

Newspaper Clips
October 26, 2010

Business Standard ND
26/10/2010 p-6

Biggest IIT alumni meet on October 29

The alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will converge in New Delhi on October 29 to discuss means to achieve sustainable growth at the sixth Pan-IIT Conclave, which will be inaugurated by President Pratibha Patil. The three-day conclave, billed to be the biggest so far, would focus on the imperatives of an emerging 'New India', said chairman of the conclave Arun Seth.

PTI

Financial Chronicle ND26/10/2010
p-10

Biggest IIT alumni meet on Oct 29

The alumni of the IITs, which will be inaugurated by President Pratibha Patil, will converge on October 29.

Business Standard ND

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Around 5,000 to take CAT on day one

VINAY UMARJI & KALPANA PATHAK
Ahmedabad/Mumbai, 25 October

Around 5,000 MBA aspirants will take the Common Admission Test (CAT) on the first day this year on Wednesday October 27. Around 10,000 candidates took the test on the first day last year.

CAT will be conducted over a 20-day testing window till November 24, 2010. Last year CAT was conducted over a 10-day window. A total of 204,000 students have registered for CAT this year, compared to 246,000 last year — a 17 per cent dip.

With the CAT committee not taking any chances, it has taken all the necessary steps to ensure a glitch-free CAT this year. Apart from undertaking all kinds of hardware and software tests in over 128 labs across 78 venues in 33 cities, the CAT committee also ensured timely handing over of the venues.

"We are confident this year. Unlike last year, when handing over of the venues to CAT administration happened very late, this year, all the 78 venues were handed over 17 days before the test began. Hence, we were not only able to run all the nec-

essary tests, like download speed of dummy test papers, back-up, etc, but also installed our own software and anti-virus applications. Also, to ensure a smooth first day of CAT, there will be only 5,000 candidates taking the test. The number can be later increased to as high as 13,000 candidates on a single day," said Himanshu Rai, CAT 2010 convenor and faculty member at IIM Lucknow.

"We believe most of the aspirants who intended to get into the non-IIM B-schools through CAT may have stayed away this year due to placement apprehensions. However, through live chats and other interactions, it is apparent students are confident of taking the test this year. We are also doing our best to ensure clarity in terms of providing information on the tests everyday through the CAT Bulletin," Rai added.

Training centres across the country also witnessed confidence among CAT aspirants. "The students are confident about the test this time. Also, students who took the test last year have no apprehensions about the same," said Sai Kumar, director at the Mumbai centre of TIME, a coaching centre for CAT aspirants.

Hindustan Times
ND 26/10/2010 P-1

IIT prof suspended for duping students

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, suspended professor Amit Kumar Ghosh on Monday. He is accused of using the IIT campus and brand to run an illegal institute and dupe students. IIT deputy director AK Majumdar confirmed the incident. **HTC**

'UGC should enforce no-work-no-pay notice'

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustanimes.com

NEW DELHI: Voicing concern regarding the frequent teachers' strikes, DU Vice Chancellor, Deepak Pental, said that strikes will spell trouble for students as well as teachers.

"I will write to the UGC asking them to enforce the 'no-work-no-salary' notice. Teachers should not be paid for all the 17 days they have not taught. Those still following the annual mode should not be paid anything at all as they are teaching a course that is not recognised anymore," Pental said.

The students have missed 18 days of classes so far. The semester-end examinations were also shifted from November to December to accommodate the classed missed.

"It is not the University's money which we get as salary, it is public money," he said, adding, teachers should be accountable for their work.

Calling the teachers' approach shameful, Pental said the desirability of the semester system is not debatable. "We have been teaching syllabi that is more than 20 years old. The work of an academician is also to introduce new ideas, which is not happening here," he said.

The DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) meanwhile launched another strike on Monday.



■ DU VC Deepak Pental.

"The semester system cannot be implemented without debate. Teachers cannot be silenced through unsavoury threats. We are willing to engage in civilized argument and dialogue," said Aditya Narayan Misra, president, DUTA.

Teachers in many colleges such as Kirori Mal College, Hindu College and Ramjas College are still teaching according to the annual system.

Pental also said that teachers had gone on strikes without giving requisite notice, making the strikes illegal. He had also written a letter to the UGC in September asking the body to look into the matter.

"If the semester system's implementation is illegal why doesn't DUTA move court? A solution to the problem should be worked out as the students are suffering," Pental said.

The teachers' strike is meanwhile expected to continue on Tuesday as well.

Pental to vacate office this week

NEW DELHI: Indicating that the decision regarding the appointment of DU's new Vice Chancellor was near, Deepak Pental, the current VC said he will vacate office by the week-end. Pental said, "I am going to leave by the end of the week for sure."

Human resource development ministry sources, however, confirmed that no name had been finalized to succeed Pental, though a decision is possible soon.

The three final candidates for the post are DU South Campus Director Dinesh Singh, Lady Shri Ram College Principal Meenakshi Gopinath, Hyderabad University Vice Chancellor Syed Hasnain and JNU professor BS Chimni.

Pental — under attack from the DU faculty over the introduction of a semester system — had indicated to the HRD ministry that he wanted to leave office once his term was over. He had even informed the HRD minister Kapil Sibal. **HTC**

Hindustan Times

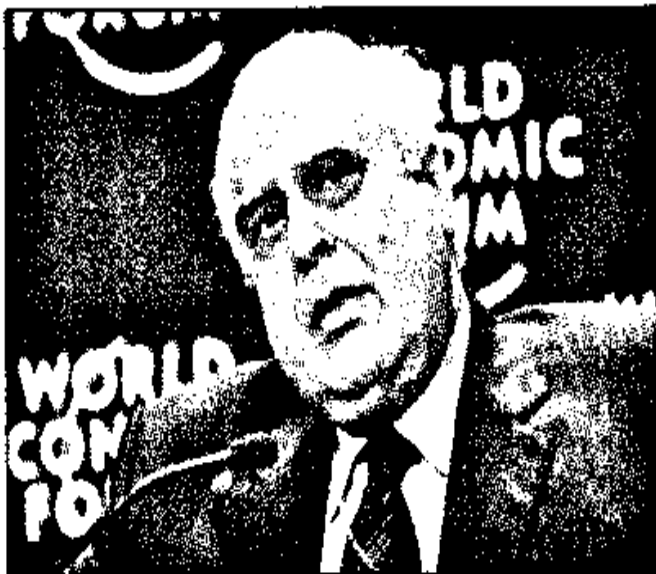
ND 26/10/2010 P-12

New age lessons

It could be a hangover of his days as India's science and technology minister, but HRD minister Kapil Sibal is determined to use satellite technology to aid his ministry's mission of providing access to quality education to every child. The HRD ministry recently asked all states to use GPS technology to provide latitudes and longitudes of all schools that will be mapped to determine low school-concentration areas. Sibal had, a few months back, held a meeting with science and technology ministry offi-

A surprise move

The University Grants Commission's move to appoint a full-fledged secretary at the fag end of Chairman Sukhdeo Thorat's term, after five years with acting secretaries, has raised eyebrows in education policy circles. Several professors and officials are wondering whether the move is legitimate. An MP has written to the government criticising the appointment, scheduled for October 29.



■ Tech savvy: Kapil Sibal

cialists too, and is keen to use technology in monitoring education programmes.

Hire the one who gives you a good challenge



office AFFAIRS

HIRING the right people is half the job done. How many times have we been told this? Despite the fact that almost everyone in the corporate world realises this, the most common of all mistakes are made at the hiring stage. Don't we, most of the time, make up our minds on hiring a candidate in the first two minutes and spend the next 45 finding reinforcements for that decision?

What do most people look for when they hire anyone into their teams? What do average managers and extraordinary managers do differently?

"Normally people hire resources who fit into a particular role. They hire people for the immediate role that they are hiring into. But this is not what the best managers in my organisation do," says Savitri

Ranganathan, an HR manager of a leading MNC. "Hiring resources for today, who either possess the skills, or have the attitude to acquire the skills for the next-level job in the organisation is what the best leaders do."

Savitri makes an interesting point. Hiring people who have the capability to progress to the next level and explicitly looking for such people at the hiring stage can save a lot of angst and negative energy in the organisation. "In my team, we are unable to promote many executives to the manager level not because of lack of opportunities but because most of the executives won't cut ice when we look for managerial skills in them," says Jignesh Patil, a sales head in an FMCG.

This has led to obvious stagnation in Jignesh's team and the consequent frustrations have resulted in a high degree of attrition. This is where Savitri's point seems relevant. Had Jignesh hired the resources who had it in them to make it to the next level, chances are that he would have a more motivated and happier team than

the one he currently leads.

"I always hire resources who challenge me," says Chaitanya Kishore, a hot shot supervisor in a consumer durable market leader. Kishore brings in an alternate point of view, which Savitri agrees with.

"Average leaders hire individuals who toe their line. They induct team members, who will execute whatever they want them to, but those who will never question or stretch their intellectual capabilities. However, we have seen that leaders who are the most sought after, hire individuals who challenge them, who add value to their managers and at times have strong and independent points of view. This helps the manager get a fully rounded perspective on issues which need redressal." This way, they end up building an intellectually strong and professionally stimulating atmosphere in their teams.

The next time you interview people to hire into your teams, keep these two points in mind.

Firstly, hire people for the job in hand, but with the next level job in mind. This will make sure that resources you hire will not stagnate in their respective jobs and when the opportunity comes, will seamlessly progress to the next level. You, in turn, will be seen as a leader who has made sure that your people have good careers. People in your team will always be positive and motivated. Invariably, your team will then stay on top in performance levels and you will be the sought-after leader. Secondly, make sure that the people you hire have it in them to challenge you and add value to you. If they don't make you a bit insecure and threaten you just that little bit, they may not be worth hiring.

Remember, hiring the right candidate into your team will even make you look better than what you actually are, and may make sure that your move to the next level comes a bit faster.

RAVI SUBRAMANIAN
Banker & author of
'Devil in Pinstripes'

Indian Express ND 26/10/2010

P-7

IIT prof suspended

NEW DELHI: IIT Kharagpur Professor A K Ghosh has been suspended for allegedly running a “fake institute”, Institution of Electrical Engineering, that offering diplomas to students without any approval or recognition from the All India Council for Technical Education.

Ghosh was suspended on charges of violation of code of conduct for IIT faculty, which lays down that no fac-

ulty member can associate himself with any private body without due approval of the IIT where he is employed.

The Union HRD Ministry has also sought a report on the institute and the role of IIT Kharagpur faculty members in it. Ghosh is also under the cloud for allegedly tweaking JEE cut-off marks to accommodate certain students and children of faculty members.

ENS

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 26, 2010; Section: Times Nation; Page: 13;

'Hope Infosys Prize winners get Nobel'

Murthy: Aim Is To Enthuse Young Minds

Asha Rai | TNN

Bangalore: The Infosys Prize, which carries the largest purse (Rs 50 lakh per winner) in India for scientific research, aims to evangelize the pursuit of pure science and humanities amongst Indian youth. It was set up with an endowment of Rs 100 crore.

Infosys chairman N R Narayana Murthy (NRN), CEO Kris Gopalakrishnan (Kris) and director K Dinesh (KD), trustees of the ISF, spoke to ToI on the goals of ISF and the challenges of pursuing research as a career in India.

What's the long term aim of Infosys Prize? To get a Nobel prize for India?

NRN: If we can get youngsters enthused to pursue world class excellence in science, in technology, social sciences, I think that will be fine. Ideally if enough number of youngsters want to pursue science, engineering & world class research in social sciences, then the country will automatically make progress. **Kris:** The idea is to make sure that it creates the requisite encouragement, and inspiration, that it rises in stature by the awardees doing wonderful things in the future. I hope some of them become Nobel laureates in the future.

A reason youngsters don't opt for a career in pure sciences or humanities is because there's no money in it. How do you change that?

NRN: That's exactly the problem. If there are a hundred companies like Infosys which come out with such mechanisms (annual prizes), then automatically there is money. **Why do you think scientific research is in such bad shape in this country?**

Kris: I don't think it's about the individual. Because when the same individual goes abroad, he does very well. It's the system. The entire field of education is controlled by the government. There are hierarchies of control. Multiple bodies control institutions. Then there's the strict hier-



THE AWARDEES

- **Mathematical Sciences** — Professor Chandrashekhara Khare, mathematics department, University of California, Los Angeles
- **Physical Sciences** — Professor Sandip Trivedi, theoretical physics department, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai
- **Engineering and Computer Science** — Professor Ashutosh Sharma, chemical engineering department, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur
- **Life Sciences** — Dr Cheta E Chitnis, principal leader, Malaria Group, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi
- **Social Anthropology** — Professor Nandini Sundar, sociology department, Delhi School of Economics (DSE)

archy of the profession itself. Over the years, incentives haven't kept pace with the market. What happens is that everybody is equated with someone else in the government. That sets the bar for the scientists. You are equated with somebody else who is not in the same field. This is one reason for the stagnation. Also, for many years we got isolated from the rest of the world in terms of ability to travel, the money for it etc. These issues were there till 15 years ago. It set us back by a couple of generations. Now things are changing.

Do you think we have been able to retain the talent in the last decade or so?

Kris: I think it will happen

over time and not overnight. I am not worried about it too much because many are returning. Dr Mashlekar (former CSIR chief) was saying that he recently addressed a set of researchers at Harvard and these guys want to come back. Also, given India's size and people, there are enough who stay back.

Is there any sector in which we have a natural advantage, like say mathematics, on which we could focus to produce world class researchers?

Kris: Applied research is probably one area because of the immediate application it can find in industry. For example, if you take biotech, we may not be too far back.

KD: Pure sciences are equally important. The number of students doing science, maths should increase. Everybody's first preference is engineering today. We need to create a balance between that and pure science.

NRN: Mathematics is one area where you don't need very heavy investment in terms of infrastructure. All of it is in the mind. But what you need is people who will challenge your ideas. We have to ask a question, 'Why are we not succeeding at least in mathematics?' Because there is no issue with budgets, approvals etc here.

Why are we not succeeding in maths?

NRN: Many reasons. Those who reach a certain level of excellence go abroad. Solution is not to stop them but to create an environment where they can succeed here. That's where we need to conduct a few experiments. Like we have created the IITs, IIMs, we need to create a few institutes of mathematics. Incentivise them by giving Rs 5/10 lakh for every world class paper they publish. **Will you increase the prize money?**

NRN: We are getting some investment experts to see if we can get better returns. We could give higher prize amounts like Nobel has over the years. And expand it to new areas.

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Battery to get smaller than a grain of sand

Washington: American scientists are on track to develop the world's smallest lithium-ion batteries which they say could be small enough to pour out of a saltshaker.

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, who are developing the next generation batteries said these tiny energy storage devices would be no bigger than a grain of sand.

These batteries could be used to power the electronics and mechanical components of tiny micro- to nanoscale devices, said the researchers.

To reach this goal, Jane Chang and colleagues are coating well-ordered micropillars or nano-wires — fabricated to maximise the surface-to-volume ratio, and thus the potential energy density — with electrolyte, the conductive material that allows current to flow. ¶¶

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 26, 2010; Section: Times Business; Page: 24;

Yale invites India Inc mentors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: After sourcing case studies on Indian business successes, Yale University is now looking to rope in Indian industry honchos for possible lecturing assignments. A delegation from Yale University is currently in Mumbai to expand the number of Indian experts who could travel to New Haven to spend a semester at the Ivy League institution as well as meet its alumni and



Yale University president Richard Levin presents 'The Legend in Leadership Award' to Ratan Tata in Mumbai on Monday

potential donors. Yale University, which has well-known economist Rakesh Mohan at the Jackson Institute of Global Affairs and Rajendra Pachauri of Teri heading the university's climate and energy institute, feels that Indian leadership has lot to offer to its students hailing from 120 countries.

In fact, while India has for long been seen as a young country with its students wanting to sign up for an education at the top American

University, Yale president Richard Levin, told TOI that the country must now look at allowing the private sector to build institutions that will promote excellence.

Government funding will be biased towards access and there will be great tension between access and excellence." Levin is the longest serving president of the Ivy League institution and his itinerary includes conferring the "Legend in Leadership award" to Ratan Tata.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 26, 2010; Section: Times Business; Page: 24;

Enabling micropayments using cell

Ashok Jhunjhunwala

India has largely been a cash economy. Credit cards are still used by a small fraction of Indians. Debit cards are much larger in number, but used primarily to withdraw cash from ATMs. Cheque payments do exist, but largely in the corporate sector and for some bill payments. Internet payments are yet to take off.

It is in this scenario that the launching of mobile banking and payments has the potential of transforming India's cash economy. Firstly, it is aimed at micropayments; even payments of Rs 50 can be made easily. Secondly, a majority of Indians today own a mobile phone, and in the near future, it is likely that most Indian families would own a mobile phone. The micropayments are envisaged as mobile-to-mobile payments. All one needs to know is the mobile number and the Mobile Money ID (MMID) of the payee and the money can be transferred from the payer's bank account to that of the payee in an instant.

Thirdly, the payer and the payee need not be in the same place; in fact the payment can be carried out between any two people present in

any two parts of the country.

How does this work? A person with a bank account in virtually any bank can register for the mobile banking service and provide her mobile phone number to her bank. The bank would enable downloading of an application on her phone and provide her an MMID. She also has to choose a password (similar to ATM PIN) to use the service. Now, she can operate her bank account completely through her phone. Most banks would allow her to check her balance, view past transactions, make bill payments and now the person-to-person payments.

To make a payment to any person (having a similar facility), all she would have to do is use the mobile application to log in using her password, enter the payee's mobile number and MMID, and the amount to be transferred. The money would be instantly transferred from her account to the payee's account. Both she as well as the payee will get messages on their phones. She does not even need to know the bank's name and the bank account number of the payee. Soon one may see mobile phone application where the MMID is integrated with the address book of the phone and she would not even have to type the payee's mobile phone number and the MMID to make payment to a person in her address book.

In the not too distant future, one could envisage that

Electronic micropayments through mobiles is on the verge of becoming a reality in India, making a difference to the economy as well as to the lives of people

a taxi or an auto would have their mobile phone number and MMID written (painted) on their vehicles and she could pay the fare through her mobile phone, avoiding any cash. Similarly, small and large shops would have their mobile phone number and MMID displayed and she could make mobile payment. It will be great to see the day when vegetable vendors can be paid in this manner.

This has become possible due to the efforts of the Mobile Payment Forum of India (MPFI), formed at the initiative of RTBI (Rural Technology and Business Incubator) at IIT Madras and IDRBT (Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology), Hyderabad.

Most banks, mobile service operators and technology providers have joined the forum to make this dream come true. MPFI members defined the technology required and the standards needed for all the interfaces. MPFI then worked with the RBI to get the regulations in

place for banks to launch the mobile banking service for its customers.

MPFI then took up the task of defining interoperability standards so that payment can be made across banks and that too using only the mobile phone number.

It came up with the concept of MMID, which serves three purposes: MMID provides the parity bits so that a transaction is rejected in case a customer enters the payee's mobile number wrongly; in case a customer has multiple bank accounts mapped to her phone, the MMID would be different for each of these accounts; finally, the MMID helps in identifying the destination bank when a transaction is carried out. National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) joined the effort and commissioned a switch to carry out transactions and settlement between banks. The ecosystem was ready.

Six MPFI members — State bank of India, ICICI Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, Yes Bank and Axis Bank — have started providing the service and HDFC is carrying out tests. Other banks are likely to join soon. Electronic micropayments through mobiles is on the verge of becoming a reality in India, making a difference to the economy as well as to the lives of people.

The author is chairman, Mobile Payment Forum of India and a professor at IIT Madras



Times of India ND 26/10/2010 p-2

VC strikes back, tells UGC to hold teachers' salary grants

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

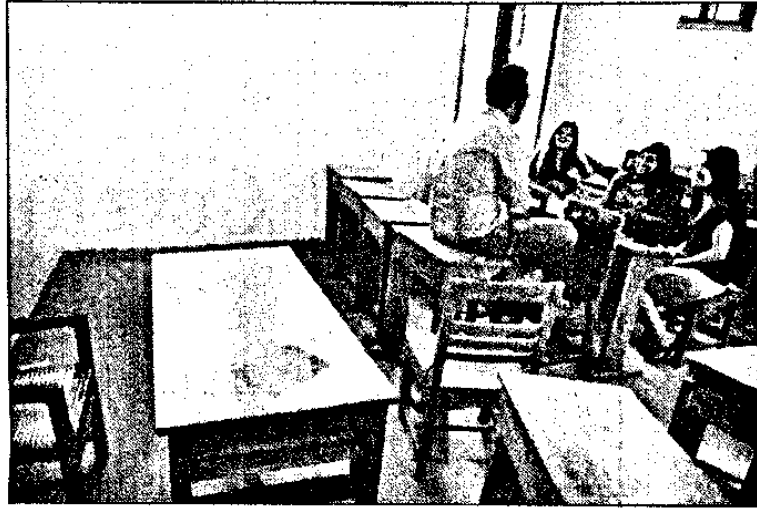
Anindya Chattopadhyay

New Delhi: Three months into the new session and classes have still not regularized in Delhi University. Most teachers went on a strike yet again from Monday to protest against the implementation of semesters in 13 undergraduate courses. With the conflict failing to end, DU vice-chancellor, professor Deepak Pental, has now put the ball in the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s court.

Even as the teachers stayed away from classrooms, Pental wrote to the UGC on Monday to take an action in the matter. He said that the UGC should now either ask the university to stop all 'reforms' or deduct the grants given to the colleges for teachers' salaries in accordance with the 'No Work, No Pay' principle. "I am now keeping the MHRD and UGC informed. Why should the teachers be paid if they do not work. This matter has gone too far. The UGC will have to decide now," said Pental while addressing probably his last press conference in office before a new VC is appointed.

Pental has stated in his letter that 16 days of work had been lost during earlier strikes and protests and that the teachers should not be paid if they do not withdraw their ongoing strike. Pental mentioned the names of 11 colleges where semesters had not been implemented and teaching was severely affected due to strikes. These colleges included Kirori Mal College, Ramjas College, Daulat Ram College and Sri Aurobindo College. "I appeal to the teachers not to strike and go back to teach so that we do not lose any more time. Who will be responsible if the exams are postponed resulting in the delay of results?" Pental said.

However, the VC made it clear that students should start prepar-



TIME TO STUDY: Pental said students should start preparing for the exams scheduled for Dec 6 despite teachers telling them otherwise

ing for the exams scheduled for December 6 despite teachers telling them otherwise. "The university holds the exams not the colleges. No college is allowed to conduct its own exams. If teachers have some suggestions for changes or improvements in the

new curriculum, all doors are open for them. But students should not suffer," Pental said.

Meanwhile, teachers sat on a dharna on the campus earlier in the day not caring two hoots about the 'No Work, No Pay' mis- sive. "It was a crucial day for us as we thought that the warning of a pay cut may put pressure on teachers. But they all came out in support and kept away from classes. Only the ad hoc teachers took classes," said a teacher from a North Campus college who did not wish to be named.

Some teachers, however, went ahead and held classes 'unofficially.' A student from Hans Raj College said, "Our teacher told us that he would teach us every day but not mark our attendance."

While students cribbed about loss of teaching, some teachers assured that they would be available to take classes during winter vacations in the last week of December. Vikas Verma, secretary, Ramjas Staff Council, said, "We are thinking of holding classes in December. We do not want our students to suffer."

TALKING TOUGH



"I am now keeping the MHRD and UGC informed. Why should the teachers be paid if they do not work? This matter has gone too far. The UGC will have to decide the matter now"

Deepak Pental | VC, DU

toireporter@timesgroup.com

Tainted IIT prof Ghosh suspended

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Prof A K Ghosh, former head of department of aerospace engineering in IIT-Kharagpur, has been suspended, pending inquiry against him for running a fake institute from the campus and even doling out degrees.

Highly placed sources in IIT-Kharagpur confirmed his suspension. There are also allegations that as the Chief Vigilance Officer and JEE chairman, Kharagpur, he ordered shredding of the JEE papers of 2006 after complaints of various irregularities surfaced against him.

The allegation of discrepancy in JEE is already being heard by the Supreme Court after the report appeared in TOI last week.

Times of India ND 26/10/2010 p-4

Stress high but manageable: Experts

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: Despite his far from normal existence, 18-year-old Karandeep Singh Arora had a promising life. As it was cut short on Monday, people who knew him refused to believe his condition could be the only reason that forced his parents to take such an extreme step. He may have been a spastic child with poor sight but was happy in life. Experts say though the stress and challenges faced by parents in bringing up such a child may be immense, it can't drive them to death.

"Karandeep was a happy child. We are all very shocked. He belonged to a good family and had really smart parents who were always concerned about his improvement. They never expressed any problem to the school," said Ritu Juneja, director, Tamanna School. The boy was found dead in his room on Monday morning while his parents' bodies were later discovered on railway tracks. They both had written individual suicide notes which did not mention any specific reason behind their decision.

Though the police are exploring if they failed to cope up with the boy's upbringing, experts say there must be some-

thing more to it. Juneja said, "It is initially difficult for parents to look after the child after he or she is diagnosed with a problem. But they admit their children to a school like ours only when they have accepted their child's condition and wants him to improve. There is always

Neelabh



a hope." She added that Karandeep would have done really well in life as he was good in studies. He was also well-spoken and fluent in English. "He was supposed to comper our fashion show to be held in November," Juneja added.

Those who face these challenges every day, feel that usually the mother has to take the responsibility of fulfilling every need of a special child. Mothers do get depressed and frustrated as they spend more time handling the child than a father. "But even that can't lead parents to kill themselves. Every spastic child has a different problem. Some children are really active, others take time to pick up things. Taking care of a spastic girl is more challenging than looking after a boy with same set of problems," said Roma Sahni, who trains special children in dance, music and sports in her club called Freesia.

She added, "Bringing up a special child is also financially stressful as the kind of schooling required doesn't come easy. All private facilities and therapies cost lot of money. May be that was one of the concerns of the parents of the boy."

Doctors suggest if parents feel they are unable to take care of their child alone, they should try to get support from different agencies instead of panicking. Child psychiatrist, Dr Achal Bhagat, said, "Though there is a lack of resources in the city, they should seek out support systems like Tamanna School or AADI."

Times of India ND 26/10/2010 p-17

'Blood group decides pregnancy chances'

Women With Type O Blood Have Difficulty Conceiving Because Of High FSH Levels, Say Experts

London: A woman's blood type could affect her fertility and influence her chances of becoming a mother, say researchers.

A new study has found that women with blood type O may find it harder to get pregnant as they have fewer eggs and eggs of poorer quality. However, women with blood group A seem to have better fertility prospects.

For the study, the researchers from Yale University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York tested 560 women, with an average age of 35, who were all undergoing fertility treatment.

They took blood samples from the women to measure levels of follicle stimulating hormone, a well known marker of fertility. FSH levels greater than 10 suggest a woman will have more difficulty conceiving.

A high FSH level indicates a

diminished ovarian reserve, which refers to both the quality and quantity of eggs available.

The study found that women who were blood type O were twice as likely to have an FSH level greater than 10 than those in any other blood group. Some 44% of the British population are blood group O, the media in UK reported.

Lead researcher Edward Nejets said: "In both groups of women that were seeking fertility treatment, those with blood type O were twice as likely to have an FSH level over 10 than those with blood types other than O."

"We found that women with A and AB — women with the A blood group gene — were protected from this effect of diminished ovarian reserve.

"From the population we studied, and the fact it was two

different centres and there was a good mix of patients ethnically and racially, we can say that blood type O was associated with an FSH level greater than 10 in women seeking infertility evaluation and/or treatment.

"Patients with blood type O seeking infertility evaluation at these centres have a higher likelihood to be diagnosed with elevated FSH and hence manifest diminished ovarian reserve."

The research did not quantify how much more difficult women with blood type O could find it to conceive.

People with blood group A carry the A antigen, which is a protein on the surface of the cell, but this is absent in people with O type.

Susan Seenan, of Infertility Network UK, welcomed the study. "Anything which might help couples avoid having to

have fertility treatment has got to be good news," the Telegraph quoted her as saying. "If couples know that there is a possibility that they might have a fertility problem then perhaps they can address that earlier."

However, she cautioned that it was "early days" for the research and said more studies should be done before advising blood group O women to try for a baby earlier.

Tony Rutherford, chairman of the British Fertility Society, described the research as "interesting" in that it showed "a potential link" between blood type and fertility. But he too said a larger study needed to be carried out among the general population — not just those who had gone for help with fertility problems.

"We need to look at a prospective group of women to see



RUNS IN HER VEINS: Women with blood group A seem to have better fertility prospects, say researchers

if blood group affects your chance of getting pregnant," he said. He also said the link between blood group and other hormones that were better predictors of fertility needed to be examined. Age is the most im-

portant determinant of ovarian reserve, which tends to start dropping in the early 30s and then accelerate in the late 30s and 40s. Being obese is also known to affect the number and quality of eggs. AGENCIES

Times of India ND 26/10/2010 p-11

'Hope Infosys Prize winners get Nobel'

Murthy: Aim Is To Enthuse Young Minds

Asha Rai | TNN

Bangalore: The Infosys Prize, which carries the largest purse (Rs 50 lakh per winner) in India for scientific research, aims to evangelize the pursuit of pure science and humanities amongst Indian youth. It was set up with an endowment of Rs 100 crore.

Infosys chairman N R Narayana Murthy (NRN), CEO Kris Gopalakrishnan (Kris) and director K Dinesh (KD), trustees of the ISF, spoke to ToI on the goals of ISF and the challenges of pursuing research as a career in India.

What's the long term aim of Infosys Prize? To get a Nobel prize for India?

NRN: If we can get youngsters enthused to pursue world class excellence in science, in technology, social sciences, I think that will be fine. Ideally if enough number of youngsters want to pursue science, engineering & world class research in social sciences, then the country will automatically make progress. **Kris:** The idea is to make sure that it creates the requisite encouragement, and inspiration, that it rises in stature by the awardees doing wonderful things in the future. I hope some of them become Nobel laureates in the future.

A reason youngsters don't opt for a career in pure sciences or humanities is because there's no money in it. How do you change that? **NRN:** That's exactly the problem. If there are a hundred companies like Infosys which come out with such mechanisms (annual prizes), then automatically there is money. **Why do you think scientific research is in such bad shape in this country?**

Kris: I don't think it's about the individual. Because when the same individual goes abroad, he does very well. It's the system. The entire field of education is controlled by the government. There are hierarchies of control. Multiple bodies control institutions. Then there's the strict hier-



THE AWARDEES

● **Mathematical Sciences** — Professor Chandrashekhar Khare, mathematics department, University of California, Los Angeles

● **Physical Sciences** — Professor Sandip Trivedi, theoretical physics department, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai

● **Engineering and Computer Science** — Professor Ashutosh Sharma, chemical engineering department, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur

● **Life Sciences** — Dr Cheta E Chitnis, principal leader, Malaria Group, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi

● **Social Anthropology** — Professor Nandini Sundar, sociology department, Delhi School of Economics (DSE)

archy of the profession itself. Over the years, incentives haven't kept pace with the market. What happens is that everybody is equated with someone else in the government. That sets the bar for the scientists. You are equated with somebody else who is not in the same field. This is one reason for the stagnation. Also, for many years we got isolated from the rest of the world in terms of ability to travel, the money for it etc. These issues were there till 15 years ago. It set us back by a couple of generations. Now things are changing.

Do you think we have been able to retain the talent in the last decade or so?

Kris: I think it will happen

over time and not overnight. I am not worried about it too much because many are returning. Dr Mashlekar (former CSIR chief) was saying that he recently addressed a set of researchers at Harvard and these guys want to come back. Also, given India's size and people, there are enough who stay back.

Is there any sector in which we have a natural advantage, like say mathematics, on which we could focus to produce world class researchers?

Kris: Applied research is probably one area because of the immediate application it can find in industry. For example, if you take biotech, we may not be too far back.

KD: Pure sciences are equally important. The number of students doing science, maths should increase. Everybody's first preference is engineering today. We need to create a balance between that and pure science.

NRN: Mathematics is one area where you don't need very heavy investment in terms of infrastructure. All of it is in the mind. But what you need is people who will challenge your ideas. We have to ask a question, 'Why are we not succeeding at least in mathematics?' Because there is no issue with budgets, approvals etc here.

Why are we not succeeding in maths?

NRN: Many reasons. Those who reach a certain level of excellence go abroad. Solution is not to stop them but to create an environment where they can succeed here. That's where we need to conduct a few experiments. Like we have created the IITs, IIMs, we need to create a few institutes of mathematics. Incentivise them by giving Rs 5/10 lakh for every world class paper they publish. **Will you increase the prize money?**

NRN: We are getting some investment experts to see if we can get better returns. We could give higher prize amounts like Nobel has over the years. And expand it to new areas.

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पांच साल में एमएससी-पीएचडी

सबसे कम अवधि का कोर्स अकादमी अगले महीने से शुरू हो सकती है

विशेष संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली

वैज्ञानिक एवं औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद (सीएसआईआर) के विश्वविद्यालय में साइंस में पीएचडी करने वाले छात्रों को सबसे कम समय में पीएचडी करने का मौका मिलेगा। दूसरे, उन्हें पीएचडी के लिए अलग से आवेदन नहीं करना पड़ेगा बल्कि बीएससी करने के बाद सीधे वे एमएससी-पीएचडी कोर्स में एडमिशन लेंगे। पांच साल का एमएससी-पीएचडी एकीकृत कोर्स शुरू करने वाला सीएसआईआर देश का पहला साइंस विवि होगा।

एकेडमी ऑफ साइंटिफिक एंड

हिन्दुस्तान

एक्सप्लेसिव

लगे हाथ डॉक्टर

- देश में प्रतिवर्ष करीब 7.5 हजार पीएचडी हो रही हैं जबकि चीन में 23-24 हजार
- साइंस पीएचडी कम होने के कारण आईआईटी समेत तकनीकी संस्थानों में फैकल्टी के 35 फीसदी तक पद रिक्त पड़े हैं। अधिक से अधिक साइंस पीएचडी करवाना सरकार की उच्च प्राथमिकता

इनोवेटिव रिसर्च (एसीएसआईआर) की तैयारियां इन दिनों तेजी पर चल रही हैं।

सीएसआईआर के महानिदेशक समीर के. ब्रह्मचारी के अनुसार अकादमी का लक्ष्य साइंस में प्रतिवर्ष एक हजार और इंजीनियरिंग में 200 पीएचडी एडमिशन देने का है। इसी साल पहले बैच से ही 1200 पीएचडी रजिस्ट्रेशन किए जाएंगे। इंजीनियरिंग के पांच साला पीएचडी कोर्स का नाम होगा एमटेक-पीएचडी।

अभी एमएससी करने के बाद पीएचडी करने के लिए नौजवानों को काफी धक्के खाने पड़ते हैं तथा कई बार रजिस्ट्रेशन आदि की प्रक्रिया में साल बर्बाद हो जाता है। फिर एमएससी के बाद पीएचडी करने में चार-पांच साल लग जाते हैं। इसलिए सीएसआईआर अकादमी एमएससी-पीएचडी एकीकृत कोर्स प्रस्तुत करेगी जो पांच साल में पीएचडी पूरी कराएगी।



**Virat Vaibhav,
ND 26-Oct-10
p-5**

आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों का 29 को सम्मेलन

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान के पूर्ववर्ती छात्र 29 अक्टूबर को यहां छठे पैन-आईआईटी सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेने के लिए जुटेंगे। इसका उद्घाटन राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा पाटिल करेंगी। सम्मेलन के अध्यक्ष अरूण सेठ ने कहा कि आईआईटी का यह तीन दिवसीय कार्यक्रम अब तक का सबसे बड़ा सम्मेलन होगा। इसमें उभरते हुए 'नए भारत' की जरूरतों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाएगा। आईआईटी की यह सालाना वैश्विक सभा 2002 में शुरू हुई थी। इसका आयोजन एक वर्ष भारत में और अगले साल अमेरिका में किया जाता है। तीन दिवसीय सम्मेलन को भूटान के प्रधानमंत्री लियोनचेन जिग्मे योसर थिनले, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल, यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ इंडिया के अध्यक्ष नंदन नीलेकणी, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण, नवीन एवं अक्षय ऊर्जा मंत्री फारूक अब्दुल्ला आदि उपस्थित होंगे। ■

आईआईटी कॉन्क्लेव 29 से शुरू

शाह टाइम्स संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली। देशभर में कार्यरत भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के पूर्व छात्रों के सामूहिक संगठन पैन आईआईटी ने छठे पैन आईआईटी कॉन्क्लेव- 2010 का नई दिल्ली में 29-31 अक्टूबर के दौरान आयोजन करने की घोषणा की है।

इस सम्मेलन में राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा देवी सिंह पाटिल के अलावा अन्य वक्ताओं में शशीला दीक्षित, मुख्यमंत्री दिल्ली सरकार, पृथ्वी राज चवहान, मंत्री विज्ञान एवं टेक्नॉलोजी जैफ्री डी सैकस निदेशक द.अर्थ इंस्टीट्यूट कोलंबिया यूनिवर्सिटी बी एम व्यास, पूर्व प्रबंध निदेशक गुजरात कोपरेटिव मिल्क मार्केटिंग फेडरेशन (जीसीएमएमएफ) प्रोफेसर वी एन राजशेखरन पिल्लै, वाइस चांसलर इग्नू कपि सिब्बल, केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय कार्ल बास अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी ऑटोडेस्क इंक, अरुण मजूमदार निदेशक एडवांस्ड रिसर्च प्रोजेक्ट्स एजेंसी आदि शामिल हैं।