

## Newspaper Clips November 19, 2013

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# Raju skipped edu board meeting

**Akshaya Mukul | TNN**

New Delhi: HRD minister Mallipudi Mangapathi Palam Raju did not attend the meeting of the prestigious Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) and kept away from the consultation that President Pranab Mukherjee had with directors of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) earlier this month. But he found time to tour Mauritius, donning the cap of a working HRD minister.

On Tuesday, Raju will sign a Memorandum of Association (MoA) between Mauritius Research Council and IIT, Delhi to set up an IIT-like institution to be fully funded by the Mauritius government. This is the first time that an IIT-like institution will be set up abroad.

Raju's three-day visit is also likely to face some adverse press in Mauritius. Already, media in Mauritius has reported how the off-campus of EIILM University, Sikkim, is operating on the island nation despite a clear directive from the University Grants Commission (UGC) in September seeking closure of centres, off-shore campus centres, study centres and franchisee centres.

These centres have been set up without UGC's approval. EIILM has also flouted National Regulatory Framework of Mauritius which stipulates that a foreign university setting up a campus should be a brand name. But EIILM was set up in India only in 2006, and went to Mauritius the following year.

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

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# CNR Rao does damage control

## 'Called Situation Idiotic, Not Netas'

PTI

Bangalore/New Delhi: In an apparent damage control bid after his angry outbursts targeting politicians, Bharat Ratna awardee Prof C N R Rao on Monday said he was only signalling that "inadequate" funding of science in the country was an "idiotic" situation.

The 79-year-old eminent scientist suggested that he never called politicians "idiots", seeking to clarify his Sunday outburst that raised eyebrows, just a day after the government named him for the country's highest civilian award, along with Sachin Tendulkar.

Rao's assertions came even as Union science and technology minister Jaipal Reddy said he agreed with Rao's views that sufficient funds are not being earmarked for scientific research in the country.

"Our investment is not good that is a bit idiotic... that's all I said... not in anger... I'm not an angry man... I wanted something. Unfortunately, they don't understand the priority. That is what I said," Rao told reporters in Bangalore. "It is not anger you know. I didn't call somebody an idiot. These are two different things... I will never use that word again because I didn't realize people will take it as somebody being called as idiot."

Venting the dissatisfaction in the scientific community, the chairman of the Prime Minister's scientific advisory council on Thursday had said, "...Why the hell these idiots these poli-



Rao said he was only signalling that 'inadequate' funding of science in the country was an 'idiotic' situation

ticians have given so little for us... for the money that government has given to science sector, we have done much more."

"First of all, they should understand the relative importance of science, they should understand to invest in proportion to our requirement so that India shines... for that we have to understand what is required. It is not being understood and that is bit of an idiotic situation that is what I meant," Rao clarified.

Stating that the word is used in British Parliament, Rao said, "Prime Minister is doing idiotic things - they will say, nobody will be upset by that. I don't know why you are upset here."

In Reddy's view, Rao is right on the issue of funds. "...He (Rao) is right... Because the importance of science and technology is so high that any amount government allotment is not adequate," Reddy said. PTI

HT Lucknow

# Plagiarism-bitten LU to put Ph D theses under scanner

**Rajeev Mullick**

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**LUCKNOW:** In a case of once bitten, twice shy the Lucknow University administration has decided to put all Ph D theses submitted by researchers in the past 10 years under the microscope.

The extra cautiousness comes following a varsity professor being convicted of plagiarism last month.

Lucknow University (LU) vice chancellor SB Nimse has issued an order, which says that at least the title of the Ph Ds would be uploaded on the university website. Also, abstracts of Ph Ds submitted in last six months would be displayed on the site.

Not only this, from now on students, while submitting their theses, will be required to submit a soft copy along with the hard copy. "It will, at least, create some fear in the hearts of researchers and they will be more cautious now," said Nimse while talking to Hindustan Times.

➤ IT WILL CREATE SOME FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF RESEARCHERS AND THEY WILL BE MORE CAUTIOUS NOW

SB NIMSE, Lucknow University VC

Welcoming the decision, a senior professor of the university said it was the first baby step and would make researchers think twice before they resort to any copy and paste job.

In LU, Ph Ds are awarded in large numbers. "There came a time when teachers enrolled nearly 75 to 100 researchers under them and thus quality of research fell sharply. The teachers used these students to serve their own interests and in return approved whatever thesis they submitted," he said.

This VC's decision is in sync with the University Grants Commission regulations that say "following completion of evalua-

tion process and announcement of the award of M Phil/Ph Ds, the university shall submit a soft copy of the theses to UGC within 30 days, for hosting the same on INFLIBNET, accessible to all universities and institutions."

It further says that along with the degrees, "the university shall issue a provisional certificate, certifying that the degree has been awarded in accordance with the regulations of the UGC."

The varsity executive council created a history of sorts last month when it initiated disciplinary proceedings against Niraj Kumar, professor in MBA department, LU after he was convicted of plagiarism.

He was demoted to a reader's post. This was, perhaps, for the first time that LU had to demote a professor in its over 90-year history. For 15 months, Kumar had managed to hoodwink the varsity authorities. But last month the long arm of the law caught up with Kumar who had fraudulently got promotion.

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## Campus roundup: IIT Delhi eDC & iPleaders affirm entrepreneurship resource building at Delhi-NCR colleges

Posted online: Monday, Nov 18, 2013 at 0000 hrs

IIT Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell (eDC) announced an MoU with legal education company iPleaders last week to conduct workshops and create necessary resources in colleges in the Delhi-NCR region, with the goal of promoting entrepreneurship development amongst college students. The event was attended by entrepreneurs from across the NCR region, including students of IIT Delhi. It was followed by a workshop on "Operationalising Your Business Plan". Ravish Ratnam, director of the eDC, said, "Certain legal insights and tools are necessary to operationalise a business plan, which early-stage businesses often lack. We have committed to address it with the help of iPleaders." As per the collaboration, iPleaders will assist IIT-eDC to teach entrepreneurs how to operationalise their business plans. "As far as entrepreneurship is concerned, the first step is to give college students the required confidence that they can start a business now and it's never too early," said Ramanuj Mukherjee and Abhyudaya Agarwal, co-founders of iPleaders.

### ACCA signs MoU with CII, to promote employment

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has signed an MoU with CII to promote excellence in the sphere of higher education and support university-industry linkages for better human resource and research. The MoU was signed by Anjan Das, executive director, CII, and Lucia Real-Martin, director, Emerging Markets (Asia), ACCA. The MoU aims at enhancing the availability of skilled workforce in the country by raising awareness among the academia to collaborate with the industry. A collaboration between industry and higher education institutions will ensure better skill sets and job-oriented training for students.

### Eduniversal and Noir sur Blanc combine forces

Two major players in the international higher education and research sectors have announced their decision to combine forces. Eduniversal, founded in 1994 and specialising in consulting services for universities, and Noir sur Blanc, a global communications agency specialised in higher education and research founded in 1990, will together, with their 70 employees, form the Eduniversal Group. Universities throughout the world, aware that visibility and credibility among a large audience is of utmost importance, have specific needs that the Eduniversal Group will be able to provide through solutions in marketing, communications and human resources.

### Amity & York University, Canada, ink MoU

Mamdouh Shoukri, the president of York University, Toronto, Canada, was conferred with the Honorary Doctoral Degree in Science (DSc) at the Amity University for his vision, commitment to research, propagation of scientific enquiry and efforts in improving technology. Both the universities also signed an MoU to foster the mutual relationship and facilitate the exchange of teaching and research expertise leading to the benefit of human resources in India and Canada. The MoU will facilitate mutual research, exchange of information, faculty members and students. It will include training of and visits by faculty members of both the universities, internship programmes for the students, joint workshops and faculty development programmes in the areas of mutual interest.

### NIIT University announces the launch of MS Centre

The not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) has announced the launch of a Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC) on its campus in Neemrana near Delhi. A collaboration agreement was signed last week to

formalise the partnership between Microsoft and NU in the presence of Vijay Thadani, co-founder, NU; Rajendra Pandey, president, NU; and Bhaskar Pramanik, chairman, Microsoft India. Under this agreement, Microsoft will collaborate with NU to facilitate setting up MIC with an aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst university students, by helping them apply their knowledge and technological know-how to real life problems and thus open employment and entrepreneurship avenues for the students.

FICCI felicitates Sushma Berlia at its Summit 2013

The 9th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2013 took place last week, where FICCI felicitated Sushma Berlia, president, Apeejay Education Society, and chancellor of Apeejay Stya University, for 'Outstanding Contribution to Education'. Thanking FICCI, Sushma Berlia said: "I am honoured to be recognised by FICCI and wish to dedicate this award to my late father, Stya Paul, who not only contributed to the cause of education towards nation building, but was a source of inspiration and encouragement in my journey towards excellence in education."

At GIIS, a tribute to Sachin by veteran Chandu Borde

Veteran cricketer Chandu Borde recently talked about Tendulkar's contribution to the game of cricket at the Global Indian International School (GIIS), Noida. "Sachin kept his emotions under control and played the game in its right spirit," recalled Borde, who is the vice-president of the Global Schools Foundation. GIIS has recently set up the Chandu Borde Global Cricket Academy.

HT Mumbai

## ONLINE TEST TO CHECK IF YOUR PUP IS AS CLEVER AS 'EINSTEIN'

**NEW YORK:** Researchers have developed a new online test that could help test pups' intelligence via special games that will provide information about their intelligence. The online service by Duke University's Canine Cognition Center is called Dognition, the New York Post reported. Vanessa Woods, one of Dognition's founders, launched the service this past March with her husband, Brian Hare, an associate professor in evolutionary

HT Mumbai

## HOLE IN THE FOOD SAFETY NET

A 2011 study by development economist and IIT Delhi assistant professor Reetika Khera quantified diversion of food grain from the PDS to open market through black-marketing. The study analysed data by matching the amount of grain taken by 20 states from the central godowns with the purchases made by households under the PDS in the NSS. The difference was the proportion of diversion. The study analysed data considering NSS rounds of 1999-2000, 2001-02, 2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08.

## 'Too much teaching' among reasons for science education losing steam

Staff Reporter



ENCOURAGING SCIENCE: M.R.N. Murthy (left, facing), Dean, Faculty of Sciences, IISc, Su Elliot, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne, and P. Balaram, Director, IISc, during a seminar on science education in Bangalore on Monday.— Photo: Bhagya Prakash K.

Teaching “too much”, the language barrier, the lack of motivation for teachers and a marks-driven system are among the reasons for science education losing steam in Indian schools and colleges, according to experts in the field.

The Hindu in School, and QED (Quest. Explore. Discover), organised a discussion at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) here on Monday to examine ways of encouraging a scientific and critical thinking in students.

The discussion centred on how science, as a subject, should be taught to make it more engaging and methods through which teachers can improve their communication. The context was the waning interest in science education and the depleting number of takers for the subject in higher education.

Participating in the discussion, P. Balaram, Director, IISc, pointed out to the excessive syllabus and questioned whether students were able to assimilate it. “When you see science books of today, they are so large that if you drop them you may injure your foot. The wealth of information is not conveyed,” he said. His mantra to tackle this problem was to reduce the syllabus and “teach less, but teach well”.

M.R.N. Murthy, Dean, Faculty of Science, IISc, emphasised the importance of teachers in making science education exciting. While mentioning that the quality of teachers was a key criterion, he raised the issue of how comfortable they were teaching in a particular language as most books were in English.

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## IIT-M student commits suicide

By Express Research Team

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A first-year IIT- Madras student, who had joined the course hardly three months ago, allegedly committed suicide, in his hostel room on November 2. Nineteen-year-old Akshay Kumar, a native of Baran district in Rajasthan, was found hanging by one of his roommates around 10.30 pm in the Bamba Hostel wing. Kumar was a BTech chemical engineering student. The Kotturpuram police wing of Chennai are unable to ascertain the reason for the suicide as no note was left.

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 Thinkstock Photos/ Getty Images



# Gen Y wants access to social media at work

**A** majority of young adults want an office job that allows them Facebook access. According to a London-based research, one third admitted that they expected to have access to the social networking site at their office. Also, one fifth of youngsters confessed that they would prefer a workplace full of people their own age to make flirting possible, and the same number revealed that they wanted free WiFi access for their phones and tablets.

While fashion designing was declared as the coolest job, gardening and builder's work proved to be least appealing. **ANI**



## JEE (Main) 2014 application form fees too high: Super 30 founder

Super 30 founder Anand Kumar has stated that the application charge for JEE 2014 forms is too high for many.

The Patna-based Super 30 founder said that the Rs 1000 fee for the offline application and Rs 600 for the online application are in favour of richer students.

The application fees, according to Kumar, would favour urban students.

Most students living in rural regions do not have access to the internet and would be forced to pay Rs 1000 for the offline application.

Kumar said that admission to the IITs should be based on talent and not on the current system.

### **Top 20 percentile system not fair**

The Super 30 founder also spoke against the top 20 percentile system. In the current system, only 1.5 lakh students who are in the top 20 percentile of their board and qualify in JEE (Main) can sit for JEE (Advanced) to gain admission to IITs.

Kumar stated that this system is not fair as students who are bright enough to be in IIT may not be in the top 20 percentile of their boards. He added that there should be more than two chances to get into the IITs.

The rule for the top 20 percentile had generated a lot of controversy when first introduced because of the varying levels of difficulty across boards.

<http://www.indiancolleges.com/entrance-exam-news/JEE-Main-2014-application-form-fees-too-high-Super-30-founder/5632>

## Kindle interest in science, says IISc director

Bangalore, Nov 18, 2013, DHNS:



**Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Director Prof P Balaram, on Monday, advocated the need to kindle interest in science, stressing the need for less science for a better learning process as everyone cannot be expected to be equally interested in the subject.**

Observing that a lot of students today lack the ability to learn, Prof Balaram noted that students at high school level are burdened with heavy books with wide range of topics beyond their comprehension.

Addressing school teachers at a seminar on ‘Science Education: Encouraging a scientific bent of mind and critical thinking in students,’ Balaram said: “As students, they should know how to learn with their actions. As

far as the topics are concerned, there is so much syllabus that they have to keep up with. Some of the topics covered are the ones at times I come across at PhD level.”

“Today, there is so much these kids have to know. It does not work that way. Both the students and teachers have to be in touch with reality,” Balaram said, adding the right kind of training would bring about great scope in the field of education.

Calling for progressive educational system, IISC Faculty of Science Dean Prof M R N Murthy said the condition of universities in the country is pathetic.

“By the time he/she reaches college, the spirit is systematically killed at university level,” said Murthy. “If a child wants to learn science, there are not enough books available,” he added.

## **Michigan State University, NITK ink pact on summer internships, faculty exchange**

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MANGALORE: National Institute of Technology - Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal in its endeavour to give students best professional exposure that will keep them abreast of latest technological developments has signed memoranda of understanding with leading acclaimed academic institutions and leading industries in India. One such MoU with [Michigan State University](#) will give NITK students and faculty the opportunity to do summer internships there.

Sushil Chandra Tripathi, chairman, board of governors - NITK, Surathkal who announced this MoU at the 11th annual convocation of the Institute here on Saturday said Michigan State University is ranked 94th in the world university rankings given by Times Higher Education. This MoU besides taking care of the summer internships will also held the faculty to interact with their counterparts and spur them to undertake joint research projects, he said.

Swapan Bhattacharya, director, NITK later told reporters that the student internship can last anywhere from three to six months. "Students of NITK can get practical laboratory oriented training during their internship and also the opportunity to pursue projects in various disciplines and this will also facilitate faculty exchange at a bilateral level," Swapan said. "In fact, staff from MSU visited NITK as part of the MoU recently," he added.

Satish Udpa, executive vice-president for administrative services, Michigan State University, who was the chief guest at the convocation said his university is planning joint workshop on organic light emitting diodes in next month. "A joint research project too is mooted wherein oil cakes and oil seed covers will be converted in biofuel (ethanol) and faculty from the university and the Institute will work out the modalities about it shortly," Udpa said.

# In a multitalented house Tarun Singhal reminisces his days at IIT Delhi

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Author: Kaviya Sanjeevi

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Life has been a roller-coaster ride for Tarun Singhal, president, Desires Unlimited Drama Society. Co-founded by Singhal, the society organises plays, workshops and corporate shows. It also creates content for documentaries and online media. After a five-year dual degree course in chemical engineering with a specialisation in process design (2002-07), this IIT Delhi alumnus quit his two-month-old job and started working on video ads and documentaries. Along with his friend and business partner Ashutosh Matela, this 29-year-old came up with their first production, Shit Happens, in 2009. Since then they have produced 10 plays with over 30 shows. Excerpts from an interview...

What did college teach you?

The best thing about college life was the friends I made there. I believe that in that age (18-22) you make your best friends, who stay with you for life, and when you live with them for four to five years it changes everything. I learned to respect my seniors and love my juniors. I learned to work under pressure and developed the ability to never give up! College also gave me confidence that I can do anything and it is never late to start anything anew. I learned to work hard. It also helped me understand my family better.

What is your proudest moment in college?

The proudest moment could be when I got the Best Actor and Best Play (direction) award for an inter-hostel play in my final year. This was special because I had thrown a challenge in front of my hostelites! Also, this was the first time I started believing in myself as there was no guidance from any of my seniors or experts. There was a full team backing and helping me throughout, though.

Have you had any embarrassing moments?

In the first year, there was a job party in our hostel. I got drunk and created a ruckus. My seniors had to drag me to my room.

How did you score points with the opposite gender?

Hardly any! This was because of the 'most embarrassing moment' in my life. I think most IITians score low in this area as we lose two precious years of our adolescence (16 to 18) studying for one of the most difficult examinations in the world, JEE.

Was bunking a part of your college life?

Yes. There was a minimum 75 per cent attendance rule but it depended upon the professor. We made sure to utilise the 25 per cent in our own way.

Did you have any rifts with college professors? Why?

Oh, many. I never scored well in IIT. The focus was also on grades rather than learning and understanding. The saddest part of it was that once you are in the dark hole, you tend to go deeper not because you find it difficult to return but because of the professor's attitude towards a poor student. Now, of course, this isn't true for all professors and I must mention I found a gem of a person in professor OP Amar. His sense of humor and style of teaching always interested me! He was a genius at what he was doing.

Where did you hang out in college with friends?

Inside the campus we mostly were at the hostel, the main institute area and SDA market opposite IIT. We also went out to watch movies. There used to be small dabbas around the campus at night. We were regular customers there!

What extracurricular activities were you involved in?

I was involved in dramatics, fine arts (charcoal sketching), table tennis, hockey, chess and filmmaking. Despite being in an engineering college, we had great talent in almost every field. People were passionate!

— kaviya@newindianexpress.com

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# University of Michigan is keen on research tie-ups in India: Mary Sue Coleman

By [Rica Bhattacharyya](#), ET Bureau | 19 Nov, 2013, 04.21AM IST

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The **University of Michigan**, like several other top global institutes, has no plans to start a campus in India. However, establishing new tie-ups for research and collaboration is what the university looks for in India, says president **Mary Sue Coleman**, in an interview to **ET**. Coleman, one of the 10 best college presidents voted by 'Time', says India is emerging as a favourite destination for faculty and students. Excerpts:

## What brings you to India?

The purpose of our New Delhi visit was to sign several MoUs for exchanges of student and faculty and establish some joint research agreements. The first was with Ashoka University. We are very interested in their new model for India - the small residential liberal arts university. We would like to have opportunities for our students to come to Ashoka. It will open in the fall of 2014 and then we would like for some Indian students to come and have experience at Michigan.

Then we were at AIIMS, looking at the area of trauma surgery. We signed a memorandum with [NCAER](#). We were at [Delhi University](#) to sign an MoU, particularly for our college of literature, science and the arts. I am the president at [University of Michigan](#) for the 12th year now. For each of our international presidential trips we look at faculty and student interest. India has been on our list for a long time. It just turned out that this was the right moment to come.

## Do you plan to start a campus in India?

We have no intention of doing that. We have been very selective about the countries we have visited because we have gone to places where our faculty already have deep relationships. These reciprocal relations are much better for both partners. Ashoka University is still coming up.

## Why did you zero in on it?

It is quite a novel model for India. We believe strongly in the value of liberal arts education and we like the fact that this is an experiment that it is going to be a residential campus. It is the kind of endeavour that we think will be very productive for us.



Mary Sue Coleman, one of the 10 best college presidents voted by 'Time', says India is emerging as a favourite destination for faculty and students

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