

Newspaper Clips October 1, 2010

Hindustan Times, ND 01-Oct-10 p-4

Hostels empty, ousted hostellers fume

Mallica Joshi

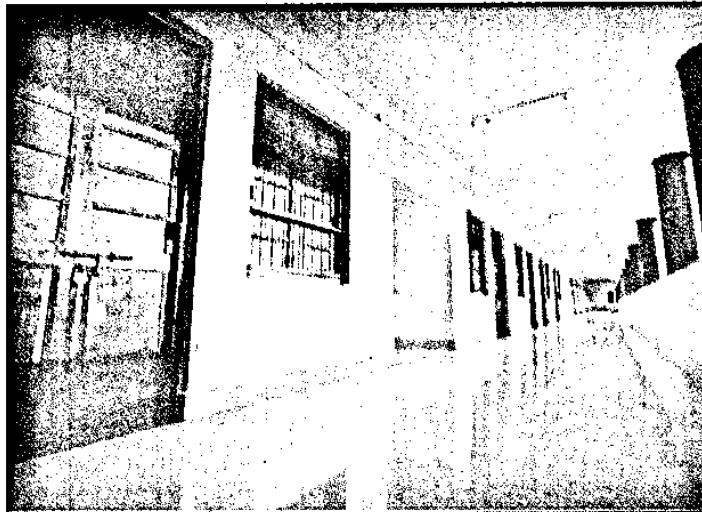
■ mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The sacrifice made by the Delhi University students, who were asked to vacate their hostel rooms to make way for the Games guests, seems to have gone in vain.

With just three days to go for the Games, the hostels are still awaiting for their first guest. None of the hostels in Delhi University have had any guests so far, despite the rate of each room being reduced from ₹ 500 to ₹250.

To make matters worse, the Organising Committee said that it never wanted those hostel rooms for the guests. "We never made any request for rooms from the university," said a senior official from the accommodations sector of OC.

Sources said that the request for rooms was initiated by the Lieutenant Governor's office. However, the officials denied it.



■ **Hindu College Hostel which was renovated for the Games hasn't had a single booking till Thursday.**

RONJOY GOGOI / HT PHOTO

"We never made any such request," said Ranjan Mukherjee, officer on special duty to Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

College officials said the OC was involved in the process throughout. "We had a meeting

with UGC officials in which representatives from the UGC, Ministry of Human Resource Development and OC were also present," said Rajendra Prasad, Principal, Ramjas College.

The college officials are, meanwhile, waiting for the

guests to turn up. "We were told that friends and family of players and spectators would be housed in the hostel rooms. The rooms are ready, but there has been no booking so far," said Chandrachur Singh, warden, Hindu College.

Students from various DU colleges, including Hansraj College, Ramjas College, Miranda House and Shri Ram College for Commerce, and Jamia Millia Islamia, were asked to vacate their hostels in July, so that the buildings could be renovated.

"This is ridiculous. I had to spend ₹6,000 each month on accommodation alone. If no one is coming then why were we asked to move out," said Samiya Akhtar, a DU student.

Each college spent more than Rs 1 crore on renovating the hostel rooms.

The renovation work was funded by the University Grants Commission.

Hindustan Times Chandigarh
30.09.2010 P-8

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

7 IT projects showcased at e-Revolution 2010

Bhartesh Singh Thakur
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CHANDIGARH: Seven different Information Technology (IT) projects are coming up in Punjab.

Amit Dutta, vice-president of Ernest and Young — which was appointed by the state government to build a roadmap of IT sector — gave a presentation on the state's IT proposals at e-Revolution 2010 on Wednesday.

For the development of Global Industrial and Knowledge City in Rajpura, 1,400-acre land has been approved. In proximity with NH 1, the proposed site would have a strong connectivity with four-lane NH while the six-lane NH is under progress. Rajpura is hub of soap factories, biscuit machines industry and steel works. It already has presence of industries such as Hindustan Unilever (HUL), Steel Chemicals, Amber Enterprises Limited and Amrit Banaspati.

Adequate power supply is promised with the proposed Rajpura Thermal Power Plant with a capacity of 1,320 MW, which will be increased to 2,000 MW. Three-hundred-acre land is marked to develop IT/Knowledge hub in Ropar along with the Indian Institute of Technology, which itself is spread over 500 acre. It will include exhibition centre, iconic tower, gateway building, hotel and recreation centre and club house.

As far as infrastructure is

concerned, there is a proposal of four-lane NH to the proposed site. It has an adequate power supply with presence of 1,260 MW Guru Gobind Super Thermal Power plant.

At Railmajra, about 5 km from Ropar, connected by NH 21 from Chandigarh, there's another park coming up on 12.11-acre land. The proposed IT park at Kapurthala, 32 km from Jalandhar, would be spread over 46.8 acre. It is located in the heart of Doaba, having highest number of NRI connections. In the vicinity, it has hub of education institutes like Punjab Technical University, Pushpa Gujral Science City, Lovely Professional University. Also, in the vicinity, it has presence of First Source BPO Solutions and Kayako, Rail Coach Factory and VSNL satellite earth station for data and voice communication in Jalandhar.

Another 44-acre land has been earmarked at Sneti in Mohali for IT park. Spread over an area of 220 acres, a proposal for Yellow Stone Landmark Infocity, has also been made, which would have IT offices, BPO, residential units, shopping arcades, educational institutes and healthcare facilities.

Punjab Infotech is also setting up an Incubation Centre in Mohali in collaboration with the Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) and Software Technology Park of India to foster innovation, research and entrepreneurial activities in technology-based areas in Punjab.

Sukhbir: IT will bring transparency

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Badal on Wednesday said the state was taking maximum benefit of Information Technology to bring transparency in its governance system, besides enabling the citizens to have an easy access to various departments.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the two-day e-Revolution 2010 here, he said the IT revolution in a country like India was meaningless unless it was taken to the people in rural areas.

Accepting that to bring out change in the attitude of government machinery was as difficult as "climbing the Mount Everest", he said that he took the task of implementing governance reforms as a mission and thanked Chief Secretary S.C. Agrawal and the Reforms

Commission chairman Dr Pramod Kumar for making the task easier for him.

He said Punjab would be the first state with all land records computerised by March 31, 2011 and the entire record would be accessible online.

Seeking investment from IT moguls, he said Punjab was competing with coastal states on one hand and with hill states enjoying tax concessions on the other, besides Haryana encashing its proximity to Delhi.

He said that he was seeking investment with the promise of best road and air connectivity with three international airports, world-class road infrastructure besides his resolve to make Punjab power surplus by October 2011, with the completion of three upcoming mega thermal plants.

He reiterated that by December the people of Punjab will start experiencing the changes planned for them.

**Times Of India
ND 01/10/2010**

P-3

DU to discuss auction of irradiator

New Delhi: After a delay of two months, the report on the auction of a gamma irradiator by DU to the Mayapuri scrap market will be placed at the executive council (EC) meeting on Friday. A three-member inquiry committee set up by DU submitted the report on July 27. Vice-chancellor Deepak Pental convened the EC meeting without notifying any agenda stating that issues to be discussed will be placed on the table. But according to sources, the meeting has been convened with a one-point agenda to place the report. TNN

Earth-like planet found

Not Too Hot Or Cold, This World Could Just Be Habitable, Scientists Say

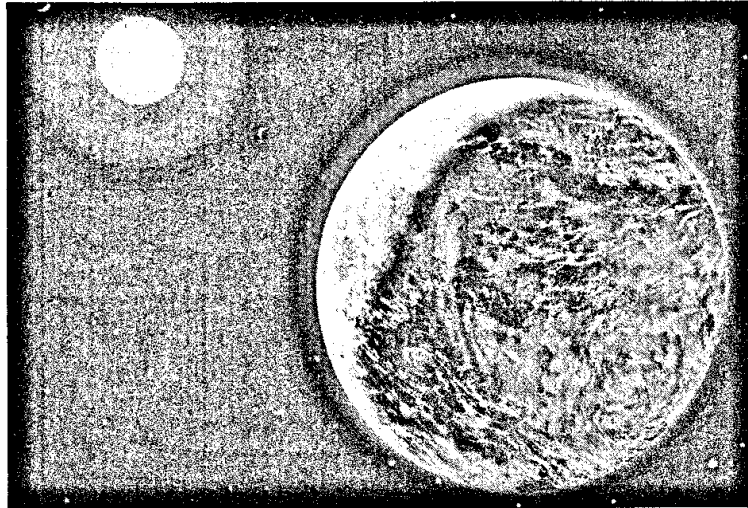
Washington: Astronomers say they have for the first time spotted a planet beyond our own in what is sometimes called the Goldilocks zone for life: Not too hot, not too cold. Juuuust right.

Not too far from its star, not too close. So it could contain liquid water. The planet itself is neither too big nor too small for the proper surface, gravity and atmosphere.

It's just right. Just like Earth. "This really is the first Goldilocks planet," said co-discoverer R Paul Butler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The new planet sits smack in the middle of what astronomers refer to as the habitable zone, unlike any of the nearly 500 other planets astronomers have found outside our solar system. And it is in our galactic neighbourhood, suggesting that plenty of Earth-like planets circle other stars.

Finding a planet that could



THE BIG ONE: Found in Earth's galactic neighbourhood, the planet orbits its sun in just 37 days

timeless question: Are we alone? Scientists have jumped the

tem were habitable only to have them turn out to be not

right zone that five outside astronomers told AP it seems to

truly excited about," said Penn State University's Jim Kasting. He said this planet is a "pretty prime candidate" for harbouring life.

Life on other planets doesn't mean ET. Even a simple single-cell bacteria or the equivalent of shower mold would shake perceptions about the uniqueness of life on Earth.

But there are still many unanswered questions about this strange planet. It is about three times the mass of Earth, slightly larger in width and much closer to its star — 14 million miles away versus 93 million. It's so close to its version of the sun that it orbits every 37 days. And it doesn't rotate much, so one side is almost always bright, the other dark.

Temperatures can be as hot as 160 degrees or as frigid as 25 degrees below zero, but in between — in the land of constant sunrise — it would be "shirt-sleeve weather," said co-discoverer Steven Vogt of the University of California at

Economic Times, ND 01-Oct-10 p-15

Digging money out of e-waste

Siblings Saw A Billion-Dollar Opportunity In Their Idea, And Attero Recycling Was Born

ATTERO Recycling can be easily called a firm sprouted from just an idea — recycling e-waste. In a bid to garner investor support to turn their idea into a business, siblings Nitin Gupta and Rohan Gupta focused on creating spreadsheets and presentations that would articulate their thoughts.

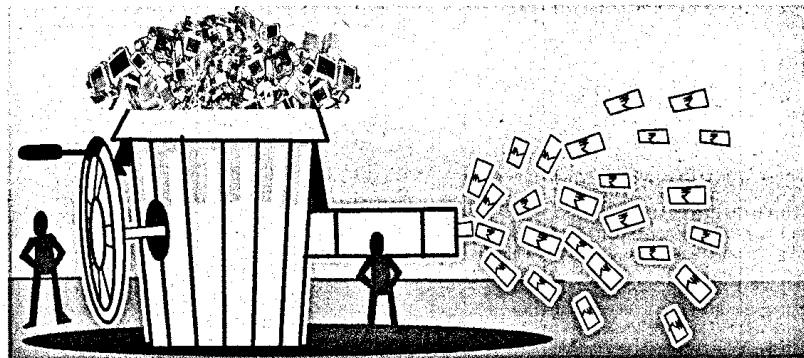
Soon after, the Guptas were successful in attracting initial funding of \$6.3 million from top-tier venture capital firms IndoUS Venture Partners and Draper Fisher Jurvetson in 2008. Attero Recycling, a clean-tech start-up firm that recycles electronic waste, came into existence.

"Our first round of financing was an inflection point for us. Our concept was new, the market size was big. But we had passion and belief in our idea," says Nitin Gupta, chief executive at Attero Recycling. To kick-start the business, Mr Gupta utilised the capital fund to build a highly automated facility for integrated e-waste recycling at Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

The firm also built a first-of-its kind indigenous metallurgical process developed in its R&D division. The firm, which has around 85 employees, has now clocked up more than 165 clients, which includes large technology firms such as Wipro, HCL, Tata Tele Services and Google.

"Recycling e-waste is a billion-dollar opportunity. India will produce around 1 million tonne of e-waste by 2012, up from the current level of 440,000 tonne per annum," says Mr Gupta, who expects to achieve a topline of ₹1,000 crore for the financial year 2013-2014.

"We partnered with Attero after realising their potential and looking at their remarkable progress in the last two years. Growing e-waste is a major problem across nations," says Sameet S Mehta, who joined the Board of Attero



as a director on behalf of Granite Hill, when it led the investment round of ₹15 crore in the start-up firm in July this year.

Repeat investors Draper Fisher Jurvetson and IndoUS Venture also participated in the round, which is expected to help Attero expand its recycling facilities in Uttarakhand.

As the market expands, the two-year-old start-up is beefing up capacity to keep pace. The reason why constant rounds of additional equity capital are important for the young start-up. Currently, Attero is in the process of

raising another \$5 million from International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector lending arm of World Bank, to scale up its clean technology business.

"One of the important factors why we were successful in raising capital is because we have developed proprietary technology to recycle and extract metals from e-waste. We can recycle over 36,000 tonne of e-waste per annum," says Mr Gupta, an alumnus of IIT-Delhi, the London School of Business, and the Stern School of Business in New York University.

Another potential source of revenue from e-waste is the retrieval of components and spare parts for reuse. In the process, certain precious metals such as gold, platinum, silver and copper are extracted from the electronic scrap, said Mr Gupta.

Industry watchers now reckon the opportunity in clean technology is larger than in the internet. "Energy efficiency alone is a \$10-billion opportunity in India. Big investment opportunities cover areas such as LED lighting, water purification, recycling of e-waste, food processing and wind power, solar power, and second-generation biofuels," says Anil Paranjape, a venture capitalist who runs Fusiontech, a Pune-based early-stage venture capital fund focused on clean technology.

However, besides the opportunities, there is always uncertainty in cleantech business, but you should expect the unexpected," says Mr Gupta of Attero.

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Economic Times, ND 01-Oct-10 p-19

Core to gain from demand in edu space

Co Has Chalked Out Plans To Expand Its Footprint In India, Southeast Asia And Africa

Parul Bhatnagar
ET INTELLIGENCE GROUP

THE stock of education solutions provider Core Projects and Technologies has outperformed the broader market in the past one year. It has gained over 50% during the period against a 19% gain in the benchmark Sensex.

Present across three continents, Core Projects is a technology-enabled educational solutions provider to governments, universities, schools and students. The service offerings span across all stages of education including school, higher education and vocational training.

In order to expand its market reach and product offerings global-

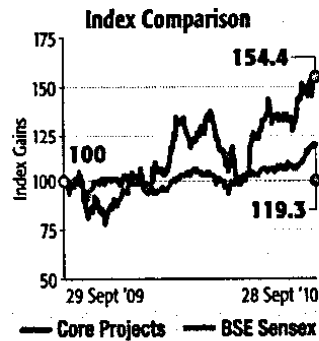
ly, Core has acquired nine companies in the UK and the US in the past five years. The company is planning to buy another company in the UK in next two months.

As much as 95% of the company's total revenue comes from the UK and the US. It has chalked out plans to expand its footprint in the emerging markets such as India, Southeast Asia and Africa. To expand its product offerings, the com-



pany has entered into strategic alliances with other established players in the education space including Microsoft, Oxford University and Center for Higher Learning - NASA.

Core is also keen on increasing its India revenue from a minuscule to over 25% of its total revenue by



FY13. To achieve this, it has aligned with Oxford University, IBM and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

It has recently signed a ₹119-crore pact with the Maharashtra government spread over a period of five years. In the next two years, the company expects to sign two

more similar contracts with other states. Core's primary focus is on the government-funded education business and it intends to operate in the same space going ahead. Moreover, the company plans to further enhance its services through teachers' training and vocational training modules.

At the current market price of ₹307.4, the stock trades at nearly 17.7 times its earnings for the trailing 12 months. The company has witnessed a slowdown in its sales and profit growth in the June 2010 quarter. The management has attributed this to the lumpy nature of its revenue and mark-to-market adjustment on its foreign borrowings. The company is likely to continue its double-digit growth in the coming quarters given the project visibility.

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Mint ND 01/10/2010 p-5

WINNING BID

DRDO chooses GE engines for Tejas

By AMAN MALIK
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NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation, or DRDO, which develops technology for the Armed Forces, has decided to use GE F414 engines, promoted by GE Aviation, for the indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-II—pending price negotiations.

The EJ2000 engine, promoted by the European consortium Eurojet, was the other contender for the deal.

"After evaluation and acceptance of the technical offer provided by both Eurojet and GE Aviation, the commercial quotes were compared in detail and GE Aviation was declared as the lowest bidder. Further price negotiations and contract finalization will follow," DRDO said in a statement on Thursday.

The price negotiation committee is chaired by Prahlada, chief controller of DRDO, and includes officials from the defence ministry, the air force and the navy. Prahlada goes by one name.

"Although GE Aviation is the lowest bidder, price negotiations are still not complete, so it would not be possible to comment on the bid amount at this stage," DRDO spokesperson Ravi Gupta said.

Analysts said DRDO would ask GE Aviation to lower its price.

"If the reported price of \$666

million as quoted by Eurojet is correct, the government will push GE Aviation to bring the price down to that level," a defence analyst said on condition of anonymity.

The *Business Standard* earlier in September said Eurojet was the lower bidder at \$666 million for 99 engines, against GE Aviation's bid of \$822 million.

DRDO officials declined to comment on the issue or disclose GE's bid amount.

"We respect the decision taken by the price negotiating committee... Together with our consortium partner companies and their respective governments, we will carefully study the decision and its implications," Eurojet said in a statement.

The LCA project has cost an estimated ₹10,397 crore, of which ₹2,431.55 crore was spent on the Mk-II variant that marks the third phase of the indigenous programme. It was launched in 1983 but has suffered delays.

Tejas Mk-II is likely to get its initial operational clearance by December; final operational clearance is likely by January 2012.

The first two phases of the programme saw the development of LCA Mk-I, which uses the GE-404 engine.

The air force has placed orders for two squadrons of the aircraft; orders for another two squadrons are in the pipeline. State-run **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd** is manufacturing the aircraft.

Mint ND 01/10/2010 p-32

SOLAR MISSION

Renewable energy courses planned

Most of these courses are for graduates of technical training schools, others for engineering students

BY JACOB P. KOSHY
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NEW DELHI

Anticipating a boom in demand for skilled personnel to power India's nascent solar industry, the ministry of new and renewable energy is drawing up a proposal to develop specific diploma and technical training courses.

According to officials in the ministry, a plethora of courses such as low- and medium-temperature solar thermal applications, and specialized programmes in solar photovoltaic and solar thermal power are proposed to be introduced in India's technical training institutes.

While some programmes are being introduced for engineering students, a bulk of them are for graduates of technical training schools.

The introduction of such courses signals policymakers' plans to tap a large base of skilled workers that could effectively contribute to a small, but ambitious initiative by the government to install 20,000MW of solar power by 2022.

"Introducing proper human

resource development initiatives is key to a successful industry. We can't survive on imported expertise," said an official in the ministry who didn't want to be identified.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar mission is one of the planks of the United Progressive Alliance government's response to climate change, in which it proposes—in the first phase—to install nearly 1,000MW of grid-connected, highly subsidized solar power by 2013, at the cost of ₹20,000 crore.

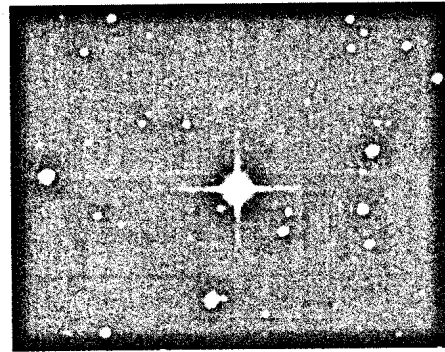
"To achieve the target of 20,000MW of solar energy by 2022 we need to put in concerted efforts and the indigenous manufacturing of solar power equipment will be of paramount importance in achieving this goal," Bharat Singh Solanki, minister of state for power, said at a press conference.

Currently, it costs around ₹15 to produce a unit of solar electricity, which is significantly more than the coal-based approach, which costs ₹4-6. The government now subsidises a significant proportion—nearly ₹12—of the cost of solar power.

Another official in the ministry said that the courses would be introduced as part of the government's National Skills Development Mission, a ₹31,000 crore initiative. As part of this, the government plans to extend training facilities to 10 million people a month, up from 2.5 million a year.

Mail Today ND 01/10/2010 p-4

Earth II found! We're not alone in this universe



The newly discovered planet revolves around Gliese 581, the brightest object in this Nasa image from 2007.

THE CHANCES that future generations will one day colonise the stars have just got higher.

Astronomers on Thursday night announced the discovery of the most earth-like planet ever found — a rocky world three times the size of our own world, orbiting a star 20 light years away. They named the planet Gliese 581g.

The planet lies in the star's 'Goldilocks zone' — the region in space where conditions are neither too hot or too cold for liquid water to form oceans, lakes and rivers. The planet also appears to have an atmosphere, a gravity like our own and could well be capable of life.

An astronomer picked up a mysterious pulse of light coming from the direction of the newly discovered earth-like planet almost two years ago, it has emerged.

Dr Ragbir Bhathal, a scientist at the University of Western Sydney, picked up the odd signal in December 2008, long before it was announced that the star Gliese 581 has habitable planets in orbit around it. A member of the Australian chapter of SETI, the organisation that looks for communication from distant planets, Dr Bhathal had been sweeping the skies when he discovered a 'suspicious' signal from an area of the galaxy that holds the newly-discovered Gliese 581g.

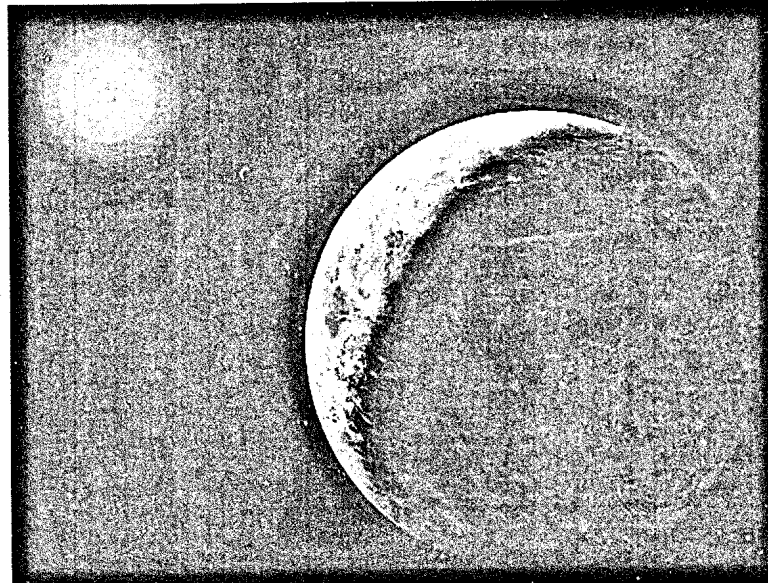
The remarkable coincidence adds another layer of mystery to the announcement that scientists had discovered another planet in the system: Gliese 581g — the most earth-like planet ever found. Dr Bhathal's discovery had come just months before astronomers announced that they had found a similar, slightly less habitable planet around the same star 20 light years away. This planet was called Gliese 581e.

For months after his discovery Dr Bhathal scanned the skies for a second signal to see whether it was just a glitch in his instrumentation but his search came to nothing.

But the discovery of earth-like planets around Gliese 581 — both 581e and 581g, which was in the habitable zone — has also caught the public imagination. Documentary-



Dr Ragbir Bhathal received a signal from Gliese 581.



This artist's conception shows the Gliese 581g planet — blue and green, the most earth-like planet ever discovered — and its host star, a red dwarf star only 20 light years away from earth.

Planet 20 light years away has earth-like conditions that can sustain life forms

these systems in our galaxy."

Vogt told Discovery News: "Personally, given the ubiquity and propensity of life to flourish wherever it can, I would say that the chances for life on this planet are 100 per cent. I have almost no doubt about it."

The planet is so far away, spacecrafts travelling close to the speed of light would take 20 years to make the journey. If a rocket was one day able to travel at a tenth of the speed of light, it would take 200 years to make the journey. The findings come from 11 years of observations at the W. M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii.

The planet orbits a small red star called Gliese 581 in the constellation of Libra. The planet, named Gliese 581g, is 118,000,000,000,000 miles away — so far away that light from its start takes 20 years to reach the earth. It takes just 37 days to orbit its sun

which means its seasons last for just a few days. One side of the planet always faces its star and basks in perpetual daylight, while the other is in perpetual darkness.

The most suitable place for life or future human colonists would be in the 'grey' zone — the band between darkness and light that circles the planet. "Any emerging life forms would have a wide range of stable climates to choose from and to evolve around, depending on their longitude," said Dr Vogt who reports the find in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

If Gliese 581g has a rocky composition similar to the earth's, its diameter would be about 1.2 to 1.4 times that of the earth. Its gravity is likely to be similar — allowing a human astronaut to walk on the surface upright without difficulty.

Daily Mail

20,000 Twitter users sent messages to new planet

maker RDF and social-networking site Bebo used a radio telescope in Ukraine to send a powerful focused beam of information — 500 messages from the public in the form of radiowaves — to Gliese 581.

And the Australian science minister at the time organised 20,000 users of Twitter to send messages towards the distant solar system in the wake of the discoveries.

And Dr Steven Vogt who led the study at the University of California, Santa Cruz, on Thursday said that he was "100 per cent sure" that there was life on the planet. The planet appears to have an atmosphere, a gravity like our own and could well be capable of life. Researchers say the findings suggest the universe is teeming with world like our own. "If these are rare, we shouldn't have found one so quickly and so nearby."

"The number of systems with potentially habitable planets is probably on the order of 10 or 20 per cent, and when you multiply that by the hundreds of billions of stars in the Milky Way, that's a large number. There could be tens of billions of

GLIESE 581G FACT FILE

- DIAMETER 1.2 to 1.4 times that of the earth
- MASS 3.1 and 4.3 times that of the earth
- AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE Between -24F and 10F (-31C and -12C)
- DISTANCE FROM THE EARTH 20 light years or 118,000,000,000,000 miles
- One of six planets to orbit the star Gliese 581
- LENGTH OF YEAR 37 earth days
- 200 YEARS Time needed to travel to Gliese 581g in a rocket travelling one tenth the speed of light, or 19,000 miles per second
- GRAVITY Similar or slightly higher than earth
- DISTANCE FROM ITS SUN Around six million miles
- THE PLANET'S SUN The planet orbits a red dwarf which is 50 times cooler and a third the size of our sun
- COMPOSITION Rocky with liquid water and atmosphere

Innovator is in talks with UIDAI to make data secure

By **Anuradha Shukla** in New Delhi

AT FIRST LOOK Pranav Mistry appears like any other young man of 29. But the moment he starts demonstrating his 'magic science', you realise he is far from ordinary. He can take you to a world where the thin line separating magic and reality seems to disappear — a world of sci-fi movies like Time Machine, Star Wars or Avatar.

He can click photographs without a camera, by using hand gestures; he can use his fingers like a mouse; his palm like the keypad of his mobile to type and send SMS; he can use a wall or table as a computer screen and can draw a watch on his wrist to see time.

The phenomenon, christened 'Sixth

Mistry to show his product in Asian Games in China

Sense Technology', has created a sensation in the world of technological innovations and established Mistry as one of the top-ten innovators today.

This alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai, is currently pursuing his doctorate in fluid interfaces at the Media Lab of the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US.

Sixth Sense is a small gadget in the shape of a pendent with a small webcam, a projector and a complex software code written by Mistry. Together these make the 'digital eye', which recognises hand gestures and helps a person communicate with the digital world without a mouse, keyboard or screen.

The 'digital eye' journey had actually started with a helmet, which then moved to a cap and later to the pendent. It will now soon be converted into a small chip and commercially produced.

For Mistry it is not just the sheer pleasure of invention behind all his works.

"The technology is meaningless when it has no application for the common people. The technology must make life easier, faster and better," he said.

The digital eye can convert the sign language hand gestures

into sound and will make interaction easier for people with speech and auditory impairment. It can also help select a book from the book store, identify a person in a crowd and locate an item in a store.

The young innovator will be demonstrating some of the practical advantages of the technol-

ogy at the upcoming Asian Games to be held in China this year. "I will use many features in the Asian Games to be held this November. I wish I was asked to participate in the Commonwealth Games," Mistry laments.

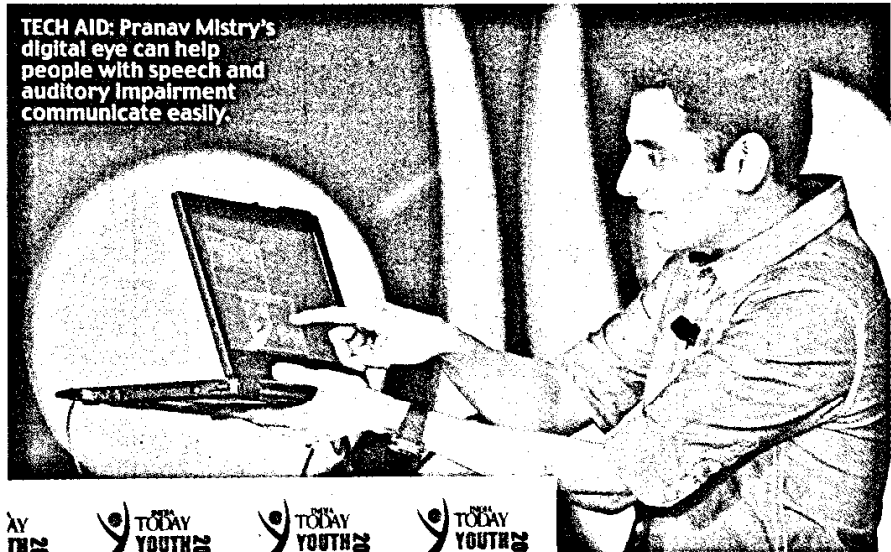
On the commercial viability of the project, Mistry adds, "The product is very much commercially viable and will be cost-effective as well. The cost can be similar to your mouse. In a few months I will make the code available to all and will not share it with just one company."

He is in talks with Nandan Nilekani for his participation in the UIDAI project, for making the data more secure and useful and in the process swifter.

So, what is the inspiration behind his series of innovations? "The many expensive gizmos and instruments that my parents sacrificed by allowing me to break," he points out.

Mistry's magic of Sixth Sense

TECH AID: Pranav Mistry's digital eye can help people with speech and auditory impairment communicate easily.



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TODAY
YOUTH

The Pranav Mistry File

Who's he

Pranav Mistry, 29, an IIT-Mumbai alumnus, is pursuing his doctorate in fluid interfaces at the MIT Media Lab, US

Claim to fame

His 'Sixth Sense Technology' has created a sensation & made him one of the top-10 innovators

What is Sixth Sense?

It is a small pendent-like gadget with a webcam, projector & a software code written by Mistry. Together these make the 'digital eye' which recognises hand gestures & helps communicate without a mouse, keyboard or screen

How It works

The digital eye can convert sign language into sound. It can also help select a book from the

book store, identify a person in a crowd and locate an item in a store

What's unique about it?

One can click photos by using hand gestures; use fingers like a mouse; use a wall or table as a computer screen; or draw a watch to see time

On technology...

"The technology is meaningless when it has no application for the common people. It must make life easier, faster and better"

Wish unfulfilled

"I wish I was asked to participate in the CWG"

On inspiration...

"The many expensive gizmos that my parents sacrificed by allowing me to break"

Pioneer ND 01/10/2010 p-2

Academics doubt common test feasibility

SANA SHAKIL ■ NEW DELHI

With the Human Resources and Development Minister proposing to introduce a common entrance test for entry to Central universities, academics are looking at this proposal with doubts.

According to the academics, the existence of different educational boards across the country might pose major hurdles in the implementation of this proposal. Commenting on the proposal, Professor Subrata Mukherjee, retired professor of Delhi University (DU), said that before implementing this proposal, the authorities should take a close look on its impact over the students. "One needs consider the obvious linguistic obstacles that will be faced by the students. Furthermore, dif-

ferent boards declare their results at different times and serious efforts must be made to synchronise the common entrance examination with the result declarations of various boards throughout the country. This will ensure that students get proper time to prepare for this exam," said Prof Mukherjee.

He further said that all the loopholes of the proposed model should be discussed thoroughly before the Ministry approves its implementation in India. "The educational authorities must ensure that correct evaluation mechanisms are in place and the evaluating authorities have proper accreditation. Usually a common test is a good idea, but the loopholes in the suggested model should be corrected if we are

thinking of implementing it on a larger scale," said Prof Mukherjee.

Professors also raised their concern whether an aptitude test is the proper method of filtration for entry of students into the Central universities as the system, already in place, in the various Central universities does not seem to have any problem. Professor NK Chaddha of DU said, "When there is no problem in the ongoing system, why is there a need to add this model? It may be a case of adding extra burden when there is no need of it." Chaddha, a professor in Department of Psychology, further said that this model might be planned mainly for the newly declared Central universities as these universities are already getting students from

all across the country without the existence of any such common entrance test process.

"The newly-accredited central universities often do not have proper infrastructure and are situated at remote places. Travelling to these places poses to be a troubling affair for many students hence the HRD Minister believes this system will go far in facilitating students, and also the universities in getting students from all across India," added Chaddha.

However, Professor DPS Verma of DSE said, "Common test is always good as it will give an impetus to students to work harder. I am in favour of this proposed system and even the arguments given by the critics of this system of hierarchy being established is a baseless argument."

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Mukesh Ambani Chairman of IIM-B board

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, has been re-appointed as the chairman of the board of governors at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B). His appointment gives him a second consecutive term as the board's chairman. He will now head the B-school's board till 2015.

BS REPORTER

'Aircraft emission causes deaths in India, China'

Boston, Sept. 30: Aircraft flying above North America and Europe are emitting pollutants that are poisoning the air in India and China, and resulting in deaths of thousands of people in these Asian nations, a new study has said.

The study led by a team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology says airplanes flying at a cruise altitude of around 35,000 feet emit pollutants that contribute to about 8,000 deaths per year globally.

Due to high speed winds

that flow East, air pollution caused by planes flying over North America and Europe is adversely impacting air quality in India and China, it said.

Nearly 3,500 people — almost half of the global number — die in India and China due to this air pollution. Air travel is heaviest above North America and Europe.

"Even though the amount of fuel burned by aircraft over India and China accounts for only 10 per cent of the estimated total

Part of the reason for the high percentage of premature deaths is that India and China are densely populated and have high concentration of ammonia, which reacts with nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides emitted by airplanes

amount of fuel burned by

aircraft across the globe, the two countries incur nearly half — about 3,500 — of the annual deaths related to aircraft cruise emissions," the study said.

The research provides the first estimate of premature deaths attributable to aircraft emissions at cruise altitudes.

Aircraft emit nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides, which react with gases already existing in the atmosphere to form harmful fine particulate matter.

Part of the reason for the high percentage of prema-

ture deaths in India and China is that these regions are densely populated and also have high concentrations of ammonia in their atmosphere as a result of farming. This ammonia reacts with oxidised nitrogen and sulphur to create fine particulate matter that people inhale on the ground.

Although agriculture is abundant in Europe and North America, the ammonia levels are not as elevated above those regions as they are in the Asian countries, the study said.

The analysis also revealed that although every country in the Northern Hemisphere experienced some number of fatalities related to these emissions, almost none of the countries in the Southern Hemisphere had fatalities.

"That is because the majority of air traffic occurs in the Northern Hemisphere, where planes emit pollutants at altitudes where high-speed winds flowing eastward, such as the jet stream, spread emissions to other continents," according to the study.

—PTI

Deccan Herald Bangalore 30.09.2010 P-13

Big relief for Indian IT companies

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI:

A relieved India Inc that lobbied hard against anti-outsourcing campaign in the US has hailed Republicans for blocking the anti-outsourcing bill that denied tax breaks to US companies moving jobs offshore.

The setback to anti-outsourcing campaign, propelled among others by President Barack Obama himself, comes a week after a Nasscom delegation comprising representatives of top IT companies such as In-

fosys, Wipro and TCS visited the US and lobbied with the key Congressmen and American corporations.

"We welcome the move. The anti-off-shoring bill was more of an electoral rhetoric. We had met the Congressmen, key government officials and American industry last week and expressed our concerns against the protectionist measures," Nasscom vice-president Amcet Nivsarkar said in New Delhi.

FICCI secretary general Amit Mitra said, "We believe that the

majority of US Senate has kept in mind the larger interest of the US economy, its corporations and global economy."

As part of efforts to boost employment in the US, Obama is vigorously pushing to end the tax break for companies who ship jobs overseas saying it should go to firms who create jobs in America.

India, which already holds at least 50 per cent of the global outsourcing market, has become the world's back office as Western firms set up call cen-

tres, number-crunching and software development outlets to cut costs.

Democratic backers, who vow to make the vote a campaign issue in the November 2 Congressional election, claimed that Republicans have undermined their efforts to create jobs. On the other hand, Republicans and business groups dismissed the bill as a political stunt that would increase taxes on companies and undermine job growth.

PTI