

Newspaper Clips October 19-20, 2014

October 19

Hindu ND 19.10.2014 P-10

SC pulls up AICTE, varsity for delay

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: Authorities like the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), who are in-charge of granting approval, preparing syllabus and imparting education are required to behave with responsibility and not cause any inconvenience to students, the Supreme Court has held.

“Apathy”

Giving this ruling a Bench of Justices Dipak Misra and U.U. Lalit said, “when an attitude of apathy or lackadaisical propensity or proclivity of procrastination of the statutory authorities creeps in as a consequence of which the time schedule meant for approval of the educational institutions and commencement of the courses is not adhered to, a feeling of devouring darkness seems to reign supreme as if “things fall apart.”

Writing the judgment Justice Misra said: “it is inconceivable that the authorities who are in charge of controlling the sphere of

The Bench told the AICTE and the University to ensure that admission processes were done on time following a fixed schedule

education to behave like errant knights justifying their own fanciful deeds. Law expects a rational perception, logical approach and a studied and well-deliberated decision from all the authorities.”

The Bench passed this order while permitting Indra-prastha University in the Capital to conduct counselling on October 21. The delay in admissions arose as many eligible students were not called for counselling.

Disposing of a petition filed by Varun Saini and others, the Bench said: “It is imperative to state a concerted effort has to be made by the AICTE and the University to avoid recurrence of this kind of piquant and agonising situations. Perceived from any

perspective, it does not augur a healthy situation. Had the AICTE functioned within the time frame in respect of the process, the matter would not have given rise to such a situation. Similarly, had the University conducted the counselling with utmost responsibility keeping in view the number of seats that were available in the approved institutions and the number of students that have qualified in the Common Entrance Test, possibly the gravity of the problem would have been less.”

The Bench told the AICTE and the University to ensure that admission processes were done on time following a fixed schedule.

“We ingeminate, at the cost of repetition, that we have extended the time because of the situation that has prevailed this year but if due efforts are taken, we are certain that same would not be required. The students those are selected for admission and allotted to the respective colleges on merits shall take admission forthwith.”

Missile programme only for India's peace: DRDO chief

Hindustan Times (Indore)

BHUBANESWAR: Claiming that India's missile programme purely aims at peace in the country, Defence Research Development and Organisation (DRDO) director general Avinash Chander on Saturday said Bhubaneswar has been the Gateway for all the Missile Launch campaigns.

"I feel proud to say that Bhubaneswar has been the Gateway for all the Missile Launch campaigns for last many decades," Chander, who is also the scientific adviser to defence minister, said while addressing the third convocation of IIT-Bhubaneswar here.

Stating that many of the Launch Complex and other Range Stations are located in proximity to Bhubaneswar, Chander said they play a vital role in strengthening the national deterrence.

Referring to the deterrent aspects of missiles, Chander said, "Our missile programme is for peace in the country. And the message of peace went to the entire world from Odisha where Kalinga war was fought."

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Dainik Bhasker ND 20/10/2014 P-2

आईआईटी दिल्ली: 1000 सेल्फी का रिकॉर्ड बना



भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी दिल्ली ने रविवार को अपने वार्षिकोत्सव पर एक नया वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बनाया है। इस अवसर पर यहां एक साथ एक हजार छात्र और शिक्षकों ने सेल्फी खींच कर रिकॉर्ड कायम किया। इस बारे में आईआईटी दिल्ली के डीन ऑफ स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर प्रो. एसके गुप्ता ने बताया कि सुबह 10.20 बजे छात्रों ने आईआईटी कैम्पस में सेल्फी के लिए चेन बनाई और एक क्लिक के साथ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बन गया। दरअसल इससे पहले ऑस्ट्रेलिया में 279 लोगों

द्वारा एक कतार में खड़े होकर सेल्फी लेने का वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड दर्ज था। छात्र तुषार बताते हैं कि इसी बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए आईआईटी दिल्ली की ओर से फेसबुक पेज पर वार्षिकोत्सव में सेल्फी लेने के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया शुरू हुई। इसमें करीब 3000 छात्रों-शिक्षकों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन कराया। हमने यह नहीं सोचा था कि हम वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड बना लेंगे। लेकिन यह हो गया। तुषार बताते हैं कि आईआईटी कैम्पस में गिनीज बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड की टीम भी पहुंची हुई थी, जिसने हमारी सेल्फी रिकॉर्ड को प्रमाणित किया।

IIT team reuses waste paper to help schoolkids

TNN | Oct 20, 2014, 05.44 AM IST

NEW DELHI: The abysmal state of schools in the hinterland has inspired a unique project by IIT-Delhi students. A team of 17 BTech students collect waste paper and cartons from resident welfare associations (RWA) and houses in south Delhi as well as companies in Gurgaon and Noida to get them recycled into notebooks for village schools near Delhi and in various parts of Uttar Pradesh. So far, they have distributed more than 800 recycled paper notebooks.

The process is simple. They campaign with RWAs along with pasting posters in residential areas to urge people to drop their waste paper at the local community centre; the companies deposit waste paper at IIT. The students collect the paper and give it to a recycling company in Rajouri Garden which gives them recycled paper notebooks in exchange. "The firm doesn't take any money. We supply it about 1,000kg of waste paper, which would fetch Rs 12,000. It gives us about 700 notebooks after keeping a small margin," said Kushagra Srivastava, one of the students.

The team is exploring another idea. "In many schools there are no desks. We are checking if desks can be made with waste cartons. A man in Mumbai had developed a prototype of a recycled carton desk. But it wasn't very strong, nor was it water-proof. At Indian Institute of Technology we are trying to overcome these deficiencies," added Kushagra. The desk prototype they are developing can double as a school bag and will cost only Rs 10. The team is charging Rs 5 for each recycled paper notebook now, making it a business as well as a recycling experiment.

They are also working on a larger idea of making a school kit for students in rural areas—made with recycled paper and cartons that can be sold to them at Rs 20 to Rs 30 each. The team had visited a number of villages—relief camps of Muzaffarnagar riots in Kairana, Bairegi Kera and Padhara in UP, Bhatti mines and Sabhapur villages near Delhi border and many others—before they hit upon the plan of making recycled paper notebooks. "These schools are woefully short of basic things—there are no desks, school bags or notebooks. Our focus is on providing school gear at low cost while making the stuff environment-friendly too," Kushagra explained. IIT-Delhi principal has allowed the students to store waste paper in the basements of the 13 hostels.



■ The policy is expected to deliberate upon ownership patterns of the patents or trade marks, and copyright policy File photo

DU will have policy on registration of patents

Press Trust of India

What research exactly is patentable? What are the legal issues involved? If the student pursues a research using university infrastructure, is the outcome students 'intellectual property'?

All these questions by Delhi University (DU) students and teachers will be answered soon as the varsity is in the process of drafting an Intellectual Property (IP) policy to facilitate registration of patents, copyrights and trademarks by its students and teachers.

DU's Intellectual Property Rights Cell was established in 2008 with the view to helping researchers, inventors and creators manage their intellectual property rights through the legal machinery and also to manage its commercial aspects.

While, initially, the cell was headed by Dean of Research, the Human Resource Development ministry had earlier this year constituted an Intellectual Property Rights Chair at DU.

"Students and researchers need to know what exactly will be patentable while they

are pursuing a research. In the lack of a proper policy, researchers are often unaware of the dos and the don'ts and face difficulty in dealing with legal and commercial issues," said Dr Rekha Chaturvedi, MHRD IPR Chair Professor (Technical).

The policy is expected to deliberate upon ownership patterns of the patents or trademarks, IP rights of students, teachers and visiting professors, copyright policy, licensing policy, patent funds, division of payment structure, IPR issues in digital domain, patentability assessment, invention disclosures and plagiarism, among others.

"Patent registration is a time consuming and expensive process and it's not that the job is done once a patent is registered, it's an equally tedious process to maintain the patents and commercialise it," she said.

"So, we decided to formulate a policy which, once in place, will be strictly adhered to while dealing with such aspects. Clarity on the process involved and the rights of the researchers will encourage more students and teachers to take up constructive research work and get it patented," added Chaturvedi.

Dainik Bhasker ND 20/10/2014 p-6

भोपाल में खुलेगा प्रदेश का तीसरा आईआईआईटी

संजय दुबे | भोपाल

केंद्र ने भोपाल में इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईआईटी) खोले जाने की मंजूरी दे दी है। ग्वालियर और जबलपुर के बाद यह प्रदेश का तीसरा आईआईआईटी होगा। इसके लिए नाथू बरखेड़ा में 50 एकड़ जमीन भी चिह्नित कर ली गई है। इंदौर में हुई इन्वेस्टर्स समिट के बाद इसे हरी झंडी मिली है। 128 करोड़ की लागत से पीपीपी मॉडल के तहत बनने वाले इस इंस्टीट्यूट में 50 प्रतिशत राशि केंद्र से मिलेगी। 35 प्रतिशत राशि राज्य सरकार और 15 प्रतिशत राज्य खनिज विकास निगम देगा।

स्वरूप तय नहीं : जबलपुर में आईआईआईटी (डिजाइन एंड मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग) और ग्वालियर में आईआईआईटी मैनेजमेंट है। भोपाल

 भोपाल में आईआईआईटी खोले जाने को केंद्र ने मंजूरी दे दी है। राज्य सरकार के खनिज विकास निगम द्वारा 15 प्रतिशत निवेश के प्रस्ताव को मान लिया गया है। रिव्यू प्रस्ताव मांगा है, जिसे जल्द ही केंद्र सरकार को भेजा जाएगा।

-हरिरंजन राव, सचिव, आईटी

के आईआईआईटी का स्वरूप अभी तय होना है। इसके खुलने से भोपाल में खुलने वाले आईटी पार्क के लिए स्किल्ड मेन पावर मिल सकेगी।

यूपीए सरकार में अटक गया था मामला : केंद्र में तत्कालीन यूपीए सरकार ने भोपाल में आई आईआईटी खोले जाने के लिए संस्थान में आईटी इंडस्ट्री से 15 प्रतिशत राशि निवेश करने की शर्त रखी थी, जिसे पूरा न होने से प्रस्ताव को खारिज कर दिया गया था।

Deccan Herald ND 20/10/2014 P-8

UGC favours issuing mark sheet with photo of student by varsities

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all universities to consider issuing mark sheet with the photograph of the student to check duplication of final year marks statements.

Mumbai University is set to issue mark sheets with photographs of students on them. The document will also have a number of security features like hologram and water mark.

The higher education regulator has suggested to vice chancellors of other universities to adopt the Mumbai University model; while appreciating the initiative taken by the latter.

“The commission appreciates this initiative of the university which shall help in elim-



inating duplicity of mark sheets. The other universities may also consider adopting this feature along with other security features to bring about uniformity and transparency within the system,” UGC secretary Jaspal S Sandhu said in his letter to varsity heads recently.

The UGC move follows a recommendation by Shiv Sena’s Rajya Sabha MP Anil Desai.

In his letter to UGC Chairman Ved Prakash in July, Desai said: “The purpose of incorporating photograph is to bring in a transparent and foolproof

system and enable easy verification by various authorities and prospective employers,” he said, suggesting that other higher educational institutions in the country could also adopt it to check duplication of mark sheets.

Two years ago, the Mumbai university did away with plain mark sheets and opted for a rainbow colour scheme citing security measures after cases were lodged against more than 600 students for producing fake certificates between 2006 and 2009. “The plain mark sheets did not have a distinguishing feature and lacked security codes. The new seven-colour scheme is unique. It has seven security features incorporated in the mark sheets to avoid duplication.

DH News Service

INTERVIEW: VINEET GUPTA

PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR, ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

'We hope the government will take a favourable view on the FYUP in the years to come'

"India has had an obsession with professional education including engineering. Ashoka and other

similar initiatives demonstrate the relevance of a broad-based liberal education," believes Vineet Gupta, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Ashoka University. In an interview with FE's Vikram Chaudhary, he claims that every Ashoka graduate, no matter what stream she specialises in, will be a critical thinker, a great communicator, ethical leader and a problem solver. Excerpts:

As Sonapat-based Ashoka University kicks off its undergraduate programme, does its appeal go beyond the borders of the National Capital Region (NCR)?

The students who have joined us represent 86 schools, 45 cities, 28 states of India and five countries. In fact, only 30% of our students come from the NCR. Further, our post graduate programme, the Young India Fellowship, which is currently in its fourth year, has alumni in all parts of the world working in diverse fields and studying in some of the top institutions of the world. Ashoka students, I must say, already have a global footprint.

What was the idea behind launching the Young India Fellowship (YIF) programme?

The YIF was launched with the purpose of nurturing leaders and change-agents who will transform India. This can be done through a multidisciplinary education rooted in self-awareness, leadership and experiential learning. Students are required to study a breadth of subjects including Indian history, development economics, sociobiology, group dynamics and leadership, while being mentored by experts. In most Indian colleges, students are made to choose a stream and specialisation too early without being exposed to a variety of subjects. The idea behind the YIF was to get the best students from different backgrounds together and give them a multidisciplinary educational experience.

How many students can the YIF take? What has been the response so far?

The YIF was established in 2011 with 57 fellows. Based on the response of the last three years, we increased the intake. The class of 2014-15 has 197 fellows. In three years, the YIF has become one of India's premier graduate programme—a section of media also called it the Rhodes Scholarship of India. In fact, a number of fellows have chosen the YIF over prestigious institutions including IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM Kolkata, XLRI, Imperial College London, NUS, LBS and others.

The YIF, you claim, equips students to become socially-committed change-agents. What has the YIF achieved so far?

The YIF prepares students to be socially-committed change-agents by giving them a multidisciplinary education that provides broad and holistic learning. Courses are taught by some of the best faculty from across the world. YIF fellows have had great impact in the organisations they have joined. I must add that 25% of our fellows have joined not-for-profits in health-care, education and rural development. And 10% went on to start their own ventures.

Any example of a YIF student who made positive contribution towards the society...

A team of three fellows—Jatin, Rolly and Tushar—from the founding batch developed a haptic belt called the Visparsh for the visually impaired. Then, Simranpreet Oberoi, from the second batch, is the chief project officer of Shoshit Samadhan Kendra, an English medium residential school for students of the Musahar (literally meaning rat-eaters, on account of circumstances—

not choice) community. The school now accommodates 315 male students. Abhishek Choudhary and Saransh Vaswani, two YIF fellows (2012-13), recently won the Echoing Green Global Fellowship for their

initiative Sajhaa, which builds leadership capacity of parents and teachers to ensure accountability for children's learning.

Liberal arts programmes, it appears, are sinking roots in Indian universities. What is your opinion about the same?

India has had an obsession with professional education including engineering. Ashoka and other similar initiatives demonstrate the relevance of a broad-based liberal education. We believe this equation is here to stay and it will bust the myth that one can get great careers only with a professional education.

The liberal arts programme at Ashoka University costs about ₹16 lakh. Is that much fee justified? Why pay so much for a programme that, currently, doesn't provide many jobs?

The liberal arts programme at Ashoka, I must say, delivers an education comparable to the best in the world and at one-eighth the cost of a similar education in top American universities. We give our students 21st century skills—writing, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, leadership. Every Ashoka graduate, no matter what stream she specialises in, will be a critical thinker; a great communicator; ethical leader and a problem solver. These are the skills required to excel in any job in today's day and age.

You say you provide Ivy League education at a fraction of cost to students looking abroad for study options. But Ivy League education goes beyond the classroom. It encompasses the whole experience of studying with students from across the globe. Isn't your claim of providing Ivy League standard

education premature? You just got your first student batch...

Ashoka University has established partnerships with the University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, Carleton College, Sciences Po and King's College London to facilitate student exchange, training and development of faculty, curriculum development and structure of the programme. We are one of the few universities in India which runs a unique student life and sports programme. We have already invited eminent speakers from around the world to engage with our student body, including former US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

Yes, we are in our first year; but we are already demonstrating all the deliverables of a what a top university should offer.

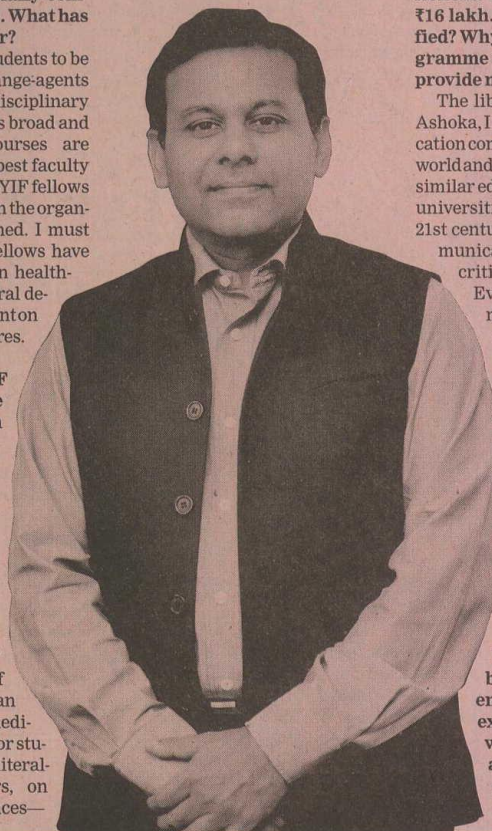
What are the positives of increased flexibility to choose subjects by offering combinations such as mathematics and music?

Students who are 18-year-olds often do not know what their interests are before they get exposure to subjects. Indian education system forces students to make these choices very early without adequate exposure. Increased flexibility allows students to discover their passion and pursue subjects they would like to study. It also allows students to pursue multiple interests.

What are your views on the whole four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) fiasco? Do you term it as unfortunate? Even Ashoka University has reworked its four-year undergraduate liberal arts programme into a three-year one...

We firmly believe that the FYUP provides an opportunity to deliver a programme that is flexible and has breadth. We have to follow the law of the land and hence had to shift to a three-year programme. We hope that the government will take a favourable view on FYUP in the years to come.

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IIT-M permitted to complete work on new hostel buildings

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chen-society/iitm-permitted-to-complete-work-on-new-hostel-buildings/article6517179.ece>

Around 800 students of Indian Institute of Technology–Madras (IIT-M) will soon get regular hostel accommodation.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has permitted the institute to complete work on two new hostel buildings and a sewage treatment plant.

NGT sources said the State Environment Impact Authority has granted clearance for construction of only three structures. The stay on other construction work remains.

IIT-M had been embroiled in a legal battle following a petition by a group of environmental activists who said the new structures threatened the ecology of the forest land on which the campus stood.

IIT-M said the government had declassified the land as non-forest area even before the first building was built there in the 1950s.

Bhaskar Ramamurthy, director of the institute, said they would continue to seek permission to build the required facilities. In one of the new hostels, that has the capacity to accommodate 550 girl students, only three weeks' work is left.

As many as 300 girls currently occupy the PhD quarters, which will soon be allotted exclusively to married students.

“Once the boys’ hostel is completed in three months, it will ease pressure on student accommodation. But we need an academic complex to house faculty and set up a food court for students. We also need to expand the chemistry block. We need two labs for research students and with the government deciding to increase intake of PhD students, this has become critical,” said Dr. Bhaskar.

At IITs, the faculty is housed on the premises to allow them to continue research work without hindrance. At present, a number of faculty members at IIT-M stay off campus, said Dr. Bhaskar.

IIT-M gets green nod to build hostels

DC CORRESPONDENT | October 20, 2014, 03.10 am IST

Chennai: The southern bench of the national green tribunal has permitted the country’s premier institution, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, to go ahead with the construction of hostel for men and women on the campus. The bench, comprising judicial member, Justice M. Chockalingam, and R. Nagendran, which was hearing a petition against the felling of trees on the sprawling campus, modified its interim injunction order to this effect.

Passing an interim order in March, the tribunal prevented IIT-M from construction work on the campus. Meanwhile, IIT-M sought permission from the authorities and NGT to construct hostels for men and women. In July, NGT directed the state environmental impact assessment authority (SEIAA) to complete the impact assessment and file a status report. The SEIAA filed the status report on the building. Following this, the bench permitted IIT-M to construct buildings for men and women hostels.

Computer simulation to shape future antibiotics

London: Scientists have used computer simulations to show how bacteria are able to destroy antibiotics — a breakthrough which will help develop drugs which can effectively tackle infections in the future.

Researchers at the University of Bristol focused on the role of enzymes in the bacteria, which split the structure of the antibiotic and stop it from working, making the bacteria resistant. The new findings show that it's possible to test how enzymes react to certain antibiotics.

It's hoped this insight will help scientists to develop new antibiotics with a much lower risk of resistance, and to choose the best medicines for specific outbreaks.

Using a Nobel Prize-winning technique called QM/MM — quantum mechanics/molecular mechanics simulations — the research team was able to gain a molecular-level insight into how enzymes called 'beta-lactamases' react to antibiotics.

Researchers specifically want to understand the growing resistance to carbapenems, which are known as the 'last resort' antibiotics for many bacterial infections and super bugs such as E coli. ❏

Times Of India ND 20/10/2014 P-21

Eye grafts may kill reading glasses

Corneal Implants After Simple Surgery Can Correct Vision, Say Scientists

Washington: Glasses may soon be a thing of the past as corneal inlays, implanted into the eye with a simple surgery, can correct vision without the need for corrective treatments, scientists say.

A thin ring which is inserted into the eye could offer a reading glasses-free remedy for presbyopia, the blurriness in near vision experienced by many people over the age of 40, according to a new study.

The corneal inlay device undergoing clinical review in the US improved near vision well enough for 80% of the participating patients to read a

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ON THE WAY OUT?

newspaper without disturbing far distance vision needed for daily activities like driving.

Researchers said presbyopia affects more than 1 billion people worldwide. As they age,

the cornea becomes less flexible and bends in such a way that it becomes difficult to see up close. While the most common remedy is wearing reading glasses, a host of new corneal inlay products are in development, with three types currently under review by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The theoretical advantage of using inlays over wearing glasses is corneal inlays prevent the need for constantly putting on and taking off glasses, depending on whether the person needs to see near or far.

One of the devices is the KAMRA inlay, a thin, flexible

doughnut-shaped ring that measures 3.8mm in diameter, with a 1.6mm hole in the middle. When dropped into a small pocket in the cornea covering the front of the eye, the device acts like a camera aperture, adjusting the depth of field so that the viewer can see near and far. The procedure to insert the implant is relatively quick, lasting about 10 minutes, and requires only topical anaesthesia.

Complications from corneal inlays in general have included haziness that is treatable with steroids; however, improvements in inlay design have made the effect less common. PTI