

Newspaper Clips
November 10, 2010

Times of India ND P-13
10/11/2010

UGC plan to dilute norms for lecturers rejected

Chennai: Dashing the hopes of thousands of MPhil-holders, the Centre has rejected the UGC resolution to dilute the eligibility norms for appointment of lecturers and vetoed a proposal to have MPhil as the minimum academic qualification.

The UGC's proposal to dispense with National Eligibility Test (NET) or State-Level Eligibility Test (SLET) qualification for lecturer aspirants and, instead, have MPhil as the minimum required qualification is clearly incongruous and hence not acceptable, the Union ministry of human resources development (HRD) told the Madras high court on Tuesday.

A submission to this effect was made by additional solicitor-general of South India M Ravindran, when a writ appeal filed by a batch of guest lecturers in various government colleges in Tamil Nadu came up for hearing before the first bench comprising Chief Justice M Yusuf Eqbal and Justice TS Sivagnanam.

The UGC had decided to exempt all candidates who obtained an MPhil degree on or before July 10, 2009 from clearing the NET/SLET to qualify for appointment as a teacher in a college or university.

There are 1,024 guest lecturers employed in the government arts and science colleges in the state. The lecturers, who have put in service ranging from 7 to 13 years, only have MPhil degrees and have not cleared NET/SLET. As the government cannot regularise their services without them clearing the NET/SLET, they approached the court, stating that they should be either given time to acquire the qualification or be absorbed as a one-time exemption. **TNN**

Hindustan Times ND 10/11/2010 p-6

XMK/SM/IT

Terminally ill foreigners smuggle drug; HC fumes

LET OFF Caught smuggling drugs, dying conduits allowed to go home

Harish V Nair

■ harish.nair@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India is facing a drugs incursion from a new kind of conduit—terminally ill patients, mostly women, from foreign countries. Ironically, most of them go scot free thanks to the sympathetic view of the courts.

This trend was exposed by Justice Pradeep Nandrajog of the Delhi High Court after he visited a jail on February 14, 2009, and found 16 terminally ill patients in the jail hospitals. The doctors said the patients might not survive for more than two to six months. After this Justice Nandrajog had directed the Centre, Delhi government and legal apparatus of all states to take immediate steps to check such carriers.

Such patients make use of India's liberal policy of not insisting on a medical certificate that a person seeking entry to India is free of any ailment. In dire need of money, they are susceptible to profitable offers from the drug mafia.

The Narcotics Control Bureau says the conduits, when

DRUGS, INDIA AND TERMINALLY ILL FOREIGNERS

India's liberal policy and court's humanitarian approach lets 'ill smugglers' go scot free

HC ASKS AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER

- Dropping proceedings against terminally ill accused
- Grant bail, exemption from appearance
- Separate speedy trial for such accused
- Ensure that withdrawal from trial or prosecution of a terminally ill should not have any effect on the charges against the other co-accused.

THE GENESIS

- Smugglers use India's liberal policy of not insisting on a certificate that the person seeking visa is free of any ailment.
- Conduits escape punishment as courts send them back on humanitarian grounds.
- NCB gave adequate warning to Centre; nothing has been done so far by MEA to tighten visa rules.
- MHA's guidelines to prohibit/reduce their stay in the country accepted by the court.

PAST CASES

- **October 7, 1998:** HC let a Ugandan AIDS patient facing drug smuggling trial go back.
- **April 2, 2003:** A 38-year-old Swiss woman, an AIDS patient, arrested with a British national Bret Leonard Makinson after police recover 8.4 kg of hashish from their luggage. Deported later as her condition worsened.
- **July 6, 2009:** Nigerian woman Amaka Nuoyim, a cancer patient, allowed to go back.

caught, escape punishment as the courts send back the terminally ill on humanitarian grounds.

NCB has repeatedly urged the court to not grant bail to such accused. "It has come to our notice that drug traffickers use the services of terminally ill patients to act as transporters to smuggle narcotics. Any kind of leniency will only set a bad precedent and encourage both

international drug syndicates to recruit such persons, and the persons suffering from fatal diseases to take up such lucrative assignments," it says.

On October 27, the home ministry suggested dropping proceedings such conduits, fast tracking their trial and exempting them from appearance in court in order to reduce their stay in India. The court has accepted these guidelines.

MEA SILENT ON VISAS

The court had also asked the Ministry of External Affairs if there was a policy for medical screening of foreigners before granting them visas. The court said many countries insist that a person seeking an entry visa be free of any ailment. The court also wanted MEA to frame guidelines for visas to foreign nationals from where drugs were being pushed into India.

Freescal to help build \$35 computing device

S RONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi

IT FIRM Freescale Semiconductor India on Tuesday said the company is working closely with Indian Institute of Technology Rajasthan for the \$35 low-cost access-cum-computing device under an initiative recently announced by the human resource development (HRD) ministry.

"Our solution is the closest to the cost range of the \$35 PC that the Indian government is working on. A lot of companies — local as well as global — are working on this project

The ministry allotted 2 projects to IIT-Rajasthan for intensive testing of the device

along with IIT-Rajasthan and we are helping them to develop the product. Since talks are going on, we can-

not officially announce right now," vice-president and country manager, Freescale Semiconductor India, Ganesh Guruswamy, told FC on Tuesday.

Strong in the embedded space, he said the company is already supplying solutions to Sony, Sharp and Amazon's Kindle in the smartbooks and e-book categories.

The HRD ministry on September 1 had sent out a letter to IIT-Rajasthan, allotting two projects for purchase and intensive testing of a low-cost access-cum-computing device.

"It has been decided to provide connectivity to poly-

technics on a par with colleges in the country. In a major follow-up to the unveiling of the \$35 low-cost access-cum-computing device, IIT-Rajasthan has been allotted two projects for purchase of one lakh such devices and carrying out intensive laboratory and field tests across the country to ensure suitability in all geographical regions and in all climatic conditions. Nineteen other projects under different ICT heads were also sanctioned," the HRD letter said.

A HRD ministry official, who did not wish to be named said, "The work is on

progress, but we cannot share any details."

"This would be a successful product (e-book) and should be available by next year as we are working on the prototypes already. We are meeting all the features required by the ministry such as Flash, Youtube, online learning and many others," Guruswamy said.

Freescale Semiconductor India, which has its biggest R&D outside of US in India at Noida, is also working for many other projects in automotive, electronics and computing sectors globally.

ronendrasingh
@mydigitalfc.com

Financial Chronicle ND 10/11/2010

p-10

IIM-Bangalore placements better than last year

SREERUPA MITRA

Bangalore

THE summer placements this year for first-year students of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore are a breeze with the initial two days kicking off with a flourish.

Speaking about the performance of the students during the first two days, Praveen Gopalakrishnan of the student media cell at IIM-B, said that the summer placements this academic year has started off better than last year.

"This is largely owing to the higher diversity of students this year. Despite the total number of students appearing for the summer placements this year being higher, the placement season started off smoothly and the additional strength did not hamper the process," he added.

A total of 375 students are appearing for the process this year as compared to 347 students last academic year.

Also, this year the premium institute expects over 180 companies to come for the placements as against 150 companies which participated during the 2009 summer placements.

However, Gopalakrishnan did not divulge details about the names of the companies as well as the offers being made to the students citing a 'media black-out', which banned them from sharing any information on the activities. IIM-B does not share any information regarding compensations/salary packages being offered to students.

"Day Zero is usually frequented by the investment bankers as well as the consultancy firms. This year too is no exception," said Gopalakrishnan.



What the doctor ordered

This refers to the editorial titled “Endorsement for a fee” (November 9), which has advocated a strict regulatory regime to enforce medical ethics. The malaise that has been highlighted is only the tip of the iceberg. While the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has endorsed only a few products, medical practitioners every day endorse various branded drugs in their prescriptions instead of prescribing generic drugs. To begin with, ethics have to be imbibed by the medical fraternity and cannot be imposed. Trade associations, which should be pursuing their legitimate aims, behave more like a cartel. The IMA endorses brands and issues boycott calls.

Also, it is anachronistic to argue that since the medical profession is a noble occupation, advertisements and endorsements cannot be allowed. It is necessary for the government to realise that the medical profession is a service sector and like any other service provider, it should be allowed to advertise and endorse. This measure will not only help the health care sector to run in a competitive atmosphere but also facilitate the patients’ decision-making process. However, transparency and consumer education are imperative before permitting such a course. Transparent advertisements and endorsements would educate medical services consumers and help them make informed decisions. Merely advocating a “strict regulatory regime” is no panacea. Such a regime will only breed corruption. In this context, the MCI’s surveillance role will be critical.

**K D Singh,
Expert (Law),
Competition Commission of India, New Delhi**

Food caFE ARVIND RAO

Singing a different tune

Shobhana Subramanian talks to the OnMobile Global CMD about his dream deals and m-governance vision

Arvind Rao was miffed that he couldn't go sailing over the weekend because the US President was in town.

But talk about his new venture and the man who built OnMobile Global, with a team of four from Infosys, is all excited. The Rs 454 crore OnMobile, which is the market leader in the value-added services (VAS) space, will soon team up with one of the country's top advertising agencies to roll out technology that could revolutionise the way products are advertised and marketed. Meanwhile, after his company won a dream deal with Telefonica last year, the chairman of OnMobile has helped more than 100 unknown artists unleash their talent through mobile downloads. Rao tells us he's determined to do something to improve m-governance.

We're at India Jones, the pan-Asian cuisine restaurant at the Trident, Mumbai. Rao's been down with a bad attack of viral flu and a racking cough so, to begin with, we ask for some hot water. Unfortunately, the lime juice that comes with it is freezing cold but some sweet corn crab asparagus soup should make amends, we decide. Rao's clearly relieved that the Telefonica deal is on track and that services have been rolled out in three countries. It was tough and go, he recalls, since OnMobile went into the negotiations very late but nonetheless managed to pull it off. In fact, he himself had been in two minds about taking on the contract because it involved fairly large investments. "Once you're listed, you're more concerned about the quarterly earnings and so on and sometimes forget the larger picture. But then, one of the directors asked me whether I would have thought so hard if the company hadn't been listed. And that's when it struck me that we shouldn't worry about the short term."

It was a conversation with Lucky Ali that set Rao thinking about the plight of musicians in the country today. Ali had told Rao that it costs about Rs 20 lakh for an artist to come up with an album and this takes at least a year. Since most artists couldn't cough up anything close to that number, they were at the mercy of Bollywood producers and record labels and, more than music, "selling their souls". And if the album turned out to be a hit, the producer pocketed the profits. Rao figured this wasn't really necessary—in today's digital world where 50% of revenues accrue from mobile downloads (40% comes from physical sales and the remaining 10% from the Internet)—for an artist to produce a whole album with a dozen numbers; a nice peppy tune could be composed within a day and uploaded in seconds.

Today, three years or so since OnMobile set up its launch pad, 110 unknown artists have sent in content, not just music but also humour or mimicry, which has been uploaded to Vodafone, BSNL, Idea and so on and bought by listeners. The bulk of what is earned—revenues have hit Rs 1 crore—is passed back to the contributors: one mimicry artist from Pune earned something like Rs 1 lakh in a month. Last year, OnMobile processed some 300 million downloads, including Hindi and regional music, of which about a tenth was non-movie content. That number was only 1% five years back and Rao believes there's potential for this to grow to as much as a third of the market, so much so that he's convinced that for every AR Rahman, there must be a thousand more under the surface. In fact, OnMobile, which just celebrated ten years of existence, now has a small team that sources content from states like Assam or Bihar, working through independent agents.



Last year, OnMobile processed some 300 million downloads, including Hindi and regional music, of which about a tenth was non-movie content. That number was only 1% five years back and Rao believes there's potential for this to grow to as much as a third of the market. He is actually convinced that for every AR Rahman, there must be a thousand more under the surface

Of course, all this isn't enough to satiate Rao's innovative aspirations. Right now OnMobile is trying to implement a real time reporting system, for

movie producers and music labels, which takes away all the opaqueness, allowing them to track all downloads and eliminate disputes. The idea, Rao

explains, is to give, say, a Bollywood producer a real-time screen on his desk, which tells him not only how many downloads there have been of the songs from his latest film but also where these have happened. In other words, the producer would know almost immediately whether the music is selling better in Andhra rather than Haryana or Gujarat, in the metros or in small towns.

It's not easy, Rao tells me, saying OnMobile has been trying to crack this for two years now and has test-marketed it but could take another year, perhaps, for a full-fledged roll-out. As for monetising the software, Rao says he would prefer not to charge for it but instead negotiate a discount on the royalties, which could actually be a win-win. As he explains it, "If I'm paying say Rs 100 for a download, I can pay slightly less, say Rs 80, if I also deliver the software. For his part, the producer may be earning a smaller royalty, but since he is clued into what's happening, he can act fast to push volumes and so overall he would post bigger revenues."

We decided to skip a main course and settle for some dim sum—prawn and chicken. What with two big VAS contracts—Vodafone for emerging markets and Telefonica for Latin America—signed within months of each other last year and a brand new acquisition in Dillithium Networks (a 3G Video solutions player), Rao has had his hands full. In fact, he barely has the time to read, something he used to do religiously till two years ago, devouring all the Salman Rushdies and the Rohinton Mistrys. But he manages to take time off whenever he can to spend with friends and his brother in L.A. And of course, his golden retriever and his cat, who now get along famously. He was looking forward to sailing over the weekend, since the boats are just out after a long

monsoon, but unfortunately the sea is out of bounds till the US President leaves. If there's something he would have liked to do, Rao confesses, it would have been learning to play a musical instrument; not surprisingly, Rao's iPod is loaded mostly with rock music. He recalls accompanying his brother, who was a guitarist in an amateur rock band, to shows in their college days when he was at IIT Mumbai.

The other thing he might have done is turn entrepreneur a little earlier, like some of his batchmates such as Subrah Iyar who founded WebEx. Rao feels it's probably a crime to work for someone else these days, given the opportunity, especially in areas like telecom and the Internet where he says there are wide open spaces. Also, he remembers how difficult it was to get funding from private equity funds for OnMobile ten years back, even though the idea was pushed by the top team in Infosys. Since we've barely eaten, we decide to indulge in some tiramisu and Rao talks of how he wants to do something 'real' with the cell phone; there's no other device he can think of that has the same pervasiveness and interactive capability. Following a dipstick survey that OnMobile did in some rural areas to gauge how mobile telephony could be used, he's determined to make something happen to improve the lives of rural folk and also m-governance. Ideally, he's looking to see how mobile phones can create opportunities for people to earn money, much like with the musicians. Immediately though, he's focussed on a venture that will roll out technology, which he claims could change the way products are marketed. The idea is to team up with a leading advertising agency and Rao believes one day the venture could become bigger than OnMobile itself. By then, of course, Rao would be on to something even bigger.

Super30 founder to get education award

PATNA, NOV 9

SUPER30 founder and mathematician Anand Kumar has been selected for Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Shiksha Puruskar, one of the top awards in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of education in Bihar.

Governor Devanand Konwar would give the prize at the Shiksha Diwas function here tomorrow, official sources said.

Instituted by Bihar government in 2007, the award carries a citation and Rs 2 lakh.

Anand was selected for the honour for his contribution in teaching children from underprivileged sections and preparing them for IIT-JEE at his Super30 school, where the students get free coaching, lodging and food for nine months.

In the last three years, all the 30 students of Super30 have made it to IIT-JEE.

Anand, who first started Ramanujam School of Mathematics in 1992, started Super30 in 2002.

Having experienced poverty in his childhood, he wanted to do something for the poor and talented children. — PTI

Political & Business Daily ND 10/11/2010 P6

IIT-Kharagpur denies affiliating 'fake' institute running on campus

NEW DELHI, NOV 9

COMING clear on the controversy over an alleged fake institute running on its campus, IIT Kharagpur today said it has not affiliated the centre and documents supporting its recognition were "forged".

The institute had last month suspended Amit Kumar Ghosh, head of the department of aeronautical engineering, charging him with running the engineering institute called Institution of Electrical Engineers (India) (IEE) in the IIT campus.

"IIT Kharagpur is in no way connected in either

affiliating or recognising the degree/diploma of the so-called IEE," IIT Kgp registrar T K Ghosal said in a statement today.

IIT Kgp had conducted an internal investigation after students of the IEE lodged a complaint with IIT Kgp director Damodar Acharya alleging that Ghosh was charging exorbitant fees for admission to the IEE.

Ghosal said former director K L Chopra, whose name has also cropped up in the controversy for allegedly giving permission to IEE, has disclosed that he has not given any such permission and such letters with his signature

have been "forged".

"It may please be noted that IIT Kharagpur does not offer any BE degree," Ghosal said in his statement. He said documents suggesting that IEE received presidential approval for recognition and conduct of examination "appear to be fraudulent".

"The sequence of events makes one to believe a section of the people associated with so called IEE (India) have deliberately tried to involve the name of IIT Kgp to cash on its goodwill. Based on the allegedly forged documents, they also might have duped both the faculty of the

Institute and the public at large," he said.

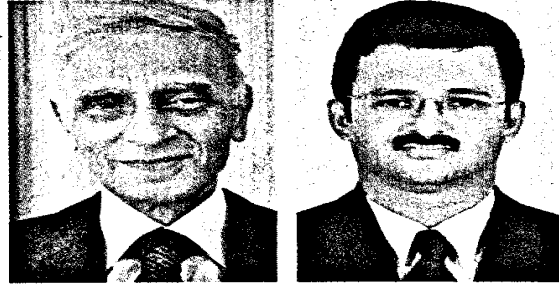
He said IIT Kgp has also cancelled allotment of quarters to IEE.

"IEE based on allegedly forged documents posing itself as a professional body got allotment of one quarter within the campus of the institute in 2004.

"On June 20, 2007, it came to the notice of IIT Kgp that the allotted quarter to IEE is being used to operate an international university of modern science and technology. The Institute immediately cancelled the allotment and evicted the occupant," he said.—PTI

Mail Today, ND 10-Nov-10 p-6

Indians bag Gates funding



AWARDEES: Sujoy K. Guha and Abi Santhosh Aprem.

AGE IS no barrier to innovation. This has been proved by 71-year old professor of bio-medical engineering Sujoy K. Guha who, on Tuesday, won a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to test a female con-

By **Dinesh C. Sharma** in New Delhi

traceptive developed by him.

Guha, currently an emeritus professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, is one of the best known bio-medical engineers of

the country. He has developed several bio-medical devices and drugs, including a reversible male contraceptive. He had worked at IIT Delhi and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences earlier.

Besides Guha, another Indian innovator - Abi Santhosh Aprem of HLL Lifecare Limited - also figures on the list of 67 innovators from 16 countries who have been selected for grants of \$100,000 each under the Grand Challenges Explorations programme of the foundation.

The foundation received over 2,400 entries this year. The grant is given to individual researchers to pursue "bold ideas for transforming health in developing countries".

With the grant, Guha plans to test his new female contraceptive - FerroCept. The contraceptive, consisting of a polymer and magnetic particles, can be inserted into the cervix through a rubber tube and then positioned in the fallopian tube using an external magnetic field.

With the application of a radio frequency field from outside, the semi-solid drug is made to settle down in a tree-like shape in the fallopian tube where it comes into contact with water molecules and amino acids and develops an electric charge. "Sperms and ova both have electric charge. FerroCept interferes with this

Both work on birth control devices

charge and nullifies it. This renders both sperm and ovum incapable of fertilisation," explained Guha. "And the best part is this method of contraception is reversible as FerroCept can be flushed out whenever required."

The contraceptive has been tested on rats and rabbits. With the new grant, Guha wants to test it on goats after the mandatory regulatory approvals. "If all goes well, we will go into human trials in the next few years," the scientist said. Guha said the procedure was non-invasive in that it does not involve incision or surgery and can be executed in a low-cost setting.

Abi Santhosh Aprem is also working on contraceptives. He will attempt to eliminate the side-effects of copper-T intra-uterine devices by coating the copper with biodegradable polymers. The polymers prevent bulk shedding of copper ions that cause bleeding, cramps and pain.

Some of the other ideas to get the foundation's support this year include a tuberculosis vaccine that can be delivered in a traditional Asian bean dish, a mobile phone tool to identify complications for community health workers caring for pregnant women and newborns and solar-powered therapeutic blankets of light for newborns suffering from jaundice.

dinesh.c.sharma
@mailtoday.in

Deshbandhu ND 10/11/2010 p-3

सुपर 30 के संचालक को 'शिक्षा पुरस्कार'

पटना, 9 नवंबर (एजेंसियां)। बिहार के प्रसिद्ध शिक्षा पुरस्कार मौलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद शिक्षा पुरस्कार भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) की प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी करवाने वाला प्रसिद्ध संस्थान सुपर के संचालक कुमार आनंद को बुधवार को एक समारोह में दिया जाएगा। शिक्षा विभाग के सचिव अंजनी सिंह ने मंगलवार को बताया कि कुमार आनंद को राज्य में शिक्षा के योगदान के लिए इस पुरस्कार के लिए चयनित किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पुरस्कार राज्यपाल देवानंद कुंवर द्वारा दिया जाएगा जिसमें दो लाख रुपये का पुरस्कार भी दिया जाता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि हाल ही में सुपर 30 को न्यूजवीक पत्रिका ने दुनिया के अनूठे संस्थान के रूप में बताया था जबकि एक अन्य प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका टाइम ने सुपर 30 को एशिया का सर्वोत्तम स्कूल कहा था। गौरतलब है कि सुपर 30 गरीब बच्चों को निःशुल्क आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए तैयार करता है। पिछले चार वर्षों से इस संस्थान के सभी छात्रों का चयन आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा में होता रहा है। वर्ष 2002 से प्रारंभ सुपर 30 पहले रामानुजम स्कूल ऑफ मैथमेटिक्स के नाम से जाना जाता था। आनंद इंस्टीच्यूट ऑफ चार्टर्ड एकाउंट्स (आईसीए) संस्थान के निमंत्रण पर आबूधाबी में तथा अटलांटा, सॉनडियोगो सहित विभिन्न स्थानों पर मैथमेटिकल एसोसिएशन ऑफ अमरीका द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रमों में व्याख्यान भी दे चुके हैं।