

Newspaper Clips

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P4

Harvard prof for change in system of education

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The students of Lady Shri Ram College (LSR) had a tryst with Harvard's economics teaching as professor Gita Gopinath visited the college for an interaction on Thursday. A 1992-batch student of LSR, Gopinath was earlier this year named tenured professor at Harvard University's high-brow economics department.

She became the third woman, and the first Indian after Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, to receive the honour. Gopinath is the first Indian-origin woman professor of economics at Harvard.

Apart from elucidating on her journey to Harvard, she spoke at length on sub-

more abstract way. There was disconnect with the real world. It was all about micro details, which have been missed. Secondly, there was a bit of complacency. But, the strength of the mechanism is that we have responded well."

"Economics is a social science where there is a human dimension which is why things can go wrong often," added Gopinath.

When asked about the difference between an average undergraduate student of economics at Harvard and in colleges such as LSR, Gopinath said that as far as raw talent is concerned there is hardly any difference.

But it is the approach towards education which makes a difference.

Arindya Chattopadhyay



RETRACING JOURNEY: Gita Gopinath is the first Indian woman to teach at Harvard. She was a student at LSR in 1992

jects ranging from international economics to the global financial crisis — and of Greece and Ireland in particular — to her research in international prices and exchange rates. Stating that there is a huge gap in supply and demand of quality education at undergraduate level in India, she stressed on the urgent need for flexibility and variety in choice of subject for undergraduate students.

On the fact that the world has witnessed one of the worst economic crisis of all times in spite of so many 'smart' economists in the corridors of high learning, Gopinath said that the issue can be seen from two angles — the disconnect between the academic and real world, and complacency.

"It was not a case of people not seeing it coming. Academics like to think in a

"At Harvard you don't come to study any economics. In first year, one gets to study whole bunch of subjects from science to history and then you figure out what you are good at, which is not a bad idea. There is flexibility in classes. Here (in India) we have set classes for students from different spectrum, whereas at Harvard if a student is good in hard mathematics he or she can go for that class and the others can go for a different mathematics class. This is why students there shine early enough. These are essential if India wants to transform undergraduate studies."

The economist briefed students on how to do research. Her message to the young generation was that "There is no easy way out. One has to work extremely hard to achieve one's dream."

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Net gain: Old catch up with young in cyberworld

Challenge Dominance Of 'Millenials' In Most Areas: US Study

Washington: Older folks are closing ground on youngsters quick to leap on hot internet trends such as social networking and online shopping, according to a Pew Research Center study.

While members of a millennial generation, made up of people ages 18 to 33, are still way ahead in areas such as using smartphones to connect online, their dominance is slipping in many internet arenas, the US study concluded.

"Even in areas that are still dominated by 'Millennials', older generations are making notable gains," study authors said in their findings.

"Some of the areas that have seen the fastest rate of growth in recent years include older adults' participation in communication and entertainment activities online, especially in using social network sites such as Facebook."

Approximately half of "Younger Boomers" ages 46-55 used online social networks in May as compared to just 20 percent two years earlier, according to the study. The fastest adoption of social networks took place with people 74 years of age or



GAINING GROUND: Nearly half of those aged between 46-55 use online social networks, compared to just 20% barely two years ago

older, with use quadrupling in two years to 16% of the group.

Overall use of online social networks by US adults of all ages nearly doubled in two years to 61%, while 83% of Millennials are members of

such internet communities, according to the research.

While Millennials are still more prone to watch online video, other generations are adopting the habit. About 55% of "Older Boomers" ages 56 to 64 have watched video online, as have one-in-five members of the "GI Generation" ages 74 and older. Older Internet users were also taking increasingly to getting news online.

Millennials were more inclined to send text messages or play online games, while older folks were more likely to visit government websites or check financial information online. Online activities that proved popular to users of all ages included shopping, banking, email, searches, and rating products or services.

"Searching for health information, an activity that was once the primary domain of older adults, is now the third most popular online activity for all internet users 18 and older," the study said. The only online activity that had its popularity eroded was blogging, with people opting for Twitter and Facebook status updates to express themselves. AFP

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Hair-raising tech: Soon, stem cells to cure baldness

© Henry Arden/Corbis

London: Coming soon: a cure for baldness, say German scientists, who claim to have grown hair follicles from stem cells for the first time. Although their research used cells taken from animals, the scientists from Technical University in Berlin hope that they can create human hair follicles from human stem cells in a year's time.

Stem cells are the body's master cells. With manipulation in the laboratory, they can be grown into any tissue in the human body from blood to bone and whole organs.

According to lead scientist professor Roland Lauster, the latest research could be a step towards providing treatment for the 80% of people who suffer from hair loss worldwide, the Daily Express reported.

Lauster claims the treatment — which would probably require the hair follicles to be implanted on to the head — could be available in five years.

"Preparations for this are already in motion," Lauster said, adding that the creation of skin and hair follicles in a lab could also prevent the need for testing cosmetic products on animals.



HEAD START: The technique will involve creating hair follicles from stem cells, which will then be implanted in the head

"Since 1950 the number of new chemicals used in cosmetics has risen 500-fold, and so has the need for animals to be experimented upon to ensure they are safe for humans. This could well do away with the need for them to suffer," Lauster said. ¶¶

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Life's building blocks found on 1000°C meteorite

Scientists have identified amino acids, a fundamental building block of life, in a meteorite where none were expected. "This meteorite formed when two asteroids collided. The shock of the collision heated it to more than 1000° Celsius, hot enough that all complex organic molecules like amino acids should have been destroyed, but we found them anyway," said Daniel Glavin of Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center. "Finding them in this type of meteorite increases the chance for finding life elsewhere in the universe," he said.

Earliest tool made from human skull:

Scientists have discovered the earliest known tool made from human bone— and it was apparently crafted by Neanderthals. They have identified a human skull fragment dating back at least 50,000 years that bears signs it was used as a sharpener. It was found in a Neanderthal deposit — the first time our relatives were discovered making tools from human bone, reports Live Science. The scientists say they can't prove or disprove whether the tool was made intentionally — for instance, for rituals.

3D TVs cause headaches, nausea:

Scientists have warned that 3D TV can disorientate the brain, causing eye strain, headaches, nausea and sickness. And the closer you are to the screen, the worse you feel. Studies show that in up to 20% of viewers it could even induce physical sickness. In one experiment, researchers at Eindhoven University in the Netherlands asked 39 people who could see 3D to read some text on a screen from 10ft away. Seven of them suffered symptoms that can lead to nausea.

For suggestions, queries and comments,
mail to times.trends@timesgroup.com

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This fridge can store vaccines for 10 days

London: A UK-based company has developed an energy-efficient fridge that can store vaccines for over 10 days without any power and help save lives in developing countries.

The refrigerator was designed by Wales-based sustainable energy firm True Energy using its patented Sure Chill technology. Sure Chill enables energy to be stored efficiently and provides controlled cooling even during power cuts.

It operates on less than five hours of mains supply a day and, once charged, maintains constant cooling without any power at all. In order to store vaccine safely it has to be kept at temperatures between 2° and 8° Celsius. Use of traditional fridges in parts of developing world is not an option as the power supply is poor and unreliable. ❧

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Inside view: New browser can map human body in 3D

London: After its controversial Street View programme, internet search giant Google is all set to unveil a new browser that can map out the entire human body.

The 3D application, called Google Body Browser, has been hailed as a breakthrough in the study of anatomy that could revolutionise people's understanding of the human body and fast-track medical research.

The application, yet to be released officially, lets one explore the human body in much the same way you can navigate the world on Google Earth — a virtual globe, map and geographical information programme.

In 2007, Google introduced another application called Street View which provides panoramic views from various positions along many streets in the world.

About the development of the new application, Google has been tight-lipped, but a video has appeared online which provides a sneak peek

at how the tool will work, the Daily Mail reported.

"Google Body Browser also ushers in the introduction of brand new internet technology called WebGL, that will allow complex 3D graphics to be used on normal web pages, without the need for specially adapted browser plug-ins like Flash or Java," said the report.

The video, shot on a mobile phone, shows an internet developer from Google's WebGL research unit revealing the application to industry colleagues. "One can quickly see the possibilities of how this could help anatomical education," a blogger, who witnessed the demonstration, said.

Ahead of its official unveiling Google has released a version available on WebGL-supported browsers or beta versions of Firefox and Google Chrome, which can be downloaded from the Google Body Browser site (<http://bodybrowser.google-labs.com>). PTI

Times of India
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Brain spot
where fear
resides found

Washington: Scientists have pinpointed a part of the brain which they say causes people to experience fear — a finding that could lead to new treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety conditions.

Researchers at the University of Iowa have found an almond-shaped brain region, called the amygdala, that de-

Grey matter evolves
till the age of 40

Throwing tantrums in middle age? Your brain is still learning to be an adult, says a study by a team from University College London. It says the human brain does not stop developing until people are in their 30s or 40s — meaning that many still have something of the teenager about them long after they have become adults. **PTI**

velops the emotion of fear.

Studies have shown that the amygdala region plays a key role in generating fear in animals. The new study confirms for the first time that the amygdala triggers fear in human beings too. **PTI**

**Hindustan
Times, ND
17-Dec-10 p-7**

GENETIC ENGINEER SET TO BE NEW JNU VC

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Eminent genetic engineer Sudhir Kumar Sopory has emerged as a frontrunner for the post of the new vice chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), ending months of hectic lobbying for one of the most coveted posts in Indian academics.

The President of India — who is Visitor to all central higher educational institutions, including JNU — is expected to soon appoint Sopory from a panel of four names submitted by the human resource development (HRD) ministry.

Sources in the President's Secretariat told HT that the short-listed names, with Sopory as the recommended candidate, reached them on Thursday evening. But other government sources advised caution in suggesting Sopory as the Visitor's automatic choice.

The panel of four short-listed names does not include Hyderabad University vice chancellor Sayed Ehtasham Hasnain, who was considered by some to be a frontrunner for the post. JNU professors Zoya Hasan and Jayati Ghosh were also understood to have been in the race for the post.

The new VC will replace economist BB Bhattacharya, the outgoing VC, whose term ended in June this year.

Sopory, a recipient of the Bhatnagar Award, is an elected fellow of each of India's three science academies — the Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

If picked by the President for the post, Sopory will not need to shift far from his current office. He is a senior scientist in plant molecular biology at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

Sopory completed his masters in Jammu and Kashmir before moving to Delhi University for his PhD.

Hindustan Times, ND p-14

17-Dec-10

Super30 founder Anand Kumar to be awarded

PATNA: Super30 founder and mathematician Anand Kumar will be awarded the Pradhyapak Yashwant Rao Kelkar Yuva Shiksha Puruskar for his outstanding contribution in the field of education in Bihar. Eminent musician and Oscar Award recipient Rasool Pukutti would give away the prize to Anand in Bangalore on the 56th National Convention of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad on December 28, ABVP national vice-president Rajnish Shukla told reporters.

Financial Express ND
17/12/2010 p-4

Two years after nod, new IITs fail to take off

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Dec 16: Two years after the Cabinet gave its approval for setting up eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country, the institutes are facing teething problems like finalising land, readying the master plan or construction of the boundary wall.

For instance, in Rajasthan, land for the permanent campus is yet to be handed over to the IIT while for IIT Bhubaneswar, only around 517 acre have been given out of

for IIT Rajasthan and Ropar. On the other hand, IITs at Mandi and Indore have advertised showing interest for preparing the master plans.

"The boundary wall has been made at IIT Ropar and an architect has also been appointed but the master plan is being made and will be finalised soon," said Surendra Prasad, director, IIT Delhi, the mentor institute of IIT Ropar.

Another issue is of the construction of the boundary wall which has not been completed in IIT Rajasthan and Mandi. At



Kapil Sibal,
HRD minister

TEETHING TROUBLES

- The ministry has asked state govts to release land for the new IITs so that construction begins before the end of current Plan period
- In some cases like IIT Rajasthan and Ropar master plans are yet to be readied
- On the other hand, IITs at Mandi & Indore have advertised showing interest in preparing the master plans

the 936 acre required. With regard to the IIT at Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, the case is in progress with animal husbandry land having been handed over to the institute while forest land of 330 acre is yet to be handed.

"The ministry has discussed the problems of new IITs with the directors and education secretaries. The states have assured that by December 23, all land will be transferred," said a human resource development ministry official.

Recently, HRD minister Kapil Sibal asked the state governments to release land for the new IITs so that that construction begins before the end of current Plan period.

In some cases, master plans are yet to be readied like

IIT Patna, 30% of the construction of the boundary wall is complete. The new institutes—most of which are operating from transit campuses—also complain of the fact that architects have not been finalised due to which construction is getting delayed.

"The process is going on and the land has been allotted for the campus. However, the master plan is yet to be readied and we expect that to happen in four to five months. The construction is on and as of now, we are operating from our transit campus," added IIT Ropar director MK Surappa.

He added that likely date of shifting to the permanent campus will be in 2013-14, a delay of two years from the initial date of end 2012.

HEARTLESS DU LEAVES AGEING PROF STARVING

SHEKHAR YADAV

Former English lecturer
and classical dancer
Tara Balagopal, now 82,
lives on the generosity
of her neighbours

For 15 years Tara Balagopal
is battling to recover salary
and pension dues of ₹2 cr



**EXCLUSIVE
REPORT**

Mail Today ND 17/12/2010 P4

'DU owes me ₹2 cr in pay and pension'

A FORMER Delhi University teacher, who had once been guardian angel to the famous, is in desperate poverty even though the university owes her about Rs 2 crore. But it won't pay because it has lost the file on her service record.

Tara Balgopal, a former reader, who taught English at Rajdhani College - she figures in the college's 'Hall of Fame' - and was assistant director at the department of correspondence courses is said to be starving, and banks on handouts from friends to get by. A court case she has been fighting to get her dues has gone on for ten years.

She is 82-years-old, lives in penury, cannot buy food or pay her power and water bills. She lives alone in her crumbling, dark and musty Rajouri Garden home. Her husband K. Balgopal died in January. The couple had no children. If there is a picture of desolation, it is hers.

It need not have been so. Tara is a

By Neetu Chandra
in New Delhi

batch mate and neighbour of Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit. Among her students at her dance class was a young Hema Malini - apart from being an English teacher Tara was an accomplished Kathak and Bharatanatyam dancer. She says she performed in Parliament in 1960 and her photograph was on a postal stamp that was released in 1962.

"After I retired over 15 years ago, I did not get any pension and my remaining salary was not given to me. When I asked the university authorities, they said that my files were missing," said Tara who tried to put up a brave face as she donned a silk saree and make-up to meet this correspondent.

In the hope that she would get what was due to her from Delhi University, she went to the Delhi High Court ten years ago. She and her husband knew this would be a long-drawn and expensive proposition but were not cowed despite their advancing years. Balgopal, a char-



SHEKHAR YADAV

FROM HALL OF FAME TO PENURY

■ Learnt Kathak from Shambhu Maharaj and Hindustani Sangeet from Dagar Brothers.

■ Taught Indian classical dance to actress Hema Malini and late British theatre veteran Cecilia Gore-Booth

■ At the head of Delhi University's school of correspondence, popularised distance education.

■ Features in Rajdhani College's Hall of Fame where she taught English.

■ Now, lives on donations by her neighbours in Rajouri Garden. Has not paid electricity and water bills for years.

■ Delhi University withheld her pension and dues for 15 years, amounting to nearly ₹ 2 crore. Her case is pending in the Delhi High Court.

tered accountant, took up the odd case to earn money.

But the court case drained them of their resources. "All the funds were exhausted in the court case. My husband was fighting the case on my behalf. After he died, there was no one to help us financially. The case was given to lawyer Dhruvesh Narula from the All India Women's Council. They handle my case," said Tara.

Delhi University vice chancellor Dipesh Singh was shocked to hear about Tara's condition. He said, "We are really sorry for her condition. She wrote a letter to me in this regard two weeks ago. I have forwarded the matter to the university's finance department. This matter has to be looked into quickly."

Singh said the university will send her details to the teacher's welfare department. "I wasn't aware of the matter. I will personally go to her home. The college will also help her financially till her official records are found. We will take her responsibility," he said.

Vijaya Laxmi Pandit, principal of Rajdhani College said that when Tara's husband was ill, she had called the college and requested financial help. According to Pandit, even though there were no records, the college gave money to the former teacher for Balgopal's treatment at a private nursing home.

Had been an art critic with several newspapers

When Tara taught at the university, her salary was Rs 10,000 per month. She said that after the fourth pay commission, her salary should have been revised upwards. It was not. "After I retired, the Delhi University administration did not pay me the difference of salary. Moreover, I should also get pension. That too has not been paid. My provident fund and gratuity payments have also been held up. The university, which has to pay interest on the outstanding amount, owes me Rs 2 crore. But, I am not in the records of Delhi University," said Tara.

Not everyone has forgotten her, though. At least, not Hema Malini. "I do recall Tara Ramaswamy (her maiden name) who used to teach me dance when I was very young. I remember her as a great teacher who put in her sincerest effort while imparting dance lessons to her students. I am very sad to hear that she is living in a state of abject poverty now. The news (of Tara's poverty) has come as a very depressing piece of information for me," said the actor, dancer and politician.

Odissi dancer Sharon Lowen said, "The state to which Tara Balgopal has been reduced is a disgrace for everyone who knew her. So many

STUDENT HEMA RECALLS HER GREAT TEACHER



DO RECALL a certain Tara Ramaswamy who used to teach me dance when I was very young. I was, maybe, about seven or eight years old at that time. I remember her as a great teacher who put in her sincerest effort while imparting dance lessons to her students.

However, I am very sad to hear that she is living in a state of abject poverty now. Considering the fact that she has been a talented artist and academician once, I find it amazing that no one has

come forward to help her now that she is in such a bad condition.

I have had no contact with her in all these years and neither did I have any idea of her current state.

Now that you tell me that she has been deprived of her pension and over 15 years worth of salary, I am more than willing to help.

I could talk to the concerned people who can help her get her money. Please let me know how I can get in touch with anyone regarding her case. The news has come as a very depressing piece of information for me.

(As told to Prashant Singh)

students learnt dance from her and if they knew her and got something from her, they owe it to her."

A student of the legendary Shambhu Maharaj, Tara taught classical dance to school students for free. Over the years she attracted students like Hema Malini, Celia Gore Booth from the UK, and Mary Ann Cummings from the US. In her heydays, she choreographed dance dramas and was a respected art critic.

Tara had played a significant role in correspondent courses

department. She said that when she joined the department as assistant director, there were merely 400 students. She then used the media to spread information about the courses, which gradually began drawing more students.

Said Naveen Kumar Matta, a neighbour: "We have been seeing her for many years. She is a great artiste but she has been neglected by the government. Any school or organisation can adopt her. She doesn't need alms but respect."

Hindu ND 17.12.10 p-20

GSLV-F06 to be launched on Monday

T.S. Subramanian

CHENNAI: India's Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F06) is all set to lift off from Sriharikota at 4 p.m. on December 20 to put a communications satellite called GSAT-5 Prime in the orbit 19 minutes later. ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore, has built the GSAT-5P.

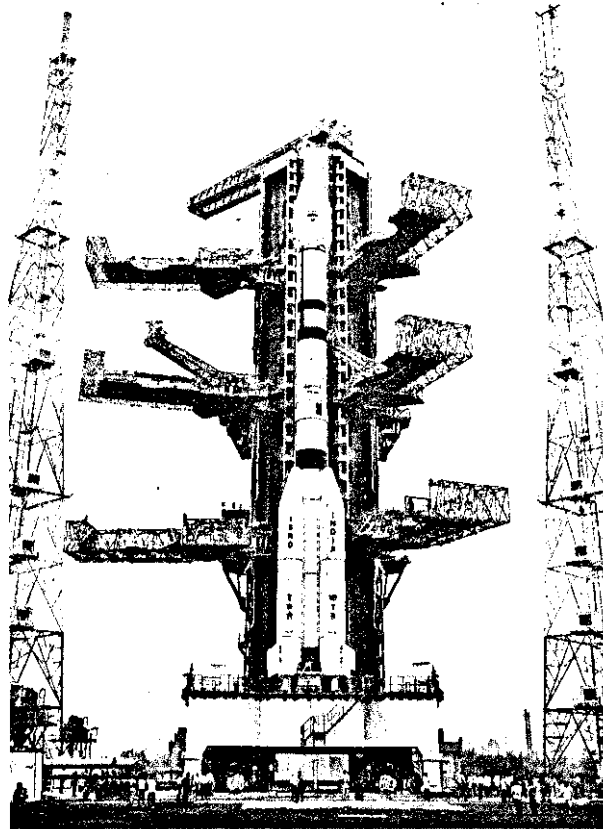
The 30-hour countdown will start at 10 a.m. on December 19. The satellite has been mated with the vehicle.

The GSLV-F06 has three stages, with the first core stage powered by solid propellants. There are four strap-on booster motors, fuelled by liquid propellants, strung around the first stage. The second stage uses an engine that is powered by liquid propellants. The third upper cryogenic stage is from Russia. The GSAT-5P weighs 2,300 kg.

P.S. Veeraraghavan, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, said the Russian cryogenic stage is "an upgraded version, which is more powerful" than those used in the previous GSLV missions. "So we are going for a higher payload of 2,300 kg. I think this is the heaviest payload to be put in orbit by a GSLV."

Two important activities will take place during the 30-hour countdown. While the second stage and strap-on boosters will receive the liquid propellants beginning T-minus 30 hours, the cryogenic propellants — liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen in extremely low temperatures — will be pumped into the upper Russian cryogenic stage only from T-minus six hours, Dr. Veeraraghavan said.

S. Satish, Director of Publications and Public Relations, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), said the



ALL SET: The fully integrated, three-stage GSLV-F06 at the second launchpad at Sriharikota. It is slated to lift off at 4 p.m. on December 20 and put a communications satellite called GSAT-5 Prime in the orbit. — PHOTO: ISRO

GSAT-5P would "provide continuity to services already offered by the INSAT system." It has 36 transponders, including 24 C-band transponders and 12 extended C-band ones. The transponders will be useful in telecasting television programmes, including those related to tele-medicine and tele-education and in boosting telephonic services, Mr. Satish said.

"The satellite will increase our transponder capacity. That way, it is a crucial mission for us," said Dr. Veeraraghavan.

The mission will last 1,140 seconds. This is the sixth GSLV mission that will use a Russian cryogenic engine. The GSLV weighs 414 tonnes and is 49 metres long.

The former President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, will pay a visit to the facilities at the spaceport at Sriharikota on December 17 and meet ISRO's launch vehicle technologists. A rocket technologist himself, Mr. Kalam was the Project Director of ISRO's SLV-3 flights from Sriharikota in 1979, 1980 and 1981 and later became a missile technologist.

Hindustan ND 17-Dec-10 p14

आईआईटी खडगपुर विवादों में

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी खडगपुर अपने एलएलबी जैसे कोर्स को लेकर एक बार फिर विवादों के घेरे में है। दरअसल आईआईटी द्वारा बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकारों में तीन वर्षीय एलएलबी डिग्री कोर्स चलाया जा रहा है, जिस पर बार काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया ने आपत्ति जताई है। इससे भी बड़ी बात ये है कि आईआईटी के पूरे लॉ स्कूल को सहायक प्रोफेसर चला रहे हैं, जिनमें कानून की मास्टर डिग्री सिर्फ दो के पास है। बाकी या तो इंजीनियर हैं या समाजशास्त्री।

आईआईटी खडगपुर में मेडिकल और बिजनेस स्कूल के साथ-साथ लॉ स्कूल भी चलता है। यह संस्थान राजीव गांधी स्कूल ऑफ इंटेलेक्चुएल प्रापर्टी लॉ के नाम से 2006 में शुरू हुआ था। आईआईटी ने जब इंटेलेक्चुएल प्रापर्टी राइट्स में बैचलर डिग्री कोर्स शुरू किया तो बार काउंसिल ने आपत्ति की। बार काउंसिल ने कहा कि वे विशेषज्ञता वाला बैचलर डिग्री कोर्स नहीं चला सकते क्योंकि भारत में एलएलबी में सामान्य कानून की शिक्षा दी जाती है।