata

new study found that lowsalt diets increase the risk of death from heart attacks and strokes and do not prevent high blood pressure, but the research's limitations mean the debate over the effects of salt in the diet is far from over.

In fact, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention felt so strongly that the study was flawed that they criticized it in an interview, something they normally do not do.

Peter Briss, a medical director at the centers, said that the study was small; that its subjects were relatively young, with an average age of 40 at the start; and that with few cardiovascular events, it was hard to draw conclusions.

And the study, Briss and others say, flies in the face of a body of evidence indicating that higher sodium consumption can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.

"At the moment, this study might need to be taken with a grain of salt," he said.

The study is published in the May 4 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association. It involved only those without high blood pressure at the start, was observational, considered at best suggestive and not conclusive. It included 3,681 middle-aged Europeans who did not have high blood pressure or cardiovascular disease and followed them for an



TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT

average of 7.9 years.

The researchers assessed the participants' sodium consumption at the study's start and at its conclusion by measuring the amount of sodium excreted in urine over a 24-hour period.

All the sodium that is consumed by us is excreted in urine within a day, so this method is the most precise way to determine sodium consumption.

The investigators found that the less salt people ate, the more likely they were to die of heart disease—50 people in the lowest third of salt consumption (2.5 grams of sodium per day) died during the study as compared with 24 in the medium group (3.9 grams of sodium per day) and 10 in the highest salt consumption group (6.0 grams of sodium per day).

Frank Sacks of the Harvard School of Public Health agreed and also said the study was flawed.

"It's a problematic study," Sacks said. "We shouldn't be guiding any kind of public health decisions on it." NYTNEWS SERVICE