

Newspaper Clips

October 2, 2011

Statesman ND 02.10.2011 P-6

IIT aspirant commits suicide

NEW DELHI, 1 OCT: An 18-year-old IIT aspirant was found hanging in his rented accommodation at Kalu Sarai in Malviya Nagar area of South district on Saturday evening. According to police, the incident came to light at around 5 p m when police received a PCR call. The deceased, Puru Yogender Singh, a native of Purnia district of Bihar, was living in a rented accommodation in Kalu Sarai for the past three months. The reason behind the extreme step could not be ascertained, as no suicide note has been recovered.

According to police, Puru had come to Delhi for the preparation of engineering entrance examination and was enrolled in a private coaching institute. "It has been learnt that he had qualified in the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), but refused to take admission as he wanted to pursue B Tech from the prestigious IIT," said the police, adding that they have informed his family members about the incident.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the victim had talked to his brother over phone on Friday evening and was active on his facebook account until 11p m. The body has been sent for postmortem. sns

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DU innovation course finds many takers

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi University's new course in innovation seems to have a good number of takers. It has started late in the year but DU has received nearly 1,800 applications for just 40 seats.

The course — BTech/BS innovation with mathematics & IT — is going to be a four-year undergraduate programme for which an entrance test will be held on September 25, followed by personal

interview. In its debut year, the course is open only to the students currently enrolled in DU. However, any student, who has studied mathematics in Class XII, will be eligible to apply from next year.

"The response of students has been really good. We have got far too many applications compared to the number of seats," said professor Ajay Kumar, dean, research. He added: "It's only for this year that we had invited applications only from DU students as we

didn't have much time on hand. However, it will be changed from next year." The classes for this year are likely to begin from October 6. According to Kumar, four teachers from different colleges have already come on board to start the classes.

The new programme is part of the innovation cluster being planned by DU. This programme will be interdisciplinary and provide students with a chance to learn hands-on.

Hindustan Times Chandigarh 01.10.2011 P-3

Pvt varsities, colleges under RTI

PANEL RULING Info about pvt body, accessed by public authority, under Act ambit

Gurpreet Singh Nibber
g.p.nibber@hdsnews.com

CHANDIGARH: In a recent judgment, the Punjab State Information Commission has ruled that private universities, engineering and medical colleges and other private institutions are public authorities and hence covered under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

In a judgment delivered on September 7, the commission quoted a Punjab and Haryana High court ruling pertaining to Sadhwan's Christian Medical College: "...private bodies discharging public duties have social responsibilities and cannot take shelter behind secrecy". The order came on a complaint about denial of information

by Taiwan's Sabo-based Guru Gobind Singh College of Engineering and Technology.

Quoting rules laid down in the RTI Act, chief information commissioner RameshINDER Singh said information related to any private body, which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law in force for the time being, also came under the Act's ambit.

"Non-fee members of the governing body, particularly those representing the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), have the powers to access information from the college and they are members of AICTE. Therefore, in view of provisions of the RTI Act, information can be accessed from the respondent college via AICTE, Punjab

The respondent shall appoint a public information officer within 15 days and thereafter deal with the request of the information seeker
RAMESHINDER SINGH
Chief Information Commissioner

Technical University of the state governments," the order said.

"In view of the observations, I have no hesitation in holding that the respondent college is a public authority and the respondent shall therefore appoint a public information officer (PIO) within 15 days of this order and thereafter deal with the request of the information seeker in

accordance with provisions of the Act," the order added.

The college's plea that it was a private educational institution owned and run by a private trust, neither owned and controlled by the government or financed by any government agency, was also turned down by the commission. The order covered all such institutions under the ambit of the Act, even though unaided and run without any state government assistance.

In another judgment, on a complaint against Chitkara Institute (Patiala district) and denial of information, the chief information commissioner ruled that it was a statutory university in a state and hence under the Act. The institute was also directed to appoint a PIO with

immediate effect and implement the Act, in earnest.

"Provisions of RTI Act are very clear. Any authority established by any law made by the state legislature is a public authority," the judgment said, adding that a university is not only an institution but also an authority empowered to award degrees, which are the basis of admission to higher classes or employment.

"The university exercises full control over all matters relating to admissions, types of courses to be run, attendance of students, conduct of examinations and award of degrees. The university is, therefore, an authority created by a statute of the state legislature within the ambit of the Act," the judgment concluded.

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17-yr-old's stick for blind wins award

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: Shantanu Gangwar may just be in Class XII, but he is already showing signs of a passionate inventor. This week the 17-year-old won CSIR's Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for the 'smart stick' he has developed for the visually-impaired.

A student of DPS RK Puram, Gangwar is one of the two students who have bagged the honour out of 353 applicants. The other winner is Ankit Kumar Mittal from Barnala, Punjab, who has created a modified lock for zips.

In between preparing for exams, Gangwar said, "We have quite a few visually-impaired students in our school. I would often see them facing difficulties in moving around independently. I was moved and that's when I decided to design a stick that could detect obstacles."

With the conviction of achieving his goal he made the electronics lab his second home. After months of dedicated work he came up with a stick that emits infra-red rays. The rays get reflected when the stick approaches an obstacle. Four sensors fitted on the stick detect the rays and the stick vibrates to alert the user.

Gangwar took around six months to complete his project spending a meager sum of Rs 750 on his smart stick. He had applied for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) award last year. "Though my teachers were quite helpful, I usually worked on my own. Since I have been passionate about electronics since class six, I had a fair idea of how things work. Initially, I faced problems in tuning the sensors but I soon got past them," he said.

Besides keeping abreast with scientific inventions through journals, Gangwar also read about a similar project in IIT Delhi — his dream destination. "Electronics is my passion and I want to pursue it in IIT Delhi.



Sanjeev Rastogi

BOY WONDER: Shantanu Gangwar

We have never needed a mechanic or an electrician in the house. I repair everything. I have also developed a radio, an intercom and a metal detector in the past," said Gangwar who hopes to crack IIT JEE next year.

His elder brother is also pursuing industrial design at IIT Delhi. His father is an IAS officer while his mother is a professor at AIIMS. Once through with his Class XII, this soccer enthusiast wants to make his invention available in the market. He has two other innovations already prepared for the CSIR contest this year though he wants to keep them a secret.

"I am sure this award is just a beginning. There are many more to come," he said with a faint but confident smile.

Economic Times, ND 02/10/2011 p-20

IITian Swamijis? Meet The Unusual Engineers

By Ishani Duttgupta & Shantanu Nandan Sharma

Two ex-IITians — VC Vinod Menon and entrepreneur Bharat Desai — have just been named on Forbes' rich list of Americans. But India's premier tech school network is not only about riches. In fact, recently the IIT Kharagpur alumni group was abuzz with two very different success stories — both these 'old boys' based on campus around the same time. Arvind Kejriwal, the brain behind Anna Hazare's Lok Pal campaign, and social entrepreneur H Harish Hande, recipient of the Magsaysay award (for 2011), were both out-of-the-box thinkers, even in their early IIT days. Friends remember them as dedicated to social causes. "The IITs offer excellent infrastructure not just for studies but also for sports and social and cultural activities. Our students are exposed to real challenges in life and it is no surprise that many go on to take up leadership roles in unconventional areas," says D Acharya, director, IIT-KGP. Yogeshwar Sangwan, director in the ministry of overseas Indian affairs and a graduate from IIT-Delhi, feels that the education at IIT was a rigorous regime that prepared him to face challenges. And it's not just government, we found former IITians doing the most unlikely things. Here's what they had to say...



« **H Harish Hande**
Social Entrepreneur,
MD, Selco Solar
Winner of Ramon Magsaysay
award for 2011
IIT Kharagpur 1990,
Energy Engineering

"The people who consume the least should have maximum say in law-making process"

Why he moved away from a typical IIT grad career?

He felt that his IIT education was heavily subsidised by more than 600 million Indians who paid taxes. Hence he didn't want to join the traditional corporate sector like most IITians, but would rather do something through which he could give back to the community.

When did he do it?

Even when he was a student of energy engineering at IIT, he knew that his work would be in the area of alternative energy. A trip to the Dominican Republic during his doctorate studies at the University of Massachusetts helped shape his larger vision on use of solar energy in rural India.

Worries about earning less than his IIT classmates?

No worries about his own income. However, the growing disparity in income in India, between the rich and poor worries him a lot. While the poor are just not making the next step in reaching sustainable income levels, the corporate salaries are going through the roof, he feels.

How his IIT training helped?

Rather than the official curriculum, the biggest takeaway from IIT was for him the lifestyle at the hostel. As Kharagpur president in his final year, he interacted with many of his classmates and hall mates and helped solve different problems they faced, and that lot him was the best training that he got at IIT.

ing that he got at IIT.

The IIT moment

At his farewell speech at IIT, he criticised the authorities and drew attention to the poor infrastructure at the hostels. He advised the administration to take student issues more seriously and pay more attention to the needs of students.

IIT-ian he admires

His classmate Parikaj Kumar of Sterlite Industries. He admires Kumar because he has ventured in the technology sector, which is what the IIT education is meant to cater to. Kumar did not get attracted to any other glamorous and high-paying sector but remained loyal to his IIT training.

Deccan Herald Bangalore 01.10.2011 P-12

Teachers' test to follow online AIEEE pattern

CBSE planning to hold CTET in 22 cities

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education is considering conducting Central Teachers' Eligibility Test in the online mode, after taking a decision earlier to hold All-India Engineering Entrance Examination online from next year.

The board's plan is to conduct the all India test for teachers in 22 cities-including Bangalore between January and June in 2012. The pen and paper test, however, will also be conducted for those who do not wish to take the online test.

"A process to engage an agency, which should be based in India and competent in un-

dertaking the project under the board's guidance and supervision, has already been initiated," CBSE sources told *Deccan Herald*. As a very little time remained, the board wanted to initiate the project by November this year, they added.

The CBSE had recently announced its decision to conduct All India Engineering Entrance Examination online in 2012. Both of the "computer-based professional entrance examinations" will be conducted online through intranet based solutions at all the centres. A central server will be set up at the CBSE. Data will be transferred in encrypted format to the central server through a safe mode. Before

the examination was conducted, arrangements will be made to conduct a mock test to make candidates familiar with the system through website and at various facilitation centres. Facilitation centres will be opened by agency, to be chosen for hosting the test and managing entire delivery process.

These centres will remain functional for at least one month and will later be closed at least a month before the actual conduct of the examination. The CBSE conducted the CTET for the first time this year. Centre has made it mandatory for the states to recruit elementary teachers through an eligibility test.

DH News Service

Economic Times ND 02/10/2011 P-21



“What profiteth a man if he gain the world, but suffer the loss of his eternal soul”

Why he moved way from a typical IIT grad career?

During the IIT years, many philosophic questions would come to his mind. The rigorous scientific education at IIT did not address these questions. Later, when he began studying MBA, he was exposed to humanities subjects. However, there too, he found no answers. The thirst to understand the Absolute Truth increased and he started reading Vedic scriptures. He also started practising personal spiritual sadhana. He did take a job, but the artificial environment of the corporate world was suffocating.

When did he move away?

After completing MBA, he worked with the Tata Group only for three months. After that he decided that he was not interested in materialis-

tic advancement; his calling was in the spiritual field. So he resigned from the job to take sanyas in 1984.

Did he think then he would be losing out on a career?

He felt that there was no shortage of engineers and MBAs in India. Rather, there was a need in Indian society for educated young people who could understand spiritual science for themselves and explain it to others. So for his own fulfilment, and for the opportunity to serve God, he took sanyas.

How has the IIT training helped?

The IIT education was excellent training for the intellect to think logically. When he preaches in the West, a large segment of the audience is engineers and MBAs from India.

Swami Mukundananda

Spiritual teacher and founder of Jagadguru Kripaluji Yog system at IIT Delhi

IIT-Delhi 1982,
Mechanical Engg;
IIM-Kolkata 1984

Economic Times ND 02/10/2011 P-21

Nitin Gupta >>

CEO, Attero Recycling, an e-waste management start-up
IIT-Delhi 2000, Electrical Engineering

Why he moved away from a typical IIT grad career?

He wanted to combine his engineering skillsets and his strong environmental concern. Electronic waste management in India was not being addressed at all.

When did he do it?

After an MBA from the NYU Stern School, he came back to India and felt the need to do something for the environment.

Did he have any worries about making less money than his IIT classmates?

A simple powerpoint presentation got him the first round of \$6.3 million venture capital funding from the biggest names in industry – NEA-IUV & DFJ. He had the confidence that his

business plan was strong enough to be able to make money from a socially-focussed enterprise.

Does it worry him now?

There are moments when he is bothered about the fact that his former IIT classmates are making much more money than he is.

How his IIT training helped?

The confidence to take the risk and become an entrepreneur was something that he imbibed at IIT. It came from the safety net of an IIT degree and the strong network.

The IIT moment

When NEA-IndoUS Ventures, MD, Kumar Shiralagi described Attero Recycling as a research driven technology company.



“Champions take chances. Pressure is a privilege”



MG
Venkatesh
Mannar
 President &
 Executive Director
 Micronutrient Initiative,
 Ottawa, Canada
 IIT-Madras 1970,
 Chemical Engineering

*“Aspire for the
 freedom to
 dream and the
 confidence to
 realise that
 vision”*

Why he moved away from a typical IIT grad career?

He had a strong interest in technology development even as he started working in his family business in Chennai. He developed the concept of double fortified salt. From the early 1980s he got seriously interested in nutritional enrichment of salt and undertook short-term assignments with UN agencies across Asia and Africa.

When did he do it?

In 1990, he had the opportunity to immigrate to Canada. He sold his interest in the salt company and thereafter the involvement in nutrition became full-time. The Canadian government's new Micronutrient Initiative approached him to head the organisation.

Did he have any worries about making less money than his former IIT classmates?

Strangely, he never did worry about the money. He was strongly driven by what motivated him and was also getting frustrated by the difficulties in doing business without compromising his principles.

Is money a worry now?

Having moved to Canada and heading a well-funded organisation he makes a reasonable amount of money that keeps him comfortable.

Why he chose nutrition as an alternative career?

The huge potential of tackling nutritional deficiencies, especially in women and children in developing countries, became his dedication and passion as he moved into the role of an expert on the subject.

How did IIT training help?

IIT Chennai was a life-changing experience for him. Besides the best curriculum, the intense competition among peers also helped in shaping the future leaders in different walks of life.



Shreesh Jhadav

Pow Swami Sarvottamacharya
Computer Science faculty at
Ramakrishna Mission
Vivekananda University,
Belur, IIT-Kanpur 1995.
Computer Science: PhD 1995

**“Pay as much attention to means as to the end.
And, strength is life, weakness is death”**

Why he moved away from a typical IIT grad career?

He is himself a bit perplexed on how circumstances conspired. He definitely is a God's grace and past karma that were paramount. Friends and well-wishers at IIT Kanpur were instrumental in the decision. Being member of Vivekananda Samiti there was one the important factors.

When did he do it?

He wasn't sure till the last moment.

But once he became a monk, he had an intuition that it was the right decision. It was in August, 1994, after he had finished his PhD thesis.

Did he think then that he would be losing out on a career?

Not so much. He was young and quite adventurous.

Is there any sense of regret now?

No, a samnyasi's life is the most care-

free life. It is like an extension of student life.

Why did he choose education as a career?

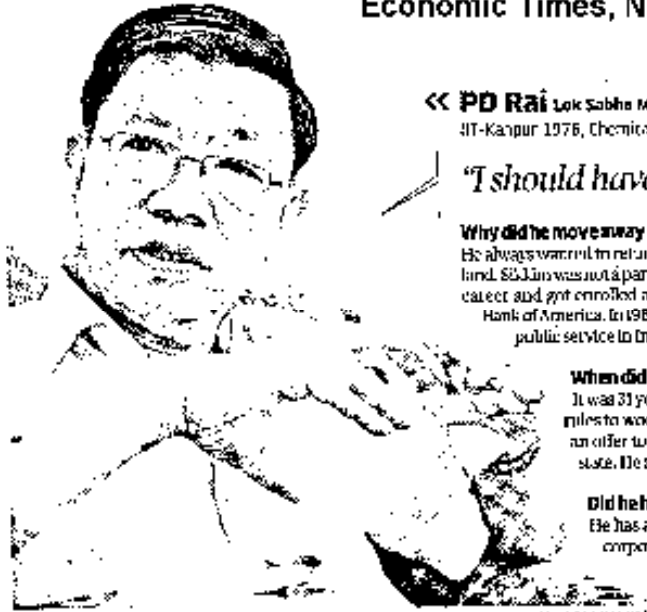
In India at that time, career was decided more or less by which entrance examinations one cleared. Indians, he thinks, start thinking about life and other details at a later stage.

How has IIT training helped?

He was at IIT-Kanpur for almost all the formative years and considers himself a product of that time and place.

The defining IIT moment

The defining moment is difficult to pinpoint, since he has lots of memories of IIT. But if he has to pick one, it would be when he started his PhD. Suddenly all his BTech friends had gone abroad, and he was, as it, left alone to ponder.



<< PD Rai Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim
IIT-Kanpur 1976, Chemical Engineering

“I should have studied a humanities course, but definitely at IIT”

Why did he move away from a typical IIT grad career?

He always wanted to return to Sikkim and contribute to his native land. Sikkim was not a part of India till 1975. He moved ahead in his career and got enrolled at IIM Ahmedabad, and then he joined Bank of America. In 1980 the Sikkim governor called him to join public service in India's newly added state.

When did he do it?

It was 31 years ago. The state government changed roles to woo him back to Sikkim, and he was given an offer to join directly as a deputy director in the state. He agreed to join at a much lower salary.

Did he have any worries about earning less?

He has an IIT IIM background to go back to the corporate sector if things go wrong. There were blocks in his government job and he left to become an entrepreneur during the rough po-

litical patch. Later, he was elected as an MP in 2009.

Is less money a worry now?

Not at all. He feels MPs in general do less work to justify the money they earn.

Why did he choose public service as a career?

He is convinced that a small state like Sikkim needs better representation in New Delhi.

How did the IIT training help?

It helps developing one's analytical skills which can be used in every field. There are key learnings on how to position oneself.

The IIT moment

The IIT graduation ceremony. He still finds IIT a valuable brand.

The IIT-ian he admires

NK Narayana Murthy of Infosys.

Times of India, ND 02/10/2011 P-14

Puducherry edu min used 'proxy' in exam?

Besco Dominique | TNN

Villupuram: Puducherry education minister P M L Kalyanasundaram, who claimed to have sat for the Class X supplementary exam, is now under a cloud.

Taking notice of complaints that the minister had used a proxy to write his exam, the Tamil Nadu education department has ordered a probe, threatening to use handwriting experts to confirm if the minister actually wrote the test. Kalyanasundaram, a school dropout, decided to complete his Class X and XII exams along with an open university degree course, after he became education minister.

On Thursday (September 29), the minister claimed he



Officials said they will take the help of experts to match the handwriting of the minister to that in the answersheet

had taken the exam in a private school at Tindivanam in Villupuram district, about 125km from Chennai, to avoid attention. But following allegations that he had engaged

another person to take the science supplementary exam, Tamil Nadu school education minister C Ve Shanmugam told TOI that if preliminary inquiries revealed impersonation charges, his department would hold a detailed investigation. "We will take the help of experts to analyse the handwriting of the minister and compare it with the handwriting in the answer sheet," said Shanmugam.

He added that he was in Puducherry on Friday morning when he received a call alleging that a Puducherry minister has engaged a proxy to write the Class X supplementary exam on his behalf. "I was told the same impersonator is appearing for the minister for social sciences paper

on Friday. I alerted the district education officials to verify the complaint. A team of officials visited the school and found that the candidate was absent," Shanmugam said. However, Kalyanasundaram had told TOI that while he took the science supplementary exam on Thursday last, he could not sit for the social science exam the following day as he had to attend a meeting convened by Lt Governor Iqbal Singh.

District education officer C Shanmugam confirmed that the minister had appeared for the exam, saying that the photograph on the hall ticket matched the candidate who wrote the exam.

Kalyanasundaram denied the charge. "The allegation is

totally false. The opposition members are jealous of my growth in politics and are intent on tarnishing my image. I appeared for the exams and I am ready to face any inquiry and cooperate with officials."

However, there is a political angle to the issue. In Puducherry, the AIADMK and the All India N R Congress led by chief minister N Rangasamy had a bitter parting after the breakaway Congress outfit dumped its poll ally on the eve of government formation after the May assembly polls. A first-time MLA, Kalyanasundaram was accorded second rank in the cabinet by the CM and holds plum portfolios including, transport, information technology, collegiate and school education.