

Newspaper Clips

November 3, 2010

Hindustan Times ND
03/11/2010 P-9

Kirori Mal principal to stay in office

FOR NOW College body awaits
HC hearing on semester issue

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Bhim Sen Singh will continue as the principal of Kirori Mal College (KMC), after its governing body met on Tuesday and decided to let him reply to all charges levelled against him regarding the implementation of semester system.

The governing body also decided that the decision on the matter would be taken only after the High Court hearing on the semester issue on November 15.

Tuesday's meeting was convened after the university registrar sent a letter on October 23 to the chairman of the college governing body, former justice Vijender Jain, asking for Singh's suspension.

Singh was accused of not implementing the semester system — the college kept teaching according to the annual mode — in the college despite repeated notices sent by the university.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Singh said he did not defy any university order. "As per the university orders, I prepared the semester schedule for the college and sent it to the registrar on August 27. But on

August 30, the governing body decided to put the schedule in abeyance. Why am I being targeted? Shouldn't the university dissolve the college governing body instead?"

He said that if he is held guilty for not complying with the university orders, then the other college principals who openly defied the 'no work, no pay' notice, and released teachers' salaries for the month of October, should be held equally guilty.

NO WORK, NO PAY

A university circular sent to all colleges on Monday, restated the September 27 directives, whereby teachers had to give an undertaking that they will be teaching the 13 undergraduate science courses as per the semester module.

The circular further mentions that, "If the undertaking was not submitted by any teacher, his/her salary for subsequent months e.g. October 2010, onwards shall not be released."

The university has also asked the principals that as per 'no work no pay' notice, salaries for the days that the teachers strike work be deducted. While some colleges have already released full salaries, others haven't.

2 more profs named in IIT racket

MURKIER Probe reveals others also joined unrecognised institute run from the Kharagpur campus

ht FOLLOW-UP

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Investigations against Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur professor Amit Kumar Ghosh for running a fake institute from the campus have thrown up evidence that suggests at least two other senior IIT professors may have been involved.

Police are examining papers

that suggest that Professor Yash Pal Singh, head of department of electrical engineering in 1996, accepted a request to join the unrecognised institute as an "advisor," sources close to the probe said. Singh, now retired, is on the boards of some private institutions based near Delhi, sources said.

Investigators are not ruling out the possibility of other IIT faculty or administrators coming under their scanner.

These revelations come even as duped students of the unrec-

Kindly look into the matter and give justice to us, the effected students. We really belong to poor families (sic).
LETTER BY STUDENTS
TO HRD MINISTER

ognised institute — called the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) — have appealed to chief vigilance commission PJ

Thomas to launch a probe against the guilty.

The students have also written to human resource development minister Kapil Sibal seeking a CBI probe. "Kindly look into the matter and give justice to us, the effected students. We really belong to poor families (sic)," the letter said.

HT had first exposed on October 19 the scam involving the unrecognised Institute of Electrical Engineers running under IIT Kharagpur aerospace engineering professor Ghosh

from the IIT campus using the engineering school's brand.

Students of the unrecognised institute complained to IIT Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya and the police about how they were being duped by Ghosh and others at the IEE. Each student was charged ₹ 27,000 for the course and the diplomas claimed — falsely — an association with the IIT.

Ghosh has also accused two former IIT Kharagpur directors — Kasturi Lal Chopra and Shishir Kumar Dube — of sanc-

tioning the functioning of the fraudulent institution, a charge both Chopra and Dube have denied.

The fresh documents include a letter from Yash Pal Singh to the IEE dated December 24, 1996, stating his acceptance of the post of "advisor" on the Advisory Board of the institution, sources said.

JC Biswas, a professor of the electronics and electrical communications at IIT Kharagpur, also figures in the documents under the police's scrutiny.

Hindustan Times ND
03/11/2010 P-3

news brief

De-regulation of education emphasised at PanIIT conclave

An urgency to reform the Indian education sector to ensure a sustainable economic growth of the nation was asserted at the Pan IIT conclave 2010. "The current education system has become obsolete and is full of irregularities, therefore we need rigorous expansion of the education system with better quality standards and funding models to take higher education to the next level," said Dr Sam Pitroda, adviser to the Prime Minister of India, at the PanIIT 2010 Higher Education Roundtable scheduled at IIT Delhi recently.

The roundtable invited renowned educationalists and business leaders who shared their experiences and discussed the way forward for better higher education reforms.

Hindustan Times

ND 03/11/2010 P-6

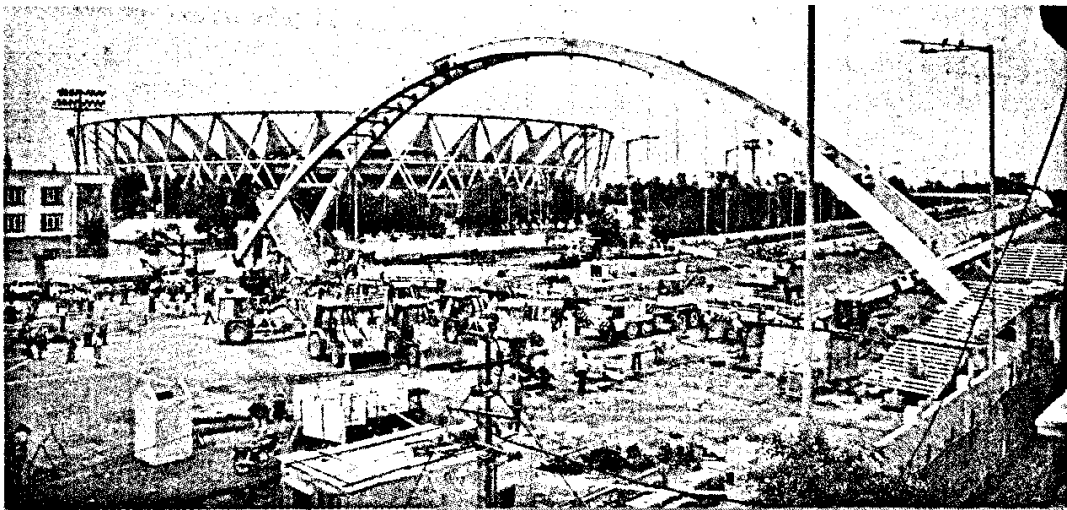
IIT Delhi calls for ideas for its B-plan competition

Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) of IIT-Delhi is back with Vishishth, the flagship B-plan competition of this premier institute. It's an opportunity to reward young, fresh minds with ideas. Registration is open to students from all colleges this year. Vishishth stands for special and that is the sort of individuals who would make it through to the platform to "ideate, innovate and implement". The event shall be organized over few rounds, where participants shall submit executive summaries initially and shortlisted few shall deliver presentations, after being mentored by an expert panel. At least one of the participating members in the team must be enrolled in any college/ university in India. Entries are expected to be the original work of entrants, who shall also be the owners of the intellectual rights to the entry. The first deadline ends on November 5, from where 20 teams shall be shortlisted. Confidentiality of the ideas is guaranteed.

Mail Today ND 03/11/2010

P-8

Lack of technical knowhow brought this bridge down



RAINBOW OF GLOOM

By **Mall Today Bureau**
In New Delhi

LACK of knowledge of a new construction technique and self-devised ways to implement the project led to the recent collapse of the foot overbridge at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The Delhi government said this after a two-member fact-finding committee submitted its report on the collapse. The September 21 incident — less than a fortnight before the start of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) — had injured at least 27 labourers.

According to a statement from the chief minister's office, the committee blamed UK-based Macalloy that had supplied the bridge without "sufficiently" cautioning about its design constraints.

The government also came down heavily upon the constructor implementing the project as well as the Public Works Department (PWD) which was responsible for supervisory failure.

"The methodology of the construction was not given by the design consultant. The contractor M/s P and R Infrastructure Private Limited devised its own procedure without any approval," it said.

PWD had given the contract to P and R Infraprojects Ltd for a little over ₹5 crore. The company was

■ PWD had sold the foot-bridge's 'rainbow' design as a first of its kind in Delhi

■ It was to use a prefabricated steel walking slab hung from 26 steel wire suspenders

■ The overbridge was being constructed for visitors to walk to the stadium

■ Its collapse less than a fort-

nite before the Games started drew global attraction

■ An engineering division of the Indian Army constructed its replacement in less than a week

■ The Delhi CM announced a ₹50,000 as compensation for the injured. Four labourers with serious injuries were to get ₹1 lakh

blacklisted by the Delhi government after the mishap.

The panel, comprising former CPWD director general H.S. Dogra and IIT professor Ashok Gupta, said the government gave itself (PWD department) and its design consultants a clean chit on the matter. "The enquiry had found no substandard material in the bridge," it said.

The government came down the hardest on the foreign company. "The collapse happened because of the failure of joint of Macalloy suspender bars which had been prescribed as part of design of suspension of deck of the overbridge with the main arch," it said.

The committee members recommended the government not to use Macalloy bars in similar projects till there is clearer understanding of how it is to be used.

The panel questioned the UK firm's "change in stand" over certain aspects of the initial drawings of the overbridge.

"After the collapse, the UK-based company said it feels that the orientation of the gusset plate were in wrong plane. But no such observations were made by them when the drawings were forwarded to them in April 2010 by M/s P and R Infra."

Delhi government officials said the PWD will seek a clarification on the issue from Macalloy.

The government said the main fault originated in the bars and joints the overbridge was to be suspended from.

A thicker gusset plate was used because the recommended size was not available. It reduced the margin of rotation in the joint, contributing to the failure.

Telegraph Kolkata
02.11.10 p-4

CBI probe demand in IIT racket

**OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT**

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Students of a fake engineering institute, allegedly run by a senior professor of IIT Kharagpur, today demanded a CBI probe saying they had no confidence in the internal inquiry being conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology.

The affected students of the Institution of Electrical Engineering (IEE), running in Kharagpur for the past two years, wrote to human resource development minister Kapil Sibal to ask for the CBI probe.

Amit Kumar Ghosh, the head of the aerospace engineering department of IIT Kharagpur till last week, was president of the institute that lured students claiming it was a branch of the IIT.

“We have been duped by professor Ghosh. He was running the fake institute IEE. Now our certificates do not carry any value since IEE is an unapproved institute,” said M. Ramu, an affected student.

The institute, which was offering a diploma in electrical engineering, had not been approved by the All India Council of Technical Education, mandatory for an institute to offer a course in any technical subject.

Indian Express Pune 02.11.10 p-11

CITY ANCHOR AFTER ASSESSMENT DURING CWG, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES TO REPLICATE IT IN METROS

Pune's turn for IITM air quality measurement

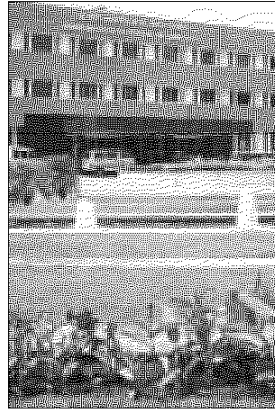
NISHA NAMBIAR
NOVEMBER 1

PUNE may be the next city to have its air quality index assessed after the successful roll out of the System of Air Pollution Forecasting and Research (SAFAR-2010) during the CWG in Delhi.

With Pune's Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) coming out with a chart on air quality at the venues of the CWG, now it's

Pune's turn with the Ministry of Earth Sciences giving a nod to replicate it in metros.

According to advisor to the Ministry of Earth Sciences Swati Basu, "The project has been successful in Delhi and we are looking forward to replicating the same in all leading cities in the country." She said the ministry will assess each of the cities and draw out the necessary parameters. "Once it is installed it should be an ongoing thing for all these cities," said Basu. Pune, Mum-



bai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai are the main cities on the list, she added.

Pune scientist from IITM Dr Gufran Beig, who along with the team carried out the study in Delhi and had monitored air quality at 11 key locations, said a similar instrument was put up at the IITM campus which assessed the Pune city air quality levels for Pashan and University areas during the same period that showed less air pollution during the same period. "We had as-

essed just one location in Pune during the same period and had found that Pune fared better in air pollution standards. The incessant rains in October kept the air quality levels intact," said Beig.

Assessing Delhi and Pune during the CWG, Beig said Ozone remained at a good range in both the cities while oxides of nitrogen was moderate for Delhi and good for Pune. It was the particulate matter that remained poor in Delhi and good in Pune.

Times of India ND
03/11/2010 P21

MRI may help predict onset of stroke, save lives

Washington: In what could revolutionise the emergency treatment for stroke patients, a new study has found that magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the sufferer's brain can accurately predict the time of its onset which is crucial to administering tPA — the potentially life-saving drug.

Patients suffering from an acute ischemic stroke — in which a blood clot or other obstruction blocks blood flow in the brain — can be treated with tPA, or tissue plasminogen activator, that dissolves the clot and restores blood flow. However, the clot-busting drug can only be administered within four and a half hours of the onset of a stroke; when given beyond that window of time, the drug can cause bleeding in the brain.

But researchers at the University of Paris found that by using MRI radiologists can accurately predict when the patient suffered the stroke and recommend whether he or she can be given tPA. This could help medicos save thousands of people who die of stroke every year. The condition, which claims 5.7 million lives annually, is the second leading cause of death worldwide. pn

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 3, 2010; Section: International; Page: 22

A remedy for common cold just a step away

London: In what may soon pave the way for a cure for common cold, scientists claim to have identified a vital mechanism which the body uses to fight off viruses.

The breakthrough by a team at a Medical Research Council laboratory at Cambridge University in Britain, centres on boosting the body's natural defences against viruses, the Daily Mail reported.

Viruses need to infect cells, such as those in the nose, lungs and stomach, to live and breed. It had been thought that antibodies tackled viruses by attacking them outside the cells and stopping them getting inside. But, the latest research shows that the antibodies can also enter cells, making their way in at the same time as the virus. Once inside, the antibody triggers a chain of reactions which leads to a protein called TRIM21 ejecting the virus from the cell, say scientists.

TRIM21 usually springs to life very quickly, before the virus has harmed the cell. And, the scientists have used the results to create drugs that raise levels of TRIM21. In experiments in the lab, the team



SURE CURE: The breakthrough centres on boosting the body's natural defences against viruses

stopped viruses similar to those behind the winter vomiting bug and many colds from causing infections.

Leo James, the study's lead author, said, "Doctors have plenty of antibiotics to fight bacterial infections but few anti-viral drugs. Although these are early days, and we don't yet know whether all viruses are cleared by this mechanism, we are excited that our discoveries may open multiple avenues for developing new antiviral drugs." ❖

Brains of fetuses run on idle mode

London: It's known that our brains buzz with activity even though we are sleeping. Now a new study has found this brain process develops by the time a foetus reaches full-term inside the mother's womb.

Scientists say "resting state activity" is what the brain engages in when it isn't working on a particular task. The neurons that carry out this action are in networks all over the brain, from visual areas to motor areas to areas involved in attention and abstract thinking.

One of these networks, the



RESTING STATE

default mode network, engages when people are in state of wakeful rest which is linked to daydreaming and introspection. Now, scientists at Imperial College London found the default mode network is fully operational by birth, which suggests its role is more

than for introspection alone.

Babies born at 30 weeks development had incomplete but recognisable fragments of the networks, which suggests that resting state networks in infants develop within the last 10 weeks of pregnancy. PTI

Times of India ND 03/11/2010 P21

'Facebook generation' is the loneliest group

London: Believe it or not, Britain's "Facebook generation" — the 16 to 24-year-olds — are lonelier than any other age group, a survey has revealed.

In the survey, one in three said they were bored with their lives compared to just 8% of pensioners and 28% complained loneliness was making them unhappy and so they are taking to drinking. More than a quarter of the Facebook generation revealed they turned to alcohol for comfort, and half admitted to using junk food as an emotional crutch, found the poll into national happiness levels, conducted for BBC Radio 3.

Asked what made them unhappy, 70% of the 16 to 24 year-olds said finances topped their list of concerns. More than a third were worried about holding down a job, compared to a quarter of middle-aged respondents. One in three said they were tormented by family or relationship problems, and they were also the age group that were most likely to struggle over their social status. Overall money was the biggest cause of unhappiness across all age groups, above work, relationships and loneliness.

But while older age groups shared the Facebook generation's finance fears, they were more fulfilled in other areas of



© Mother Image/Cultura/Corbis

YOUNG & RESTLESS

Networking site to block pics of users' exes

Social networking website Facebook keeps a record of users' former lovers, if they had typed in the data earlier, but has now been forced to change a feature which caused their photos to appear when they logged in. After users reacted over the Photo Memories sidebar, which gave users an "unpleasant surprise" by dredging up old photographs of ex-wives or husbands, Facebook has now blocked such photos. However, in order to successfully block the "hurt-inducing" snaps, the site is now keeping a record of its users' ex-partners — those who have used the site, the Independent reported. AGENCIES

their lives. Almost a third of youngest generation reported they had relationship problems which dropped to eight per cent among 55 to 64-year-olds, the Dai-

ly Mail reported.

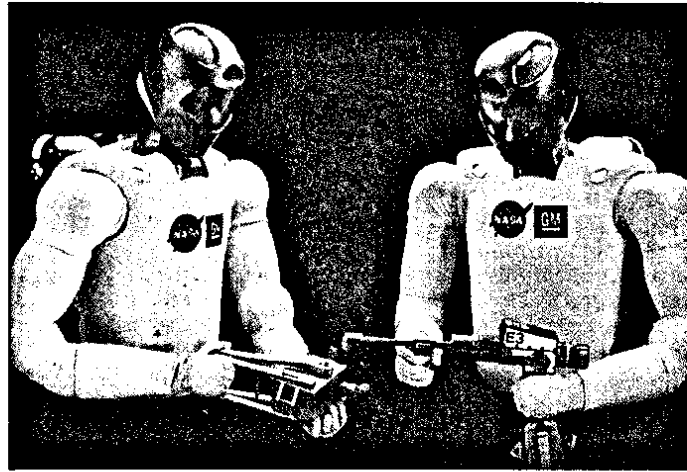
And one in three of the Facebook generation said they wanted to move abroad in search of happiness. PTI

Robonaut set to conquer final frontiers

Cape Canaveral (Florida): Space is about to get its first humanoid from planet Earth. Robonaut 2 — affectionately known as R2 — is hitching a one-way ride to the International Space Station this week aboard the final flight of space shuttle Discovery.

It's the first humanoid robot ever bound for space, a \$2.5 million mechanical and electrical marvel that Nasa hopes one day will assist flesh-and-bone astronauts in orbit. Imagine, its creators say, a future where Robonaut could take over space station cleaning duties; spend hours outside in the extreme heat and cold, patiently holding tools for spacewalking astronauts; and handle emergencies like toxic leaks or fires.

Why Robonaut's descendants could even scout out asteroids, Mars and other worlds in the decades ahead, paving the way for humans.



GIANT LEAP: Robonaut 2 is hitching a one-way ride to the International Space Station on final flight of space shuttle Discovery scheduled for Wednesday

The adventure begins on Wednesday afternoon, with the planned final launch of Discovery and Robo-

naut's six human crewmates. "While it might be just a single step for this robot, it's really a gi-

ant leap forward for tinman-kind," said Rob Ambrose, acting chief of Johnson Space Center's automation, robotics and simulation division in Houston.

For now, R2 — a collaboration between Nasa and General Motors — exists only from the waist up. It measures 3 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 330 pounds. Each arm is 2 feet 8 inches long. Legs are still in the works. But, oh, what an upper body: perfectly toned arms and hands with palms, a robotic rarity, along with broad shoulders and a washboard stomach. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hollywood's cyborg Terminator, would be proud.

Made of aluminum and nickel-plated carbon fiber, the torso and arms are padded to protect Robonaut and the astronauts. But its brain is in its tummy; engineers had nowhere else to put the computerized gray matter. AP

Nokia takes a rural road to growth

KEVIN J. O'BRIEN

NEW YORK

Nov. 2: On Saturday at dawn, hundreds of farmers near Jhansi, an agricultural center in central India, received a succinct but potent text message on their cellphones: the current average wholesale price for 100 kilograms of tomatoes was 600 rupees (\$13.26).

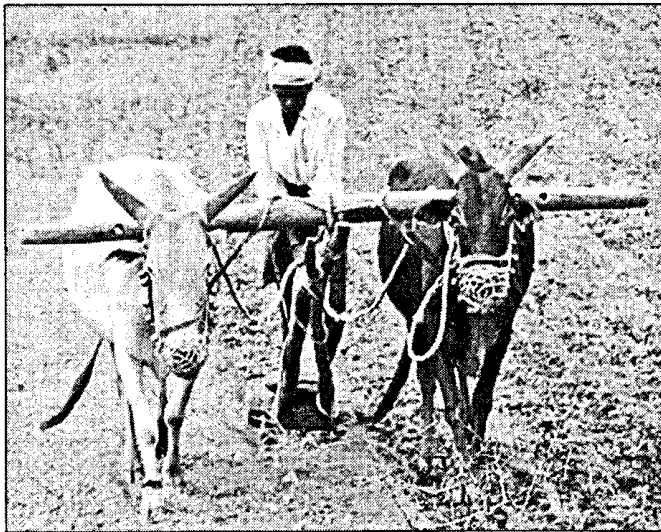
In a country where just 7 percent of the population has access to the Internet, such real-time market data is so valuable that the farmers are willing to pay \$1.35 a month for the information.

What is unusual about the service is the company selling it: Nokia, the Finnish cellphone maker, which unlike its rivals — Samsung, LG, Apple, Research In Motion and Sony Ericsson — is focusing on some of the world's poorest consumers.

Since 2009, 6.3 million people have signed up to pay Nokia for commodity data in India, China and Indonesia. On Tuesday, Nokia plans to announce that it is expanding the program, called Life Tools, part of its Ovi mobile services business, to Nigeria.

With 152 million residents, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. But, Nokia says, only 29 percent of the Nigerian population owns a cellphone, although other figures place the level higher because some phones are shared.

While media coverage of the mobile industry tends to focus on the fast-growing and lucrative smartphone market, 77 percent of all cellphones sold in the third quarter were simpler models, capable of little more



Farmers could benefit by using Nokia's Ovi tools.

than text messaging.

Two-thirds of the globe's 4.6 billion mobile phone users live in emerging markets, where Nokia is the market leader with a 34 percent share, according to Strategy Analytics. By selling valuable price data at a relatively low cost, Nokia is blending commercial and humanitarian goals to attract the next generation of upwardly mobile phone users.

"For Nokia, Ovi Life Tools creates tremendous brand loyalty," said Wally Swain, a mobile analyst with the Yankee Group in Bogotá, Colombia. "Farmers and their families will not want to lose this capability. No other handset manufacturer pursues anything like this."

So far, farmers are embracing

the service, but it is still too early to say whether it is bringing concrete benefits to Nokia, said Mary T. McDowell, the Nokia executive vice president in charge of the company's cellphone business, other than smartphones, which accounts for about 11 of every 13 units Nokia sells. Most of the subscribers, she said, already had one of the 20 Nokia models required to subscribe to the real-time pricing service.

"The premise here is that we will be able to complement good hardware with services that will attract and create a sticky situation with the consumer," Ms. McDowell said in an interview. "This is not only good business but also about doing good for the commu-

nity." Anecdotally, Ms. McDowell said the service appeared to be bringing real benefits to impoverished farmers, many of whom often fell victim to opaque markets with unscrupulous middlemen. Nokia said many people using its service were better off.

Dattarey Bhonge, a 27-year-old onion farmer in Barshi, an Indian village 230 miles east of Mumbai, said he learned through Life Tools that he could earn more by selling his onions at a market in nearby Solapur. The additional profit allowed him to buy new farm equipment.

"I don't have to go anywhere to find the prices," he said in a video provided by Nokia. "The prices are reli-

"For Nokia, Ovi Life Tools creates tremendous brand loyalty. Farmers and their families will not want to lose this capability. No other handset manufacturer pursues anything like this."

able. I was cheated by my agent. Now he can't cheat me."

In India, China and Indonesia, Nokia has entered into commercial partnerships with agricultural extension and weather agencies, which collate, edit, package and translate weather, market news and pricing data in more than 13 local languages.

In Nigeria, Nokia plans to work with Nimet, the Nigerian meteorological agency, and Namin, the Nigerian agricultural market information system, on its service, which will cost 250 Nigerian naira, or \$1.75 a month. For an additional \$1.40 a month, Nigerian mobile users can receive daily texts, with graphics, on health and disease news, English language training or entertainment and sports news.

Mr. Swain said that he expected Nokia to extend its agricultural information programs soon to South America, most likely to Brazil. Ms. McDowell, the Nokia executive, declined to comment on expansion plans but said the company was aiming for the biggest markets for the service.

Hindu ND 03/11/2010 p-1

Bio-tech gets nod for pre-medical entrance

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has approved the proposal for inclusion of bio-technology as an eligible subject for the common pre-medical entrance test. The subject is expected to be included in the entrance examination from the next academic year.

The Board of Governors of the Medical Council of India (MCI) had approached the Ministry with the recommendation. The MCI will now have to amend its regulations to include bio-technology as an eligible subject for those seeking to enter the field of medicine following which the Central Board of Secondary Education will notify the eligibility. The CBSE introduced bio-technology as a subject for Class XII courses in 2005 and there seemed many takers at that time with the peak enrolment touching 7,000 students. However, soon interest waned with only 4,000-odd students opting for bio-technology as a subject.



New status for bio-technology now.

The CBSE had written to the previous regime of the MCI several times over the proposal but there was no response. But the Board of Governors did show enthusiasm and pursued the matter with the Ministry for a formal approval.

Bio-technology was included as a subject at the plus-two

stage by the Indian School Certificate-affiliated institutions also. These come under the purview of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE). Some State boards, too, are said to have shown interest in bio-technology as a subject at the under-graduate level.

The CBSE conducts the

common entrance test for 15,000 MBBS seats of a total of 32,000 seats every year. Examinations for the other seats are conducted by State governments and some private colleges conduct their own entrance exams.

Students apparently lost interest in bio-technology as it did not make them eligible to write the MBBS entrance tests. However, with the proposed inclusion of bio-technology in the eligibility test now it is believed the interest would pick up again. This would also give the students an opportunity to opt for related post-graduation courses in case they do not qualify for MBBS.

As of now, physics, chemistry and biology are the only subjects necessary for writing the entrance test for the MBBS.

Bio-technology is a field of applied biology that involves the use of living organisms and bio-processes in engineering, technology, medicine and other fields requiring bio-products.

Pioneer, ND 03-Nov-10 p-8

Tata Hall will be the name of a new academic and residential building to come up at Harvard Business School, following on from a \$50 million bequest from the Tata Group. This is the largest ever contribution received by Harvard Business School from an international donor. The school currently also happens to boast of a Dean, Mr Nitin Nohria, who is of Indian origin.

This endowment from the Tata Group follows the Mahindra Group gifting \$10 million to Harvard Business School. The big money contributions, made during one of the worst financial crises the US has faced, are bound to earn both business groups and their country of origin a great deal of goodwill. Remarkably, both Tata and Mahindra come from the private sector in an emerging economy grappling with its binary demands of poverty and progress.

It is fortuitous, therefore, that such a slot was still left open, what with the Saudis, Kuwaitis and other very well-heeled Arabs looking for diplomatically leverageable investments and causes to put money through endowments in America. And that is just as well for us Indians and the chairmen of Tata and Mahindra who happen to have studied there in times past.

These grants underline the fact that neither business group is any longer merely Indian; both have been increasing their overseas operations and acquiring a global footprint. The Tata Group already generates more than 60 per cent of its business outside India, a good deal of it from the high-end of the market in fields as diverse as hotels, steel, automobiles and tea.

Following the endowment for Harvard Business School, it will now be far more difficult for the likes of the luxury Orient Express Hotels brand to show reluctance the next time the Tata Group seeks to buy more substantially into its properties. Of course, that infamous episode involving the Orient Express Hotels was before Tata acquired Corus and Jaguar/Land Rover, but was nevertheless sometime after it bought Tetley. And Mahindra may not remain the lesser known new owner of Satyam for long.

Sadly, the old post-colonial attitude towards India may have been revised somewhat in Britain, but America, in its pre-eminence, is definitely the more lucrative nut to crack. Doing so via the Ivy League universities, is therefore a very good idea.

Visionary decisions like this by the chairman of Tata Group just months before he is due to retire from day-to-day helmsmanship to look after the Tata Trusts are, therefore, to be lauded, both for their correctness and boldness. Since the Tata Trusts own over 60 per cent of the group's businesses, hopefully Mr Ratan Tata's voice will continue to be heard well beyond 2012. Meanwhile, this is a classic example of brand-building that will prove, for generations to come, extremely cheap at the price.

But brand-building alone would not cut the mustard. The Tatas back their well-targeted philanthropy with massive skill and know-how, represented by the oft-repeated 'Salt to Software' array of products and services the group offers. They are not only at the forefront of our nation-building efforts but are proud innovators,

Home and abroad

By giving \$50 million to Harvard Business School, the Tata Group has made its brand as an Indian company stronger and more acceptable



GAUTAM MUKHERJEE



epitomised by Nano being sold at under \$3,000 a car.

Another major Tata Sons shareholder, the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, coincidentally, built the new and improved Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi complete with the biggest membrane roof in the world. It was the glittering, state-of-the-art venue of both the opening and closing ceremonies of last month's Commonwealth Games in Delhi. Other Shapoorji Pallonji Group companies, such as AFCON, have been building a lot of Delhi's new infra-

structure as well.

But quite apart from matters pertaining to the CWG, it is poor infrastructure that defines our backward image and acts as a retardant to the desired double-digit growth. And our neglect of it over the years, in areas such as electricity, water, transport, roads, ports, and so on, has put us at a nagging competitive disadvantage.

Besides, if the CWG managed to redeem itself from the shameful morass it was bogged down in just days before the event began, the credit must go in equal

measure to the athletes who bagged 101 medals in a wide range of sporting events, and the quality of the world-class infrastructure built by India for the occasion.

'Bread and circuses' was the cynical Roman Empire's formula for entertaining the *hoi polloi* designed to render them amenable. A present day equivalent is probably the development of infrastructure as in all that went into the CWG.

The broader point is that infrastructure, created and revived, even at very high cost, is without doubt the very elixir of growth and aspiration. It also spurs performance in practically any given field of endeavour. It is the very aphrodisiac of progress. However, it is not only infrastructure but also better training for our sportspersons that has resulted in overall success at this CWG. But this training too is a form of infrastructure without which the physical facilities would have remained under-utilised.

The Indian contingent's performance at the CWG, particularly in sports where we were unable to win medals in past competitions, makes one realise what is possible with the right inputs. And that as a country our surprisingly merit-based selection of heroes and heroines from small towns and villages by such an allegedly corrupt and venal sports administration is also most heartening.

The CWG has shown that the poor and middle classes in India are vitally alive and well; also, both are demonstrably patriotic and sincere. It is the unsullied spirit of such men and women that promises good things for our collective future—despite the sickening corruption, cynicism and jadedness displayed by some of our richer and more powerful compatriots.

As for the other physical infrastructure enhancements, Delhi/NCR will be savouring the benefits of an expanded Metro network, a spanking new airport, the spruced up main railway station, the flyovers, over-bridges, underpasses, new hotels, a revived Connaught Place largely rescued from its tawdry and abused degradation, and sundry other improvements for many years to come.

We must recognise that infrastructure is our ticket to improved standards of living, competitiveness and further growth in areas well beyond sports. It is both a ladder and a virtuous circle. It is our release from the taint of backwardness and the only thing holding us back from the beckoning of a glorious and prolific destiny.

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ISRO FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The future thrust areas for ISRO will be in food and water security, weather and climate, environment and ecosystem, sustainable development, support for informed decision making, education and healthcare, skill development and rural communications, as well as disaster management. This was announced by Dr K Radhakrishnan, Chairman, ISRO.

The scientist also elucidated upon the vision of ISRO for the next 20 years, viz. space applications, space exploration, space assets and access to space. "ISRO is working on GSAT 5P and RISAT-1, the satellite Aperture Radar, which enables the satellite to look at the earth, even in the presence of cloud cover."

Stating that India joined the elite group of countries,

having re-entry capabilities in 2007, Dr Radhakrishnan also spoke about ISRO's plans and efforts to put man on the moon. Stressing on the need for good minds, he spoke about ISRO's Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology at Trivandrum. "The batch of B.Tech students, who get good grades, will be absorbed in the institute," he added.

Calling both ISRO and IGNOU examples of "learning organisations," the scientist spoke of India's space programme from 1963 to the present. Calling the Indian space programme as a society-driven one, he commented, "In the 1960s, India was beset by several problems, like illiteracy. Hence the focus was on how communication satellites could be used to solve these immediate problems."

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PANIIT CONCLAVE IN DELHI

PanIIT Conclave 2010 — Sustainable Transformation — Our New India was organised by IIT alumni. The theme of the conclave focuses on good governance, knowledge based economy, entrepreneurial, innovative, equivalent and happy society. The conclave also witnessed the release of PI tech, the official magazine of PanIIT and concept paper based on the theme of the conclave by Tom Friedman and Sam Pitroda respectively.

Addressing the gathering, Arun Seth, Chairman Steering Committee of PanIIT 2010 said that this year is all the more important as it coincides with the golden jubilee year of

IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur. The theme of the conference is apt considering the contribution of the premier institution in skills development.

Inaugurating the three days conclave, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, stated that the mankind has realised that they have to go back to sources of nature, in order to sustain itself in future.

Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister, stressed on the concept of 'New India' that will overcome the challenges of disparity, amongst urban and rural, rich and poor, demography and development which could transform India.

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IIM, IIT SIGNS MOU WITH YALE

An MoU was signed between Yale University, IIM-Kozhikode and IIT-Kanpur on October 28, 2010 in New Delhi. The historic partnership is formed to advance higher education in India through academic leadership development programmes and through research on

Indian higher education.

The MoU was signed by Dr Richard Levin (President, Yale University), Dr Debashis Chatterjee (Director, IIM-Kozhikode), and Dr Sanjay Dhande (Director, IIT-Kanpur) in the presence of Kapil Sibal, Union HRD Minister of India.

लिपस्टिक प्रकरण : आइआइटी रुड़की के निदेशक तलब

देहरादून, जासं : रुड़की आइआइटी में आयोजित की गई लिपस्टिक प्रतियोगिता का मामला ठंडा होने का नाम नहीं ले रहा है। राज्य महिला आयोग ने प्रतियोगिता को भारतीय संस्कृति के विरुद्ध बताते हुए आइआइटी के निदेशक को तलब किया है। नौ नवंबर को आयोग कार्यालय में उन्हें उपस्थित होने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। गुरुवार संस्थान में थाम्सो-10 का आयोजन हुआ। इस दौरान यहां लिपस्टिक प्रतियोगिता हुई। इसमें लड़कों ने मुंह में लिपस्टिक दबाकर लड़कियों के होंठों पर लगाई थी। संस्थान में इस अमर्यादित कृत्य के विरोध में तमाम संगठनों ने प्रदर्शन किया। मामला बढ़ने पर आइआइटी प्रशासन ने पांच छात्रों को आयोजन समिति से हटाकर जांच के आदेश दे दिए थे। राज्य महिला आयोग नेकड़ा संज्ञान लिया है। इस आशय की जानकारी देते हुए राज्य महिला आयोग की वैयक्तिक सहायक राखी ने बताया कि इस मामले में आइआइटी के निदेशक को नौ नवंबर को आयोग के कार्यालय में तलब किया गया है।

♦ थाम्सो-10 में
लिपस्टिक
प्रतियोगिता पर
महिला आयोग ने
जताई आपत्ति
