

## Newspaper Clips

May 6, 2012

Meta varsity's first course -...

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/e>

# Uncertainty over Meta varsity's first course

**Shaswati Das**

■ [shaswati.das@hindustantimes.com](mailto:shaswati.das@hindustantimes.com)

**NEW DELHI:** A question mark still looms large over the public health course, which would have been the first course of the Meta University to see the light of day.

Even though Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has given the go-ahead for the course, university officials claimed the modalities of the course needed to be worked out before an official announcement is made.

"It is still in its nascent stages. We are trying to establish a programme which will see a joint involvement of all the four institutes. It is still premature to say it will be started this academic session," said a JMI official.

The course requires Jamia,

Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and IIT-Delhi to pool in their resources.

"All the four universities have picked out two faculty each. We have not decided on some important issues and it will only be decided in the following academic council meetings. If passed, we will conduct classes at Jamia," added the official.

JMI vice-chancellor Najeeb Jung said the other three universities needed to respond to the proposal for taking it further. "We are working out the modalities and are now waiting for the other universities to take suitable action. I'm also trying to convert this one year diploma in public health into a full-time Master's programme," said Jung.

Mail Today ND 6/05/2012 p-8

## **Our civil servants will do better if they specialise**

**THE results of the civil services examinations indicate not just the supremacy of women, but of institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).**

**Most of the top 25 candidates are alumni of one or the other such institution whose entry requirements are no less tougher than that of the civil service. The substantial entry of doctors, engineers and management professionals provides the generalist civil service with a pool of people who can ably undertake the management of public services in a variety of areas.**

**However this does not happen because through training, promotion and empanelment to higher posts, the civil service does not encourage specialisation. This is a pity and there is urgent need for reform here.**

**After ten years or so, civil service personnel, primarily those belonging to the Indian Administrative Service, should be encouraged into specialisation streams which could relate to finance, national security or general administration.**

Times of India ND 6/05/2012 p-3

# Toxic metals in air: JNU study

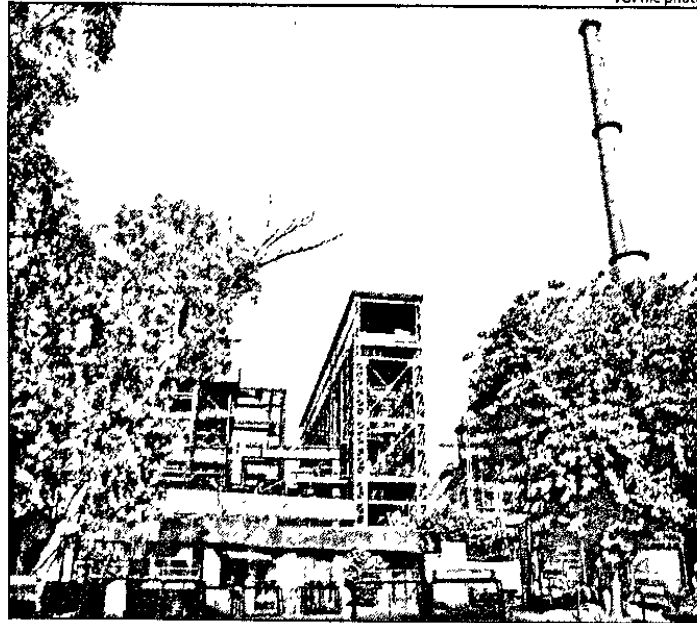
## Team Finds Presence Of Carcinogenic Metals Chromium, Nickel

Jayashree Nandi | TNN

**New Delhi:** Delhi's air is no doubt polluted and gains from CNG have been frittered away. But the air in some residential areas can be far more toxic than we imagine. A study by school of environmental sciences at JNU, published in last month's Atmospheric Pollution Research (APR) journal, has found the content of chromium (Cr) and nickel (Ni) higher than the incremental lifetime cancer risk (ILCR) standards. In short, continued exposure to these inhalable carcinogenic metals can lead to grave health risks in future.

The study - 'Airborne inhalable metals in residential areas of Delhi, India: distribution, source apportionment and health risks' - was carried out through air sample monitoring at three locations: Rajghat, Mayur Vihar and Mithapur. Though the data was collected between end of 2008 and 2009, the department continued to monitor the metal content in air in these areas and in the JNU campus.

"In terms of toxicity, both chromium and nickel are potential carcinogens and we found that they are in higher concentration than the ILCR limits. ILCR is the incremental



**HEALTH THREAT:** The study was carried out through air sample monitoring at Rajghat, Mayur Vihar and Mithapur

probability of an individual developing cancer over a lifetime (70 years) as a result of exposure to a potential carcinogen. According to our calculations, assuming Delhi's population is around 17 million, lifetime inhalation exposure to these pollutants at these concentrations could lead to 2908 excess cancer cases," said the lead scientist of the study, P S Khillare.

The values of particulate matter less than 10 micrometres (PM10) were also found to be three times the annual PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) prescribed by Central Pollution Control

Board at all the three locations. It was around eight to 10 times the annual PM10 air quality guideline set by World

The study has found the content of chromium and nickel higher than the incremental lifetime cancer risk standards

Health Organization (WHO).

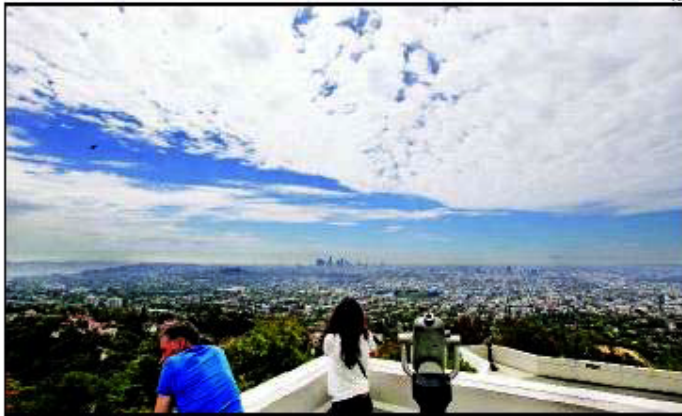
The locations for the study were chosen because of their proximity to coal-fired power plants and industrial areas. But the researchers said the inhalable heavy metal pollution was not limited to areas that were monitored. They were most likely to disperse to other parts of the city with the wind.

"We cannot do much about metals that are naturally present in the air but metals such as zinc, nickel, chromium and cadmium are more because of anthropogenic factors. We have been monitoring air quality in Delhi and then superimposing them on various models to assess health impacts. Lead is a good example. The blood lead concentration in children has started reducing because lead was banned from petrol. But industries emit other heavy metals in large quantities; so they are inhalable and can affect our lungs directly," said Khillare.

jayashree.nandi@timesgroup.com

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: May 6, 2012; Section: International; Page: 23;

# Climate change? The clouds will save us



**TEMPERATURE RISING:** Clouds gather over the Los Angeles basin

**Justin Gillis**

**Lamont, Okla:** For decades, a small group of scientific dissenters has been trying to shoot holes in the prevailing science of climate change, offering one reason after another why the outlook simply must be wrong.

Over time, nearly every one of their arguments has been knocked down and polls say 97 percent of working climate scientists now see global warming as a serious risk. Yet in recent years, the climate change skeptics have seized on one last argument that cannot be so readily dismissed. Their theory is that clouds will save us.

They acknowledge that the human release of greenhouse gases will cause the planet to warm. But they assert that clouds — which can either warm or cool the earth, depending on the type and location — will shift in such a way as to counter much of the expected temperature rise and preserve the equable climate on which civilization depends.

“Clouds really are the biggest uncertainty,” said Andrew E. Dessler, a climate researcher at Texas A&M. “If you listen to the credible climate skeptics, they’ve really pushed all their chips onto clouds.”

Richard S. Lindzen, a professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the leading proponent of the view that clouds will save the day. His stature in the field — he has been making seminal contributions to climate science since the 1960s — has amplified

his influence.

Dr. Lindzen says the earth is not especially sensitive to greenhouse gases because clouds will react to counter them, and he believes he has identified a specific mechanism. On a warming planet, he says, less coverage by high clouds in the tropics will allow more heat to escape to space, countering the temperature increase.

His idea has drawn withering criticism from other scientists, who cite errors in his papers and say proof is lacking. Enough evidence is already in hand, they say, to rule out the powerful cooling effect from clouds that would be

---

**On a warming planet, the dissenters say, less coverage by high clouds in the tropics will allow more heat to escape to space, countering the temperature increase**

---

needed to offset the increase of greenhouse gases.

However, politicians looking for reasons not to tackle climate change have embraced Dr. Lindzen, who has obliged by assuring them that they are running no risks by refusing to enact emission limits.

And with climate policy nearly paralyzed in the United States, many other governments have also declined to take action, and worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases are soaring. **NYT NEWS SERVICE**

