

Newspaper Clips

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On Nov 14, Delhi will turn blue for diabetes awareness

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Joining the global movement aimed at creating awareness about diabetes, Delhi will be lit up in blue — universal symbol of diabetes is a blue circle — on the eve of World Diabetes Day on November 14.

HEAL Foundation with support from Union ministry of health and family welfare is organizing Diabetes Blue Fortnight in which selected monuments, government buildings, malls, hospitals, etc, will be lit up in blue.

This is a part of the global movement in which 660 monuments in nearly 72 countries have been lit so far. "It has been happening in western countries for nearly a decade now. This is the first time we have attempted something like this in India," said Dr Subhash Wangnoo, chairman of Diabetes Blue Fortnight and president of Delhi Diabetic Forum.

The health ministry has written to all the states to join the blue movement. "We have written to all the states. We have written to the Archaeological Survey of India to lit up a few monuments in blue. The health minister is keen



JOINING THE CAUSE: Selected buildings like Akshardham temple, malls and hospitals will be lit up on the eve of World Diabetes Day

on starting a screening programme on diabetes. We need to create awareness about the disease and the available treatment," said BK Prasad, joint secretary, non-communicable diseases, health ministry.

On November 13, Lotus temple, Akshardham, all the four railway stations, Batra, Lok Nayak and Apollo hospital, malls, government buildings like Nirman Bhavan, etc, would be lit up in blue. Delhi chief minister would be launching the blue monument initiative.

"It is an attempt to unite

for diabetes. Our aim is motivate people to take control of diabetes before it controls you. We are asking DMRC to become a part of this initiative," said Dr Wangnoo.

HEAL has also partnered with Project HOPE, a sister concern of International Diabetes Federation, and Vision Mission Foundation. "HOPE will be training dietitians in dealing with diabetes. Vision Mission Foundation will be starting a diabetes screening van in Delhi," said Dr Wangnoo.

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Times of India ND 04-Nov-10 p-6

Clears IAS but blinded by system

Abantika Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: At the 2006 IAS interview when Rajesh Kumar Singh was asked whether he could read and write "the way" his interviewer can, the blind JNU student had replied, "Sir, you cannot read and write the way I can". He scored 165 out of 300 in the interview.

Four years later, some of that gumption is flagging. Despite a number three rank in the visually handicapped candidates' merit list, Rajesh is still waiting for an appointment letter from the government. He has knocked the doors of the highest court — as intervenor number 2 — but is still waiting for justice. Interestingly, Ravi Prakash Gupta who was ranked fifth in the merit list, has already been given an appointment letter after he approached the high court, got a favourable verdict and the judgment was upheld

by the Supreme Court. It was in this case that Singh had become an intervenor.

Both Rajesh and Ravi Prakash had appeared for the 2006-07 IAS examinations. Only one person was appointed and the government had said that not enough vacancies were

785 vacancies were filled during 1996-2006. Thus in this period, eight vacancies were to be reserved for visually handicapped persons. As against it, only one person belonging to this category was given appointment in the year 2005, leaving seven posts which

imposed a further fine of Rs 20,000 on the government which had issued a special leave petition against the HC order.

At the time of the SC judgment, Rajesh, who had become a party to the case, had hoped that this would automatically mean his appointment, specially as the court had clearly said that there were seven vacancies. That did not happen.

"When I went to the ministry with the order, officials were rude. On of them even said, 'What will the court do if I do not obey this order. They can't hang me'. I went to every official possible but they were not willing to listen to me."

At his wits' end, he approached the SC again in September praying that the government be directed to appoint him. A notice was issued on October 21 but after four years, Rajesh has started showing signs of tiredness.

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Despite a number three rank in the visually handicapped candidates' merit list, Rajesh is still waiting for an appointment letter from the government



available in the visually handicapped persons' quota so they could not be accommodated, a contention that was upheld in the Central Administrative Tribunal. When Gupta approached the Delhi high court, the court ruled: "In so far as IAS is concerned,

could be filled in the year 2006. However, in that year only one post from this category has been filled."

The government was asked to issue an appointment letter within six weeks to Ravi and was fined Rs 25,000. SC while upholding the judgment,

Times of India ND p-2
04-Nov-10

DU teachers on strike manhandle college principal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The row over semester system in Delhi University turned ugly in Maharaja Agrasen College when the protesting teachers allegedly manhandled the principal and blocked the exit gate of the college on Wednesday. The teachers were protesting against the college's decision to cut five days' salary for striking work last month.

Following the incident, the college administration filed a police complaint against the teachers though they claimed that they were manhandled by the principal and also lathicharged by the police.

"We are looking into the complaints. We will talk to all parties concerned, including students present at the time of the incident, before filing an FIR," said a senior police officer.

Sources said the investigating officer has already contacted the hospitals to get hold of the medico-legal case records to ascertain whether three people were injured in the clash, as claimed by the college authorities.

"Around 2.30pm when the students were leaving the college campus, the teachers blocked the gate. When I asked them to let the students pass, they started arguing and then manhandled me. I had to call the po-

lice to bring the situation under control," said principal Sunil Sondhi.

The teachers, however, had a different story to tell. According to them, they were only trying to speak to the principal about their salary when he allegedly pushed them. Neeraj Kumar, executive member of the college staff association, said, "The principal had been delaying the release of our salaries for three days. On November 2, the administration informed us that five days' salary will be cut. Nearly 50 of us wanted to meet him on Wednesday but he tried to force his

SEMESTER ROW

way out of the gate."

"He then started pushing the teachers. There were a few lady teachers too. He called the police who lathicharged us," Kumar added.

Sources in northwest district police confirmed that additional force was deployed in Satyawati College.

Protests in Ambedkar College in Yamuna Vihar also turned ugly after 200 police personnel were deployed to manage the over 100 teachers protesting against their salaries being held back. "The principal has held back our salary for this month," said Dr Naveen Kumar, who teaches psychology.

Times of India ND 04-Nov-10 p-16

Law ministry, Bar Council in screening test gridlock

BCI To Hold Exam On Dec 15 Despite Govt Request For Deferment

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: The first-ever all-India screening test for law graduates to determine those competent to practice in courts has run into a controversy with the law ministry suggesting its deferment but the Bar Council of India (BCI) sticking to its original plan to hold it on December 15.

Highly placed officials in the law ministry told TOI that the ministry has suggested to the BCI not to conduct the test this year as the students who passed out in July this year could not be asked not to practice till the outcome of the results.

"We have categorically told the BCI not to conduct the test for this year," they said, thus indicating to BCI, which is the regulator for legal education, that its proposal for



LEFT IN THE LURCH: The ministry had asked BCI not to conduct the test this year as students who passed out in July '10 could not be asked not to practise till the outcome of the results

barring non-serious law graduates from courts should be subjected to more debate in the public domain.

However, BCI chairperson and solicitor general of India Gopal Subramaniam expressed complete ignorance

about any such message from the law ministry and said the regulator was going ahead with its original plan to conduct the first-ever screening test on December 15.

There are over 930 law colleges over which the BCI ex-

ercises its regulatory power concerning educational curriculum. Around 60,000 students graduate in law every year though generally not all prefer to practice in courts.

But, with only 22,000 applications received so far from candidates wanting to clear the screening test to get permission to practice in courts, BCI is contemplating to extend the deadline for applying to sit for the examination till November 15 to give another opportunity to those who have missed the October 31 deadline.

Subramaniam said: "Many law colleges have declared their results late and BCI is thinking of extending the deadline for application to November 15 so as to allow the students who passed out from these colleges a chance to appear in the screening test."

Fake letter used to set up Kgp institute

Document Claimed To Be From PS To President

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The fake institute — Institution of Electrical Engineers (India) — run by IIT-Kharagpur teachers was set up on the basis of a fake document, which was supposedly written by the private secretary of the President in 1987.

Also, the involvement of Prof S K Lahiri, former deputy director of IIT-Kharagpur and professor of electronics and communication engineering, as an advisor to IEE(I) has come to the fore. Post-retirement, Lahiri has been working as an adviser to the Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy — a position specifically created for him in IIT-Kharagpur.

The 22-page document, in possession of the Times of India, is so full of big boasts, at times laughable, and even serious factual inaccuracies that no one can possibly miss it. Not only laws, even the grammar and language has been completely disregarded. It is strange that so many IIT-Kharagpur professors — including few directors — could not see through the charade.

“Most of the IIT professors associated with IEE(I) have seen the document, but no one both-

FALLING FOR THE BLUFF

ered to report it to the Central Vigilance Commission,” a senior IIT professor said, adding that A K Ghosh of department of aerospace was himself a central vigilance officer of the institute for five years.

The alleged document from the President's private secretary is for some strange reason titled “Stricture” and states, “the honorable President of India is happy to annex the strictures

which are confined to office memorandum....the decree shall not be violated by any highest dignitary of government officials, ministers and even by the apex court of India.” In a complete ignorance about the way universities and higher educational institutions are funded, the document says UGC chairman has been asked to give “operating grants” both for IEE and deemed university.

Talking of autonomy, the document says, IEE(I) is “more independent, so it can perform effectively by looking towards its sole objective.” Then it says that

the institute “can fix its policy based on its needs, without much thinking about policy of the government.”

The real clincher is the way the document empowers IEE(I) governing body to choose its nomenclature from the following — Indian University of Technology, Global University of Science and Technology and University of the IEE, or any other name approved. In the next page, the document says the President has opted for the name International University of Modern Science and Technology.

As for the age-limit, the document clearly takes the name of J C Biswas, retired professor of electronics & communication engineering, IIT-Kharagpur, and says he can remain vice-chancellor for “life long as he wishes i.e no age bar”. A similar privilege has been conferred on founder-director J K Tiwari.



DISGRACED DON: Professor A K Ghosh

Times of India ND 04-Nov-10 p-19

Retinal implant brings back vision

Device 'Re-awakens' Nerves, Helps Patients See Within Days Of Treatment

London: Scientists have developed an eye implant that allowed three blind patients to see shapes and objects within days of treatment in a trial and say the device could become routine for some kinds of blindness in five years.

Experts described the study results as phenomenal and said the device, developed by German researchers, could eventually change the lives of up to 200,000 people worldwide who suffer from blindness due to a degenerative eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa.

The device — known as a sub-retinal implant — sits under-

neath the retina and works by directly replacing light receptors that are lost as a result of the disease. After the light detection stage, it uses the eye's natural image-processing functions to produce a stable visual image.

Eberhart Zrenner, chairman of the University of Tuebingen Eye Hospital in Germany and director of a small company called Retinal Implant AG which is developing the device, said the trial results were a "proof of concept" and would now be taken into further trials in around 25 to 50 patients in Europe.

"We have shown that people



RAY OF HOPE

can be provided with enough useful vision for daily life," he said in a telephone interview.

According to the study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal, one blind patient who had the device implanted was able to identify and find objects placed on a table in front of him, and was able to walk around a room independently. He could even read a clock face and differentiate between seven shades of grey, the researchers said. Tests were conducted starting from seven to nine days after the device was implanted. REUTERS

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04-Nov-10

Holographic video gets new dimension

Paris: Optical scientists said they have taken an important step nearer towards 3-D holographic video, a technology with innumerable outlets in entertainment, conferencing, telemedicine and advertising.

Holographic images that 30 years ago were static can now be updated in "quasi real time," according to the research carried out at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Holograms are created by shining a laser on an object, whose image falls on a photosensitive screen.

Bathed in a red or green laser light, the image has a "pa-

rallax," or a 3D effect, that is deep, up-and-down and side-to-side. In that regard, a hologram far outperforms stereoscopic pictures which have to be viewed with special glasses.

Two years ago, the Tucson team scaled up holography from static to mobile with technology which enabled the image to be updated on a small screen every three to four minutes. Refinements have now enabled a screen refresh that is nearly 100 times faster, with an update every two seconds. In addition, images can be recorded and transmitted. AFP

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Hormone that causes insulin resistance found

A hormone that plays a key role in triggering insulin resistance in the body has been found by Japanese scientists in what they say could lead to new class of drugs to treat the condition and type 2 diabetes. Insulin resistance (IR) is a physiological condition in which the natural hormone, insulin, becomes less effective at lowering blood sugars, leading to the development of type 2 diabetes. Researchers at the Kanazawa University Graduate School of Medical Science in Japan found the hormone secreted naturally in the liver is abundant among people suffering from type 2 diabetes compared to that of healthy people.

Times of India ND
04-Nov-10 p-19

Human emits 2T of CO₂ a year during digestion

London: Every person emits the equivalent of two tonnes of carbon dioxide a year through eating — from the time food is taken to when the human body excretes it, a new study has claimed.

Researchers at Universidad de Almeria in Spain have carried out the study and found for the first time that human excrements contribute to water pollution, primarily with nitrogen and phosphorus. "Food produces emissions of around two tonnes of carbon dioxide per person and per year (more than 20% of total emissions per person and per year) and consumes 20 gigajoules (equal to one billion joules) of primary energy," said lead researcher Ivan Munoz.

According to the study, producing food from animals, such as meat and dairy products, causes the greatest impact. Agriculture, livestock, fishing and the food industry are the greatest source of carbon dioxide water pollution, but in both cases the effects of human excretion are next on the list. P71

Keys? Use mobiles to open doors in this hotel

Stockholm: Visitors to a Stockholm hotel will be able to use mobile phones instead of keys to unlock the doors to their rooms.

Assa Abloy AB, the world's largest maker of door locks, has launched a pilot in which Clarion Hotel in Stockholm will lend customers mobile phones with close-range radio chips, much like devices used for contact-less payments at gas stations.

Repeat visitors during a four-

month trial will be able to check in through their phones before arrival and have their phones activated as "keys." They will then be able to skip the registration desk and unlock the door by holding the phone next to it.

The short-range radio technology, known as Near Field Communication, is expected to be built into smart phones in the coming years. It is also envisioned

for ticketing and card payments. Assa Abloy says it wanted to test the system before expanding it to other hotels, commercial buildings and homes.

HIGH-TECH STAY

Greger Johansson, a telecommunications analyst at research firm Redeye, said NFC is a hot technology in the mobile phone market. But he said few models have incorporated it so far and it will take "several years" be-

fore it becomes widely used.

The head of Assa Abloy's mobile keys division, Daniel Berg, acknowledged that participants in the trial may find it cumbersome to have an extra mobile phone. But once people have the technology in their own phones, he said, it will save them time at check-in and improve security because the access credentials in a lost phone can be revoked remotely. AP

Better jammers in Tihar to counter 3G technology

Abhishek Sharan

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NEW DELHI: To counter wily inmates and the sweep of advanced technology, the Tihar prison complex will soon be equipped with a set of upgraded mobile jammers.

These jammers will be capable of blocking mobile communications using third-generation (3G) electromagnetic signals.

The existing jammers in the Tihar Jail, numbering eight, are only capable of blocking communications using second-generation (2G) signals, which renders them vulnerable against the more sophisticated 3G technology.

"The ongoing upgradation project, being executed by the public sector Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), is expected to be complete by December," said a source, on condition of anonymity.

The project is worth around ₹20 lakh.

Confirming this, the jail's

Since we have clubbed the hardened criminals together, the limited number of jammers can work more effectively.

A SOURCE

spokesperson Sunil Gupta said, "The jammer, located at the Rohini sub-jail, has already been upgraded, while seven more jammers will get upgraded within two months."

Gupta said the Delhi high court has also directed jail authorities to ramp up its jammer's capability, in view of the introduction of 3G technology.

The jail authorities have also ordered two more jammers from BEL to increase its communications surveillance.

The jammers currently installed have a range of 50 metres, within which they can block 2G mobile conversations.

The jammers are located

close to the high security cells/wards inside the sub-jails where inmates charged with serious such offences as sedition, terrorism, organised crime and narcotics are housed.

This is in view of the fact that the eight jammers are tasked to block illegal mobile conversations at a prison complex that houses around 11,000 inmates.

"Since we have clubbed the hardened criminals together, the limited number of jammers can work more effectively," said the source.

He added, "We have noticed that a majority of prisoners do not try to smuggle in mobile phone sets. It is always a minority of hardened criminals who might do that."

THE EXISTING JAMMERS CAN ONLY BLOCK 2G COMMUNICATION SIGNALS MAKING THEM VULNERABLE AGAINST 3G TECHNOLOGY.

Hindustan Times ND 04/11/2010

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'Semester system stays, but changes can be made'

Joyeeta Ghosh

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NEW DELHI: Delhi University's new vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh said on Wednesday that the university is open to suggestions from teachers about any changes in the current syllabus for the science courses under the semester system.

Singh's opinion came even though impasse over the implementation of the semester system in 13 undergraduate science courses continues between the teachers and the university.

Speaking to Hindustan Times on the issue, the vice-chancellor said, "We are open to ironing out any issues and concerns vis-à-vis the content, through all established mechanism and processes of the university."

He said, if done immediately, the changes in the syllabi could be implemented as soon as the second semester. If that is not possible, the modified syllabus of the science courses will be implemented from academic session of 2011-12.

As a first step towards resolving the present crisis, he will meet the representatives of Delhi University Teacher's Association on Thursday.

However, Singh, who assumed office four days ago, reiterated that the semester system will stay but necessary changes can be made within it.

The teachers' agitation began on May 13 this year, after the Academic Council, headed by former V-C Deepak Pental, passed these 13 science courses to be taught under the semester module.

The teachers' main grouse is that they were not consulted,



■ DU's vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh will meet DUTA representatives on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR/HT PHOTO

Scuffle at DU college over 'no pay'

NEW DELHI: An altercation over payment of October salary broke out between the principal and teachers of Maharaja Agrasen College on Wednesday.

The college had released the salary of the teachers with a five-day salary cut, as per the 'no work, no pay' notice by the university against striking teachers.

The principal said the he was stopped by some protesting teachers. "When one of the pushed me, I called the police to handle the situation," he said. Additional DCP (east) IB Rani said: "The crowd was dispersed. No case has been registered and no one has been detained."

HTC

and the changes were made arbitrarily while syllabus was restructured from annual to semester mode.

They said there was a huge dilution in the content of the courses in its present form.

According to the new V-C, however, the interest of the first-year students, who are scheduled to appear for the first semester examination is of prime concern at the moment.

Addressing the teachers who have been striking work frequently to protest against the semester system, Singh said: "At no point should anyone believe that the university is not sensitive to the needs of the teaching community but our priority at the moment is to deliver within the limited time we have in hand and ensure that the students are prepared to sit for the first semester."

Hindustan Times Chandigarh 03.11.2010 P-10

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

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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 04/11/2010 p-17

Fake IIT institute had 'deemed' varsity tag

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: The unrecognised institute run by an Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur professor using the IIT brand and campus claimed it was awarded deemed university status in 1987 by the President of India, to dupe students.

Police investigators and the

central government will verify the authenticity of the letter, written purportedly by the President's secretary in 1987 to the fake Institute of Electrical Engineers, sources said.

Senior officials familiar with such correspondence said the letter may have been forged.

"No senior government official is likely to use the language used in the letter. What is sifock-

ing is how such a letter fooled everyone for over two decades," a senior government official said.

IIT Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya on Wednesday met HRD minister Kapil Sibal and handed him a dossier on the scam.

The detailed 22-page letter dated January 28, 1987, is signed by "T. Singh, Private Secretary,

President of India," and is on the official letterhead of the head of state.

"The Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, has been advised specially," to grant deemed-to-be-university status to the IEE, says the type-written letter. The letter — titled "stricture" — also grants recognition to the diplomas awarded by the fake institute.

Mint, ND 04-Nov-10

PSU

p-10

PSUs urged to share 2% of profit to boost education

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The government wants large public sector companies to share the burden of boosting expenditure on education.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has written to India's largest public sector units (PSUs), proposing that they part with a portion of their annual profit to raise the standard of school education, particularly in rural areas and urban slums.

"Initially, we have written to top 100 PSUs, including leading government banks, for giving nearly 2% of their profit for improving school education as part of their social responsibility," a ministry official said. "We are in consultation with private industry lobbies and will soon write to private companies on this."

Another HRD official said the ministry was hopeful the companies would cooperate. "Diverting a small portion of the substantial profit towards school education would help in achieving the objective of providing affordable yet quality schooling to children of rural areas and urban slums..."

Both officials asked not to be named.

Total net profit of all PSUs in 2007-08 was ₹90,000 crore, according to the HRD ministry. India's top 500 companies earned a net profit of ₹250,000 in the same year.

The Congress-led Union government plans to boost public expenditure on education from around 4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) today to 6% in the next few years, according to the HRD ministry.

Around 237 million students are currently pursuing school education in India. But quality of schooling and high dropout rates are major worries. Of every 100 students that enter class I, more than 55 drop out by the time they reach class X.

Currently, the cost of setting up a quality school is ₹3 crore, but this may increase to ₹5 crore if better facilities are provided, according to HRD ministry estimates.

Companies that accept the government's proposal will be asked to fund the setting up of a school as well as its recurring cost for a decade, or a total of ₹15 crore. In return, the school may be named after the company and around 10% of its seats may be reserved for children of the company's employees.

"While up to 10% can go as discretionary quota, the remaining seats will be filled by the government," said the second official cited above.

Having schools named after them will serve as publicity for the companies.

The companies can also play an active role in the management and evaluation of the schools they finance. If they don't want to, the government will hand over the task to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, which runs Central Schools, and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, another HRD ministry-run schooling body. After 10 years, the company can either continue running the school or hand it over to the government.

U.D. Choubey, director general of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises, an umbrella body of PSUs, said PSUs should contribute to school education as a social responsibility.

"They are (already) doing various activities, including those in the education sector," he said. "HRD ministry should enter into specific agreements with individual PSUs for this."

Mail Today ND 04/11/2010 P-4

Did ex-President's office clear 'fake' institute on IIT campus?

THE director of IIT-Kharagpur, Damodar Acharya, on Wednesday handed human resource development minister Kapil Sibal a letter that states that the permission for an engineering institute on the campus, under probe after facing allegations that it is illegal, came from a former President of India's office.

Acharya met Sibal in the backdrop of the suspension of IIT-K professor Amit Kumar Ghosh from the department of aerospace engineering for allegedly running the fake engineering institute — the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) — on the campus.

Sources said the ministry will probe if the letter was genuine.

Ghosh was head of the aerospace engineering department at IIT-K till September this year. After students of the IEE lodged a

By Kavita Chowdhury In New Delhi

complaint and the matter went to court, Ghosh was replaced and soon suspended.

The letter was allegedly written on January 22, 1986, by an official from the office of the then President Giani Zail Singh. According to the letter, the President himself had agreed to be the patron of the IEE. The letter written by the then private secretary granted a presidential decree declaring the institute was recognised by the government of India. It states, "...confirmed that passing the associate membership exam of the IEE (India) is recognised at par with the Baccalaureate degree in electrical engineering of foreign universities and is equivalent

to the associate membership exams of the IEE (India), which is recognised by the government of India for the purposes of recruitment to superior posts and services under the central government in the appropriate field"

IIT-K director produces letter to absolve itself of any blame

The alleged presidential decree also adds that the IEE is declared as an autonomous and recognised body in India for grant of degree in electrical engineering and combined diploma in engineering.

Subsequently in 1996, IIT director Prof K.L. Chopra formally recognised the

AMIEE degree awarded by the institute as a degree recognised by the IIT.

Present IIT director Prof. Acharya has put forward these documents to absolve the present administration of any blame.

An HRD ministry official said: "How is it that such a permission was granted by the President's house? Also, the IITs do not have the power to grant recognition like it has been done in this case. We need to certify the veracity of this document."

Prof. Ghosh dismissed the allegations against him. He defended himself: "I have been honorary president of the IEE since 2006. I have been associated with them before that since 2004."

As for whether the institute was fake, he said the matter was in court and it was for the courts to decide.

Asian Age ND 04/11/2010 P-11

Facebook's initial crew is moving on

VERNE G. KOPYTOFF

SAN FRANCISCO

Nov. 3: Facebook, the most successful start-up of the last decade, is only six years old, and an initial public offering is still a way off.

But a number of Facebook's early employees are giving up their stable jobs, free food and laundry service to build their own businesses. Many of them are leaving as wealthy, either on paper or after cashing in their ownership stakes to do what they say they like best: start companies.

Dustin Moskovitz, 26, who co-founded Facebook with his Harvard roommate Mark Zuckerberg, left his job on Facebook's technical staff to create Asana, which makes software that helps workers collaborate.

Another Facebook co-founder, Chris Hughes, also 26, has started Jumo, a social network for "people who want to change the world."

Dave Morin, formerly the senior platform manager, is building Path, a still-secretive venture, while Adam D'Angelo, who was Facebook's chief technology officer, and Charlie Cheever, another senior manager, set off in 2008 and 2009 respectively to start Quora, a question-and-answer site. More than half a dozen start-ups can trace their origins to Facebook alumni.

The departures follow a familiar pattern among other Silicon Valley successes like Yahoo, eBay and Google. After amassing fortunes, early employees start walking out the door.

PayPal's have gone off to



The departures follow a familiar pattern among other Silicon Valley successes like Yahoo, eBay and Google. After amassing fortunes, early employees start walking out the door.

start YouTube, Slide and Yelp, and staked Facebook. They are known as the PayPal Mafia. Google's former employees are called Xogglers. Mr. Morin, who left Facebook this year, offered this suggestion: Facebook Society. "We're social," he explained.

But the Facebook Society is slightly different from the earlier alumni associations. The other serial entrepreneurs usually cashed out before resigning.

These ex-Facebookers are leaving before any I.P.O. of the company's shares. They can do that because Facebook shares are surprisingly liquid. The rise of exchanges like Second Market and SharesPost over the last couple of years have allowed shareholders in private companies to sell their stakes

more easily than before. These markets function much like a stock exchanges for publicly traded companies, although the pool of buyers and sellers is much smaller. Facebook's overall value is around \$30 billion on the exchanges.

Last year, Facebook helped current and former employees to cash out some of their shares to a Russian Internet company, Digital Sky Technologies, now known as Mail.ru, agreed to buy up to \$100 million in stock to increase its existing stake in Facebook.

Many of Facebook's alumni are wealthy from stock options they earned while working there. The Facebook expatriates are not saying who among them is rich on paper only and who has actually cashed in some

holdings. But Mr. Moskovitz owns around 6 percent of Facebook, according to the book "The Facebook Effect," and would therefore be worth about \$1.8 billion.

By no means is Mr. Zuckerberg watching a mass exodus. The number of people leaving has been relatively small. Larry Yu, a Facebook spokesman, said that the company's early employees tended to be entrepreneurs at heart, and it was therefore not surprising that they had left to start their own companies. "We don't view attrition as a particularly prominent issue for us at this time," he said.

Former Facebookers describe the company as a fabulous training ground. Mr. Zuckerberg hammered home the lesson of focusing on the long term by declining to accept ads on the site during its infancy or to be acquired by other companies.

Fellow colleagues expounded on entrepreneurship. Netanel Jacobsson, who was Facebook's director for international business development before leaving last year, said the company's start-up culture inevitably changed as a few hundred employees grew to around 1,700 today. "Eventually, I felt it became too big and too corporate, and that's when I decided to leave," Mr. Jacobsson said.

After taking time off to decide what to do, he began advising a social gaming company. He liked the industry so much that he created a social gaming company of his own, PlayHopper, which is to intro-

duce its first product this year.

The company, which is financed from Mr. Jacobsson's pocket, has a dozen or so employees scattered across the globe. "I'm back to what I really like and what I'm really passionate about — the growth stage of a company, and watching it take off," Mr. Jacobsson said.

Getting the business off the ground at his age — 40 — is more complex than for other of Facebook's spawn, who tend to be much younger, he said. For one thing, he has a wife and three children. "It's almost a suicide mission," Mr. Jacobsson said.

Mr. Morin, 30, said that he had always harbored entrepreneurial ambitions, even before joining Facebook in 2006. "My dream was always to start a company," Mr. Morin said. After helping to build two central pieces of Facebook's service, Connect and Platform, he saw an opportunity in the growing use of smartphones and decided to capitalize on the trend before it was too late.

In February, Mr. Morin left Facebook and began working on Path, which is to introduce its service before the end of the year. He has assembled a team of a dozen employees who work in a high-rise apartment building in San Francisco.

Early on, Path's team tested a service that enabled users to create and share lists online. Mr. Morin said the company had since changed direction, but he declined to offer details.

— NYT

Tata Docomo launches 3G services

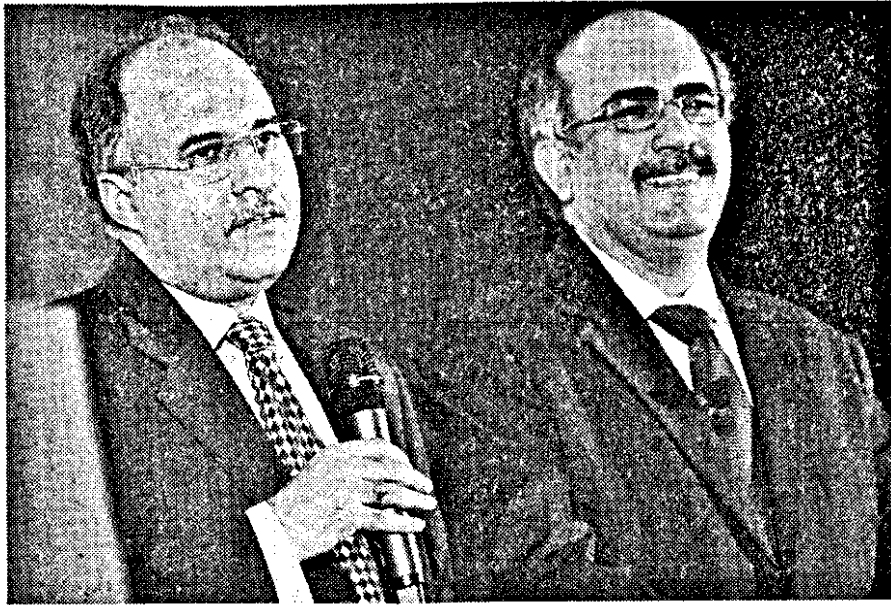
DC CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Nov. 3: A week after leading telecom operators announced that they would be rolling out next-generation telecom services across the country, Tata Docomo, the GSM arm of Tata Teleservices Ltd, became the first private operator to launch its 3G services in India on Wednesday.

The 3G services will be launched at midnight on Thursday, across all nine circles where Tata Docomo has a 3G licence – Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, UP (West), Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra.

"We have been able to complete the ramp-up of our network to support 3G services within 65 days due to the 3G-ready network we created at the time of our 2G launch last year. Tata Docomo's HSPA+ 3G network, set up with the assistance of



Anil Sardana, MD, Tata Teleservices Ltd., with Deepak Gulati

NTT Docomo, Japan, supports high-speed internet access of upto 21.1 Mbps," said Anil Sardana, MD, Tata Teleservices Ltd. All Tata Docomo customers can experience the 3G services

for free for one week, until 11 November.

The company which will announce the price packages of its 3G services after evaluating customer response over the Diwali week,

demonstrated the full range of its 3G offerings on a 3G enabled mobile phone, showing off live darshan/aarti of holy shrines such as Kashi Vishwanath, Shirdi SaiBaba, etc., live

mobile TV with access to 50 TV channels or other live video streaming, video SMS, high-definition gaming, route finder and video calls across continents.

"We will be working closely with 3G device manufacturers of handsets, dongles and tablets which will be powered by Tata Docomo applications and services. 3G service brings with it better voice clarity through high-definition voice, fewer call-drops and high-speed internet access, engaging consumers like never before," said Deepak Gulati, executive president, Mobility Business Division of the company.

"After nearly a decade of success in providing 3G service in Japan, we are delighted to have lent our technical and business knowhow to Tata Teleservices Ltd, our strategic global partner", said Ryuji Yamada, president and CEO of NTT Docomo, in a video message.

Salary blocked, DUTA trains its guns on new V-C

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

THE honeymoon is over a little too soon and now it is all down to money. The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), which claimed it had 'restrained' itself till now, slammed the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh on Wednesday. The provocation: Singh's instructions regarding strict implementation of the 'No Work No Pay' order in a circular issued on Monday — Singh's first day in office.

Newsline had reported on Tuesday that at least 14 colleges had held back October salaries for teachers.

"It is now apparent that despite solemn assurances by Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, the new Vice-Chancellor is seeking to continue the style of administration of Prof Deepak Pental," said a DUTA press note.

Some colleges, like Dyal Singh and Maharaja Agrasen, have released salaries after deducting pay for the October 25 to 29 period when teachers were on strike.

At Maharaja Agrasen, Principal Sunil Sondhi had to call the police after teachers denied him entry into the college demanding that the salaries for the five strike days be released. Sondhi said about four teachers were detained by the police.

"We had told the teachers of the No Work No Pay order of the University well before they went on strike. Now, they want the salary even for the days they were on strike," said Sondhi. He said about half of 80 teachers had signed the attendance register during the strike days, and their salaries had been released in full.

Teachers, however, had a different story to tell. "The college has not yet released our salaries. The treasurer has refused to sign the relevant documents as a Governing Body meeting was not called to approve the five-day salary cut.

MCD workers not paid for two months

NEW DELHI: Nearly 3,000 Domestic Breeding Checkers (DBC's) of the MCD may be in for a bleak Diwali as they have not received their salary for the past two months.

The workforce that checks homes and commercial areas for mosquito breeding is facing a delay in payment as the civic agency is reportedly facing a lack of funds. The MCD has 3,200 DBCs, who are hired on contractual basis every year — a DBC is paid Rs 225 per day.

"We have been working very hard. During the Games, we worked without any holidays but our payment has been held up. A number of workers of west zone haven't been paid any money since August," said Ashok Chaudhary, a DBC worker and general secretary of Anti-Malaria Karamchari Sangh. The civic agency, meanwhile, has admitted that the workers have not been paid. "There's shortage of funds, we are trying to resolve the matter," said a senior MCD official.

ENS

No permanent teacher signed the attendance register; only ad hocs did," said history professor B K Choudhary.

At Acharya Narendra Dev College (ANDC), Principal Savithri Singh has gone into a huddle with her teachers. "I have not yet taken a call on releasing the salary. I am talking to the teachers about the proposed deduction for the strike," she said. ANDC teachers said Principal Singh had offered to cut only two days' salaries as there were programmes in the college on three of the five days in question. However, teachers have declined the offer.

"It is very sad. All of us used to be close to the principal, now we have to oppose her because of what has been done in the name of implementing the semester system. All over the University, teachers are up in arms against their principals," said a teacher.

Get political on education, Mr Sibal

INDIA'S education system is in a pretty bad shape, and that is widely recognised. However, efforts to solve the problem are in no great shape either, in spite of having an earnest and energetic minister at the helm of the ministry for human resources development. The problem is an administrative, rather than a political, approach to the problem.

The biggest challenge in education, as in much else in this country, is governance. Teachers are appointed, but they don't teach, don't even reach school on many days, in very many parts of the country. And they cannot be held to account. Just as absconding primary health centre staff are not.

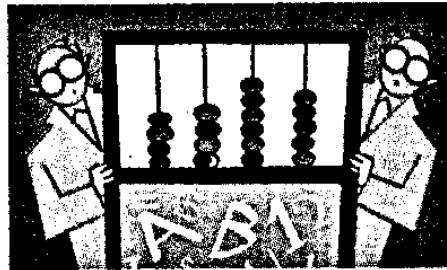
Does identification, in the popular imagination, of education with getting a degree or a certificate qualify as a problem of governance? Only because it results in mass copying at qualifying examinations. High marks matter, never mind how you get them.

There is a severe resource crunch in education. But the government is chary of charging for tuition, even at the college level. So kids who have spent a few lakh rupees on school fees end up paying a few hundred rupees as college fees. This is justified in the name of students who cannot afford to pay realistic tuition fees at the college level. Inability to levy realistic fees on those who can afford them, within a framework that liberally offers scholarships, freeships and loans to those who lack the resources to pay the fees on their own, reflects paucity of political will to tackle the problem.

Many things trouble Indian higher education. Their orientation is training rather than creation of new knowledge. Serious research is confined to specialised laboratories and research institutions. This cleavage between teaching and research is part colonial legacy, part cultural baggage. In India, the intellectual tradition held all knowledge to be finite, already discovered and written up, so that what a young scholar needed to do was to study the es-

CURSOR

TKARUN



- India's education sector is badly in need of reform, but the needed reform is tough to deliver and calls for political will
- In the absence of the needed political will, the minister has been reduced to tokenism to demonstrate action
- The victim has been Delhi University, one of the few places that still function, where superfluous change is being forced

established texts to become a new master. Indian tradition had the conceit to anoint someone *sarvagnya*, someone who knows everything (the first Sankaracharya was one, for example). So, it is not surprising that research to create new knowledge does not come naturally to the Indian establishment. Precious little has been done so far to undo this damaging tradition of teaching sans research.

Indian academics have, by and large, bought into the resultant value system. They value foreign scholars over Indian ones, value degrees from foreign universities over Indian degrees, vie for stints at some foreign institute, for foreign fellowships, value an article published in a foreign journal over one published in an Indian one.

Indian academics are poorly paid, in comparison with their counterparts abroad, or in comparison with what people of similar skills earn when employed in

industry or even the government, once all the perks are monetised, in the latter case. So, honourable exceptions apart, only those who cannot make it to better paying jobs find their way to academics, and this contributes to low standards. Those honourable exceptions tend to congregate in some elite institutions. The result is that the standards of teaching are acceptable only in some elite colleges in some elite universities, and abysmal elsewhere.

The Indian elites have responded by seceding from Indian higher education, for the most part. A tiny set makes it to the elite institutions in India with good faculty while the rest go abroad. Now, Indian industrialists have started donating to foreign universities on a substantial scale. This helps them wangle admissions and scholarships for favoured wards, not just of family and friends, but also of influential civil servants and politicians. The net result of this elitism in Indian higher education and the secession of the elite to universities abroad is to lower the quality of the manpower available to Indian industry in general. One consequence is to drive up the cost of whatever genuine talent is available. This is not an acceptable state of affairs. It is far from clear that the minister for human resources even recognises the magnitude of the problem, leave alone summons the political will to tackle it.

The problems in education are huge, and difficult to tackle. But it is important to show activism and performance. The result has been the assault on Delhi University's academic schedule. It is one of India's functional universities, to which students flock from all over the country and which produces world-class graduates. The ministry has sought to force-change the university's academic schedule to a semester system, violating procedure and university statute, and with minimal attempt to take into account the legitimate points raised by the teachers of the university. This is absurd tokenism, not reform of the education system.

Tribune ND 04/11/2010 p-9

IIAS plans 'Shimla Retreat' from 2012

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 3

Having remained the venue for several significant meetings during the tumultuous pre-Independence days, including the Shimla Conference of 1945 and Shimla Pact of 1971, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) could become synonymous with "Shimla Retreat" as it proposes to hold an annual conglomeration of scholars from America and Europe to deliberate on vital issues concerning India.

It was only two days back that the Director of the IIAS, Peter Ronald deSouza, held talks with representatives from the School of Advanced Study, the University of London, and Centre for India Studies, the University of Yale, to chalk out the plan for holding "Shimla Retreat".

'Shimla Retreat' will be an annual feature having a conglomeration of scholars from the US and Europe to deliberate on vital issues concerning India

The preliminary seminar for chalking out the final details of the Retreat will be held here in May next year.

"We are working out on holding an annual "Shimla Retreat" at the institute beginning in 2012 with participation from intellectuals giants from America and Europe who are already working on India or hold keen interest on some issues concerning the country," said deSouza. He said each year the Retreat would be held on some aspect of Indian Democracy.

Aiming to make a global foothold, the IIAS is planning to make the "Shimla Retreat" an annual feature

with issues like environmental laws, population, caste or any such topic to be discussed at length. To begin with, the preliminary seminar in May, a precursor to the "Shimla Retreat", will deliberate on the "Changing Structure of Caste and Democracy in India".

A brainchild of the Director of the institute, the IIAS intends coming out with a series of publications, based on the deliberations during the retreat every year. University of London will coordinate with 10 major institutes in England to select the participants for the assembly of scholars. Similarly, the University of Yale too will

undertake a similar exercise in America to have scholars attend the Retreat at the IIAS.

Interestingly, the Shimla Conference was held at the IIAS in 1945, which at that point of time was the residence of Lord Mountbatten, the then Viceroy of India. A spectrum of Indian leadership, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad, C. Rajagopalachari and Mohammed Ali Jinnah, had attended the conference which finally failed to decide upon the formation of an interim government till the new Constitution was being prepared.

The stalwarts of Indian politics once again assembled here at the Viceregal Lodge in 1946 as a tripartite conference between the Congress, the Muslim League and the British took place to work out the modalities for transfer of power with no final agreement on the main issues.