

Newspaper Clips Sept. 8, 2015

Times of India ND 08.09.2015 P-1

2 IIT profs held for Tehri bridge collapse in 2012 that killed 8

Kautilya.Singh@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: Two IIT Roorkee (IIT-R) professors, who were involved in the designing and proof-checking of a bridge in Tehri that killed 8 people as it collapsed in 2012, have been charged with culpable homicide and sent to jail.

Vipul Prakash and Vijay Kumar Gupta, both professors at the civil engineering department of IIT-Roorkee, have been held responsible for the collapse of the under-construction bridge over Alaknanda at Chauras in Uttarakhand's Kirtinagar area. Among the eight who died was also an engineer.

In a late Sunday night swoop, cops picked them up from their respective residences and took them to Tehri where a court sent them to 10 days in judicial custody.

Following the accident three years ago, a case under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and section 34 (acts done by several persons in further-

10 DAYS' CUSTODY

▶ Vipul Prakash, professor at IIT-Roorkee civil engineering dept, designed bridge over Alaknanda; **his colleague** Vijay Kumar Gupta **proof-checked it**

▶ **One engineer was among those killed** when the under-construction bridge in Uttarakhand collapsed

▶ Both charged with culpable homicide, sent to judicial custody for 10 days; **case lodged against 3 firms & PWD**

ance of common intention) had been registered against unidentified persons, three construction companies and also the Public Works Department (PWD).

Giving momentum to the probe, the police brass on January 1, 2015 formed a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by additional SP Mamta Vohra to conduct a thorough enquiry in the matter.

▶ **Action against more? P 17**

More may face action for collapse of bridge: Cops

▶ **Continued from P 1**

Director General of Police BS Sidhu told **TOI** on Monday, "It was found that Prakash had prepared the design and Gupta had proof-checked it. The two were arrested and produced before Tehri court, which sent them to jail for 10 days."

On the basis of the findings of the investigation, owners of two construction companies, Mohan Lal Sharma and Bhagat Ram Kothari, had been arrested last week by the SIT.

Giving further information, additional SP Mamta Vohra said, "The project, initially worth about Rs 12 crore, was started in 2006 and the Public Works Department (PWD) tender went to a private firm which could not complete it. Thereafter, it went to two other agencies and the project cost escalated to Rs 17 crore."

Vohra pointed out that till date four persons have been arrested in the matter. She did not rule out the possibility of action against others too. "We are still working on the case and the required action is being taken as per the findings," she added.

Nai Duniya ND 08.09.2015 P-14

आईआईटी रुड़की के दो प्रोफेसर जेल भेजे गए

टिहरी (ब्यूरो)। अलकनंदा नदी पर निर्माणाधीन पुल गिरने के मामले में रविवार रात गिरफ्तार किए गए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) रुड़की के दो प्रोफेसरों को सोमवार को अदालत में पेश किया गया। अदालत ने दोनों को 10 दिन की न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया है।

जांच अधिकारी अपर पुलिस अधीक्षक ममता वोरा ने बताया कि सिविल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के इन प्रोफेसरों ने ही पुल का डिजाइन तैयार किया था और दोनों के खिलाफ कीर्तिनगर कोतवाली में गैर इरादतन हत्या का मुकदमा दर्ज कराया गया था।

मार्च, 2012 में पुल गिरने से एक अवर अभियंता समेत आठ लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। इस मामले में पुलिस बीते गुरुवार को पुल निर्माण में शामिल दो कंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी के मालिकों को भी गिरफ्तार कर चुकी है। पुलिस के

■ कोर्ट में पेश नहीं होने पर जारी हुआ था गैर जमानती वारंट

अनुसार अदालत में पेश न होने पर दोनों प्रोफेसरों के खिलाफ गैर जमानती वारंट जारी किए गए थे। इस पर टिहरी पुलिस ने स्थानीय पुलिस की मदद से आईआईटी रुड़की के प्रोफेसर विपुल प्रकाश एवं विजय कुमार गुप्ता को उनके हिल ब्यू अपार्टमेंट स्थित आवास से गिरफ्तार किया।

सोमवार को पुलिस ने मेडिकल कराने के बाद उन्हें न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट रश्मि गोयल की अदालत में पेश किया। बाद में पुलिस उन्हें नई टिहरी जिला जेल ले गई। आईआईटी के प्रोफेसरों ने फैकल्टी फोरम को पत्र लिख कर गिरफ्तार साथियों को सहयोग करने का अनुरोध किया है।

Mysuru Loses Out to Dharwad in Race for IIT?

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/Mysuru-Loses-Out-to-Dharwad-in-Race-for-IIT/2015/09/08/article3016273.ece>

MYSURU: After Smart City, Mysuru seems to have lost the race for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Highly placed sources said Dharwad is likely to get the first IIT in the state and it is just an announcement away.

What can tilt the scales in favour of the North-Karnataka city is lobbying by political heavyweights like Union Minister Ananth Kumar, opposition leader in legislative assembly Jagadish Shettar and MP and state BJP president Prahlad Joshi.

Highly placed sources said though Mysuru is technically more competent, Dharwad could clinch it for political reasons. Though local MP Pratap Simha tried hard, he was no match to the Dharwad men, they said.

Sources said the inspection of three places - Mysuru, Dharwad and Raichur - by the IIT site selection committee was just a formality and an eye-wash and it was decided in advance that Dharwad should get it. Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani had clearly told the team about her selection, they added.

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner C Shikha had made a strong pitch for IIT before the committee by making a well researched presentation and had highlighted some of the factors that Mysuru could offer that the other two places could not.

An official who was present during the Site Selection Team's visit to Mysuru said they had a clue about the team not being very serious because of a few 'unnecessary' questions they raised.

"They asked whether the high rises that the campus would require will be allowed to come up as it is just six kms away from the airport. To this, the officials had said Chamundi Hills was 10 kms away and hence it would not be a problem. They also implied that the industrial area being so close is not good. But surprisingly the place identified in Dharwad, falls in the KIADB area on Belagavi Road, and is located around 40 km from the Hubballi Airport," the official added.

Hindustan Times ND 08/09/2015 P-13

'Space science, good governance linked'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed on the maximum use of space technology for good governance.

He was speaking at a special session of a day-long national meet that provided an opportunity for interaction amongst ministries/departments and state governments towards enhanced utilisation of space technology in governance and development.

"The role of space science is important in achieving good governance and the country's youth should be involved to get innovative ideas. Space science has an important role in achieving good governance," he said.

The basic objective of the meet included harnessing the benefits of space technology in planning and development proc-

ess, preserving eco-system, better managing and conserving the country's natural resources, and improving disaster management support through synergy of remote sensing, communication and navigation-based solutions.

Emphasising the need of using space technology, Modi said, "The technology should be utilised for the benefit of the common man. Technology is a driving force with huge impact."

The PM asked all departments to form a single cell for technology, where the youth with scientific temper can work for its promotion. "Capacity building can be done through human resource development, for which Isro can work in coordination the with HRD ministry and state governments," he said. **HTC**

Some start-ups are changing education as we know it

Using disruptive innovation and the digital drive, these young companies are working on making India's education system more robust

KUMAR AKASH
New Delhi, 7 September

On Saturday, when India was celebrating Teachers' Day, the birth anniversary of academician, philosopher and the country's second President, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, some start-ups somewhere in India were quietly working on transforming the education landscape through use of technology.

Even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently spoke of digital literacy to drive both economic growth and social development, under the government's ambitious 'Digital India' programme, the effective use of technology remains below par at present. The promise technology holds — for the country in general and the education sector in particular — remains to be milked.

The spread of digital technologies, as well as advances in energy and genomics, could raise the productivity of businesses and agriculture, and redefine services like education and health care for a million of Indians.

According to a McKinsey Global Institute report identifying a dozen technologies — from mobile internet to cloud computing and advanced genomics — the newer digital tools could have a combined global economic impact of \$550 billion to \$1 trillion a year by 2025. Also, an article in *The Economist* says: "India possesses untold promise as its people are entrepreneurial and roughly half of the 1.25-billion population is under 25 years old."

Start-ups in e-learning

Business Standard looks at some of the start-ups that are working to add horse-power to digitisation of India's education system, especially school learning.

Eckovation

A mobile-based social learning platform co-founded by two Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi graduates Ritesh Singh and Akshat Goel last year, this start-up is building a full-blown school management system. To address the common challenge of effective communication among parents, students and teachers across metros and Tier-II and -III cities, the app uses technology to bridge the gap and run a feedback and conversation channel. The application is flexible and allows users to create extensions and expand network quickly. According



Eckovation

App will address the common challenge of effective communication among parents, students and teachers across metros and Tier-II and -III cities

Flygrades

Online learning helps understand complex concepts of mathematics through interactive games and there are real prizes for clearing various stages in the process

SWI

Non-profit educational organisation uses multiple media avenues to engage and entertain children (aged up to eight years) with lessons about letters and numbers

to *Inc42* magazine, Eckovation was one of the top-five start-ups in North India in 2014.

Asked about Eckovation's goals, CEO Ritesh Singh said: "We aim to connect two of the foremost institutions — home and school — in a simple but effective way, through use of technology."

On the concept of mobile-based learning platforms for education, Singh said the rapid increase in mobile penetration in India meant it was time to use telecom as an enabler for imparting education and addressing some of the issues affecting the traditional education system.

According to a recent report by the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), close to

220 million Indians have access to mobile internet at present, and the number is growing at a rapid clip. It is estimated to reach 236 million by 2016 and 314 million the next year.

Rajeev Tyagi, senior vice-principal of Delhi's Mount Carmel School, Dwarka, which uses the Eckovation app, said: "There is a need for schools to have effective technology for bridging the gap between home and school. Eckovation is providing that much-needed platform."

According to Sharon Galstaun, academic head of St Karen's High School, Patna, the Eckovation app provides a platform to also showcase and share the talent of innovative and creative teachers. "It has successfully ignited the spirit of competition among them; we continue to be inspired and challenged by each other."

Flygrades

Offering an effective and seamless

solution to connect parents with children, even as they practise mathematics together, this application is making study fun for schoolchildren. Co-founded by Paritosh Gunjan, a young entrepreneur who has loved mathematics from his early days, Flygrades helps understand complex concepts of mathematics through interactive games — and there are real prizes for clearing various stages in the process.

Asked about application of analytics in school education, especially for mathematics, Gunjan said: "You can personalise the learning experience of students, in sync with their abilities and interests. If you offer something of their interest — or educational lessons in a way that interests them — it will definitely increase their chances of performing to their full potential."

Speaking on the challenges in the way of digital education, Gunjan quoted a recent McKinsey report to say only 63 per cent of students in India reached the secondary level, and only 36 per cent completed upper secondary from the primary school enrolment.

"High dropout rates due to poor quality of education are caused by factors like inadequate training for teachers. Students who do progress to upper grades often perform unfavourably when compared with those elsewhere in the world. India ranks 72nd among 73 nations in the Programme for International Student Assessment examination of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development," he said.

On the role of start-ups in digital education, the Flygrades co-founder said: "As entrepreneurs, common people like us could change the scenario by bridging the gap with tech-

nology. For that, we are looking forward to support from the government, especially through programmes like 'Digital India'.

Sesame Workshop in India (SWI)

A non-profit educational organisation for children, SWI is helping expand the reach of quality education across India.

According to the organisation, more than 90 million children aged up to eight years in India do not have access to quality education. While enrolment in primary schools is almost universal, a recent survey shows that almost 20 per cent children aged six to eight years cannot read letters or words and are unable to recognise numbers. A strong advocate of literacy as a basic human right, because it is the fundamental building block for learning and personal empowerment, SWI is running several interesting programmes to further the cause of education among India's school children.

Among those, 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', a television programme, is a multi-platform initiative by SWI that engages and entertains young children (aged up to eight years) with lessons not just about letters and numbers but also on important life skills through Muppets and the power of media. SWI's flagship television series, *Galli Galli Sim Sim* has been watched by more than 100 million children since its debut in 2006, and its educational messages have been extended through community radio stations, extensive community outreach, and applications on new and emerging media.

Digital platforms for effective education

According to Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2013, reading and numeracy skills have declined in the past six years among children aged 5-16 years in India's rural schools. Leveraging digital technology can be a significant opportunity to address this learning shortfall. E-learning could be the key to addressing the education challenges in the country today.

A McKinsey report on education and skills says blending learning with MOOCs (massive open online courses) can bring high-quality courses to students, and learning simulations can boost hands-on training in nursing and other disciplines. India could have about 24 million more high-school and college-educated workers and 18 million to 33 million more vocationally trained workers by 2025, as a result of digitisation in the education sector.

Hindustan ND 08/09/2015 P-4

आईआईटी रुड़की का छात्र लापता

नई दिल्ली/रुड़की। आईआईटी रुड़की से बीटेक कर रहा दिल्ली निवासी छात्र संदिग्ध हालात में लापता हो गया है। पुलिस को उसका एक सुसाइड नोट मिला है। उसमें छात्र ने 'मैं दुनिया के लिए फिट नहीं हूँ' लिखा है। पुलिस ने इस संबंध में गुमशुदगी दर्ज कर ली है।

पुलिस के अनुसार, अशोक कुमार मीणा रुड़की आईआईटी से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एंड कम्प्यूनिकेशन से बीटेक कर रहा है। वह आईआईटी के हॉस्टल गोविंद भवन में रह रहा था। अशोक का परिवार पी-13, साउथ एक्सटेंशन, पार्ट-2 नई दिल्ली में रहता है।

छात्र रविवार की सुबह दस बजे से आईआईटी परिसर से लापता हुआ है। सीसीटीवी कैमरे की फुटेज में वह आईआईटी परिसर से बाहर जाते दिखाई दिया है। छात्र के लापता होने की सूचना पर उसके परिजन रुड़की पहुंचे और आईआईटी के सुरक्षा अधिकारियों के साथ सिविल लाइंस कोतवाली पहुंचे ओए उसके लापता होने की तहरीर दी। (ह.सं.)

Look into requirements of states: Smriti to IITs, IIMs

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/bathinda/look-into-requirements-of-states-smriti-to-iits-iims/article1-1388496.aspx>

Union human resource development minister Smriti Zubin Irani has asked the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to map the requirements of the states where they exist and work for their fulfilment.

She was addressing a gathering on Monday after laying the foundation stone of Central University of Punjab (CUP) at Ghudda village near Bathinda, where 20 days ago, Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal had performed the groundbreaking ceremony. “The IIT at Rupnagar can introduce a course to serve the technological needs of Punjab’s food-processing industry, and I am hopeful it will sign an agreement with ministry of food-processing industries on this,” she said. The CM’s daughter-in-law, Harsimrat Kaur Badal is in charge of this Union ministry.

“Even the IIM in Amritsar can help Punjab in matters of farm technology, rural management, food processing etc,” she said. The new campus of the CUP would be ready in 18 months, she said.

“To ensure that students in government institutions get quality education, the Centre has introduced a programme to hire internationally acclaimed teachers for a semester and agreed to pay for it,” she said, asked CUP authorities to consult the University Grants Commission (UGC) on which international teachers to invite. She referred to free Wi-Fi given by the Centre in all central universities and asked the CUP to get it installed.

CM’s wit

Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal provided lighter moments at the ceremony when, in his speech, he described the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress as ‘shurlebaaz’ (windbags) who made irrelevant allegations. Addressing Irani, the CM said: “You promise that the central university will manage all the schools within 5 miles but I request you to make it 25 miles. Should I announce it on your behalf?” Again looking at Irani, he said: “Ho gaya ji, ho gaya ji (it’s sanctioned, it’s sanctioned).”

Seeking new projects for the state from Irani, he said: “Sanu vadda jeha to hafa davo ji (Please, give us some huge gift). Irani went up to him immediately and said it’s daughter who goes away with a gift when she comes to her father, and the CM replied: “I am ready to even give my life.” He then asked for Punjab-model meritorious schools in each block of the country to provide children from poor economic class with quality education.

Drugs: Sukhbir flays Rajasthan

Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal said on the occasion that it was unfortunate that Rajasthan had re-opened its poppy husk outlets that the Supreme Court had ordered to be closed. “In a democratic country, there can’t be two laws on the same issue. Punjab is exploring legal options,” he told reporters.

Special kitchen

The crowd was served special langar. The SGPC had sent a team over, though its members said the administration was bearing the cost.

Jobless linemen dragged out

The SAD leadership at the foundation-stone-laying venue was left embarrassed when some unemployed linemen sneaked into the gathering and raised slogans against the Punjab government as soon as deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal began his address. After a moment of shock, police dragged the protesters out of the rally venue. The embarrassment caused Sukhbir to raise his pitch to stop the gathering from being distracted. An upset senior official was heard saying: "What were the CID (criminal investigation department) people doing? How did the protesters get in?" The 13 protesters were taken to the police station.

One state, different ranks

Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and his daughter-in-law and Union minister for food processing industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal, it seemed, forgot to share notes before their speeches. While Harsimrat said Punjab has attained 1st position in education sector, the chief minister said the state after rigorous efforts has attained 3rd position in the education sector across the country and would soon be at top position.

Dancing ministers

The crowd at Dashmesh college in Badal village gave a loud cheer when HRD minister Smriti Irani and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal went to the stage to join girls performing 'giddha'. Both central ministers also performed 'kikli', a Punjabi folk dance move.