

**Newspaper Clips**  
**October 18, 2010**

**Times of India ND 18-Dec-10**  
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# S K Sopory to be new VC of JNU

| TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** S K Sopory of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) will be the new vice-chancellor of JNU.

The HRD ministry's favourite, Seyed Hasnain, VC of Hyderabad University, did not pass the muster with the search committee, headed by K Kasturirangan, space scientist and nominated member of the Rajya Sabha. It is believed that a spate of allegations against Hasnain, though yet to be proved, went against him. Sources said, he was likely to be given another top job as his term as VC was over.

The ministry has strongly recommended Sopory's name for the top job. The other three names in the panel are: Deepak Nayar, former VC of Delhi

University; Amitabh Mattoo, strategic affairs expert and former VC of Jammu University and R Ramaswamy of school of physical sciences, JNU. Sources said, "Making a choice between Mattoo and Sopory was tough. Mattoo could have made it, but finally the Rashtrapati Bhavan has indicated that his name might be cleared for the post of VC of Jammu Central University. Hence, only Sopory was left in the fray. The last two VCs of JNU were economists. We wanted someone from science background to head JNU."

Mattoo's name as VC of Jammu Central University has been waiting for the President's clearance for nearly a year now. It is the only new Central university that has been without a VC since its inception.

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# Beware of volcano eruptions: Emails to alert pilots now



**EARLY WARNING:** The system creates automated email alerts within minutes of spotting lightning activity near volcanoes

**Washington:** Scientists claim to have developed a new system which would alert pilots on board aircraft about volcanic eruptions, via emails, within minutes of suspicious lightning activity occurring near volcanoes.

An international team has developed the system which uses data from the World Wide Lightning Location Network to create automated email alerts within minutes of spotting suspicious lightning activity near volcanoes.

Craig Rodger of the University of Otago, who leads the team, said the early warning system is an exciting development for both the network and in helping to ensure safer skies.

"In some of the world's remote regions that otherwise lack good monitoring of volcanic activity, this system

could pick up the slack and allow local aviation early warning of potentially hazardous ash plumes," Rodger said.

In October this year, the system proved its potential by giving the first indication of an eruption of a volcano in Kamchatka in the Russian Far East, Rodger said.

The system involves monitoring lightning strokes occurring around all of the world's 1500 or so volcanoes, as well as more distant lightning from each volcano (up to 100km) to help determine if new strokes over the volcano are possibly weather related.

Because weather-related lightning is very common in many parts of the world where volcanoes are found, only those in Alaska, the Marianas, and the Russian Far East are currently assigned to the automatic realtime alerts, he said. **en**

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# Cash? Sorry, this ATM spits out 24-carat gold bars

**Boca Raton (Florida):** Shoppers looking for something sparkly to put under the Christmas tree can skip the jewellery and go straight to the source: an ATM that dispenses shiny 24-carat gold bars and coins.

A German company planned to install the machine on Friday at an upscale mall in Boca Raton, a South Florida paradise of palm trees, pink buildings and wealthy retirees.

Thomas Geissler, CEO of Ex Oriente Lux and inventor of the Gold To Go machines, says the majority of buyers will be walk-ups enamored by the novelty. But he says they're also convenient for more serious investors looking to bypass the hassle of buying gold at pawn shops and over the internet.

The company installed its first machine at Abu Dhabi's Emirates Palace hotel in May and followed up with gold ATMs in Germany, Spain and Italy. Geissler said they plan to unroll a few hundred machines worldwide in 2011. He said the Abu Dhabi machine has been so popular it has to be restocked every two days.

The machine at Boca Raton's Town Center Mall works



**ALL THAT GLITTERS:** The ATMs dispense gold bars and coins up to 10g and refigure prices every 10 minutes

just like the two cash ATMs beside it. Shoppers insert cash or credit cards and use a computer touch-screen to choose the weight and style they want. The machine spits out the gold in a black box with a tamper-proof seal.

Each machine, manufactured in Germany, carries about 320 pieces of different-sized bars and coins. Prices are refigured automatically every 10 minutes to reflect market fluctuations. The ATM, which will hold around \$150,000 in cash and gold, will be flanked by an armed bodyguard. AP

# Times of India ND

## 18-Dec-10 p-23

**World's tiniest computer memory:** Scientists stored information for 112 seconds in what may become the world's tiniest computer memory: magnetic "spins" in the centers or nuclei of atoms. Then they retrieved and read the data electronically – a big step toward using the new kind of memory for both faster conventional and superfast "quantum" computers. "The length of spin memory we observed is more than adequate to create memories for computers," says senior author Christoph Boehme, from University of Utah.

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# Forget pill, smart chip will kill pain

## Match-Head Size Device Implanted Near Spine Blocks Ache Signals To Brain

**London:** Here's some good news for those suffering from chronic pain — scientists have developed what they claim is a smart chip implant, the size of a match head, which can prevent pain signals from reaching the brain.

The tiny implant, which is placed next to the spine, works by monitoring the nerves carrying pain signals and firing electrical pulses of up to 10 volts that block the undesirable signals from reaching the brain, the research team says.

The Implantable Neuro Sensing and Stimulation or INS2, was developed between 2008 and 2010 by National ICT Australia (NICTA) in Sydney. It will undergo human trials from the start of next year, the Daily Mail reported.



**TECH THERAPY:** The chip monitors nerves and can be 'fintuned' to manage different levels of pain

The scientists said their miniature version would be far more effective and reliable because it can be implanted much closer to the spine.

The tiny new implant consists of two smart chips built into a device that is sewn into a material container with integrated electronic wires.

The device is implanted on the target nerve such as the spinal cord and is operated by an internal computer processor run by a battery the size of a sim card.

The device can be recharged wirelessly so there is no need for any external wires, says the research team.

The device can be "fintuned" to manage different levels of pain, they add.

The scientists at NICTA said the device may have numerous applications apart from treating chronic back pain and could be used to block pain caused by nerve damage, migraines, Parkinson's disease tremors or epileptic seizures.

It also has the potential to help control epileptic seizures and the tremors caused by Parkinson's disease. NICTA is planning to form a new company in Sydney, Saluda Medical, to commercialise the implant.

The organisation quoted research which said that chronic pain costs the Australian economy more than \$34.3 billion a year and results in more than 36 million lost working days a year. P11

## Business Line ND 18/12/2010

### IICT scientist bags Ranbaxy award <sup>p-2</sup>

Hyderabad, Dec. 17

**D**r S. Chandrashekar, a Director-grade scientist at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) here was selected for the Ranbaxy Research Award for the year 2009. Dr Chandrashekar was chosen for his exemplary work in the area of pharmaceutical sciences, according to a release.— **Our Bureau**

Hindustan Times, ND 18-Dec-10 p-8

# Ministry steps in to clear AMU mess

## ht FOLLOW-UP

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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**NEW DELHI:** The HRD ministry on Friday issued a show-cause notice to Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor PK Abdul Azis, putting on hold a meeting of the AMU court that was opposed by varsity stakeholders and MPs across party lines.

The notice, sent with President Pratibha Patil's con-

currence — asks the university to explain why the proceedings of the court meeting scheduled for December 19 should not be annulled, government sources said. The Court is the highest decision making authority of the university.

The move follows apprehensions that the court meeting would help legitimise and strengthen Azis's position, at a time when the government is upset with the VC after AMU lied to members of a Presidential panel probing corruption

## SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE ISSUED TO V-C AZIS AND MEETING OF THE VARSITY COURT HAS BEEN PUT ON HOLD

allegations against the V-C.

"The V-C is going way too far. We do not wish to interfere in the work of a university, but autonomy must be accompanied with responsibility and accountability, both of which

appear lacking in this case," a source close to HRD minister Kapil Sibal said.

HT had first reported on December 10 how AMU lied to Justice AN Divecha and misled Justice BA Khan, the two members of the probe panel, effectively postponing a key meeting and delaying the probe.

Over the past week, over 130 MPs across party lines have petitioned the President and Sibal, citing Justice Divecha's letters to argue in favour of action against Azis.

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# Prez gets tough with AMU VC

New Delhi: In an unprecedented action, President Pratibha Patil in her capacity as Visitor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has issued a show-cause notice to the vice-chancellor asking him why the scheduled meeting of the AMU Court on December 19 should not be annulled. The President has made it clear that until the university replies to the show-cause notice, the meeting of the AMU Court would be kept in abeyance. AMU has been asked to respond within 15 days, and inform members of the Court about the meeting being postponed.

In her show-cause notice, the President has said members of the AMU Court — many of

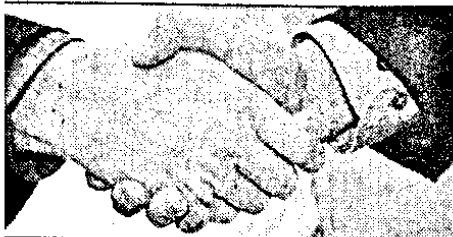
whom are MPs — have brought to her notice that the meeting has been called with an agenda to elect chancellor, pro-chancellor, treasurer and six representatives to the executive council without fulfilling the statutory requirement of minimum notice period of 35 days. Simultaneously, two-member inquiry panel against VC has been hit hard after Justice A N Divecha resigned from the committee. Sources said, despite VC denying information to the panel, many allegations against him have been found true. **TNN**

## 4 in fray for Allahabad univ

**VC's post :** Four names have been shortlisted for the post of VC of Allahabad University. Sources, said, being an outsider A K Singh — a chemistry professor from IIT-Bombay — has impeccable academic credentials and could be a front-runner for the top job. **TNN**

**Political & Business**  
**Daily ND 18/12/2010**  
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# **IDRBT signs MoU with IIT-Kanpur**



**HYDERABAD, DEC 17**

INSTITUTE for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), a Reserve Bank of India arm, today signed a MOU with IIT, Kanpur for research and academic collaboration.

K C Chakrabarty, Deputy Governor RBI and Chairman of IDRBT, said there is a need to integrate knowledge, business and technology to benefit the common man.

"There is need to exploit banking technology and take it to the people. We alone cannot do it. Institutions have to work together and leverage each other's expertise to drive the benefits of research, academics and technology to drive critical initiatives like financial inclusion and take it to masses. Therefore the MOU with IIT Kanpur has tremendous potential and is great beginning for two key institutions to work together in several areas of common interest," Chakrabarty said.

Prof. Sanjay G Dhande, Director IITK said there is an urgent requirement to marry the domain expertise in the banking sector with the new technologies and this MOU will provide a framework to forge productive relationship to make this happen.

According to the MOU IDRBT and IITK will undertake joint projects, create centre of excellence in information security, cyber security and business intelligence, besides many other programmes. — PTI

Financial Express Mumbai

17.12.10 p-2

# Two years after nod, new IITs fail to take off

**Kirtika Suneja**

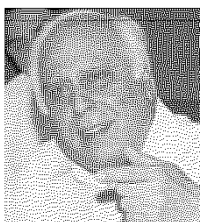
**New Delhi, Dec 16:** Two years after the Cabinet gave its approval for setting up eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country, the institutes are facing teething problems like finalising land, readying the master plan or construction of the boundary wall.

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.