

Newspaper Clips September 18, 2010

Hindustan Times ND 18/09/2010

P1

Online CAT: Expect version 2.0 this year

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Just back home from his Common Aptitude Test coaching class, 22-year old Priyanshu Gadgil let out a tired laugh when asked about his preparations for the examination that the Indian Institutes of Management use to admit students.

"I'll be prepared in time. I just hope the CAT is prepared for us students," he said.

It will be, assert organisers of the examination, as they work overtime to ensure glitches that ravaged the first few days of the computerised CAT last year are not repeated, and to allay concerns among stakeholders.

From a 10-day testing window, test service provider Prometric has decided to conduct the CAT over 20 days — October 27 to November 24 — to allow them to use half the number of computers.

Dependent on public infrastructure — computers owned by colleges and other institutions — Prometric will also begin sanitising hardware earlier, Soumitra Roy, managing director Prometric India said.

OTHER ONLINE TESTS

GLOBAL

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT)
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

INDIAN

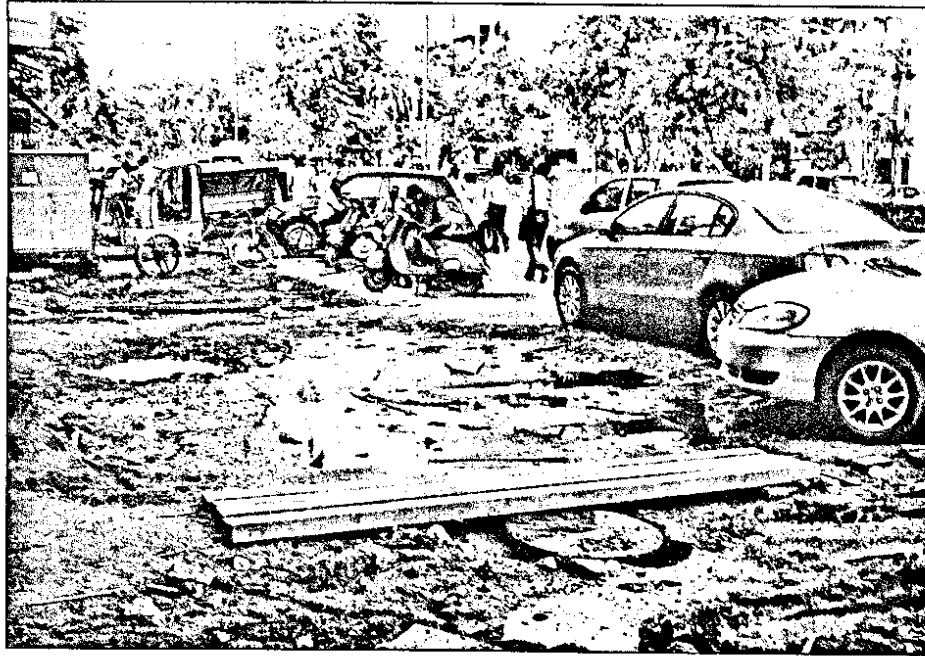
- BITS Aptitude Test (BITSAT)

To minimise the probability of a student having to return home without taking the CAT because of glitches, the organisers will ensure extra terminals at each centre where students can be shifted.

"I can assure CAT-takers that this year, everything possible will be done to ensure candidates are adjusted the same day at another terminal and do not have to return for the test another day," Roy told *HT*.

To avoid mistakes, Prometric will soon upload a practice CAT facility on the official test website — www.catiim.in.

Students can familiarise themselves with all instructions and the structure of the computerised test before actually taking the CAT, organisers said.



■ Waterlogging from sewage water at Timber Market on Bhisma Pitamah Road opposite Defence Colony in New Delhi on Friday.

ARVIND YADAV / HT PHOTO

DU colleges fined for mosquito breeding

Jaya Shroff Bhalla and
Neelam Pandey
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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has found high levels of mosquito breeding in Delhi University's North Campus colleges in the past one month.

Hansraj College — one of the host colleges where foreign delegates are expected to stay during the upcoming Games — was challaned after officials found regular instances of mosquito breeding. Several students of Kirori Mal College have also reported of dengue fever.

"We had apprised the Lieutenant Governor about the situation, calling for immediate action on the dengue situation about 15 days ago. We had also advised the vice-chancellor to appoint nodal officers in all colleges to look into the preventive measures for mosquito breeding," said Dr VK Monga, chair-

man, public health committee, MCD. "No action has been taken. On a recent recce, our officials found several pockets where mosquito breeding was taking place," he said.

VK Kawatra, principal, Hansraj College denied of being issued any challan by the MCD. "We have not got any challans. On two occasions, we had called MCD officials to carry out fogging exercise to prevent mosquito breeding on campus," said Kawatra, adding, "We have also appointed two people to regularly go around the campus and spray kerosene on all places where pools of water are seen.

Kirori Mal College Principal Bhim Sen denied any knowledge of students falling prey to dengue. "I have no information on any cases of dengue from our college. We have left the task of fogging to MCD. It is not our job to drive away mosquitoes," said Sen.

Shri Ram College of

INSTITUTES FINED

- Shivaji College
- Rajdhani College
- Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College
- Hansraj College
- Laxmi Bai College, Ashok Vihar
- Siri Fort College of Computers
- Apeejay School of Management, Dwarka
- IIT, Vivek Vihar
- Delhi Public School, Dwarka

Commerce, Hindu, Ramjas, Kirori Mal College, Hansraj College, Miranda House, St Stephens and Daulat Ram will start receiving foreign delegates from October 1 for the Games, which commence on October 3.

Meanwhile, Delhi reported 68 more cases of dengue, taking the total number of positive cases to 2, 153. So far, five people have succumbed to dengue in the Capital.

Hindustan Times ND 18/09/2010 P11

Expert slams HRD university plan

DISAGREEMENT Innovation Universities model can be misused, says professor who drafted UPA education reform

ht EXCLUSIVE

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Eminent scientist Professor Yash Pal who authored UPA's education reform blueprint has slammed the concept of Innovation Universities, arguing that the plan in its current form can "destroy" Indian higher education.

In an internal note submitted at a closed door meeting of experts called by the human resource development ministry, the former University Grants Commission chairman detailed his objections. A copy of that note has been accessed by *HT*.

"I must register that I am not in favour of the proposal, as outlined in the concept note, for the

I worry that
it (Varsity plan)
might destroy our
education completely.

YASH PAL, Scientist Professor

so-called Innovation Universities to be set up as a separate class of universities," says the note from Pal, who was picked by the PM to head a panel to propose a reform blueprint.

The Innovation Universities — first announced ironically by PM Manmohan Singh himself — are envisaged as centres of excellence that will focus on interdisciplinary research on select subjects, unencumbered by rules binding other varsities.

Under the ministry's current plan both existing institutions — like the Tata Institute of

Fundamental Research — and new institutions can earn the tag of Innovation Universities. Ministry sources countered Yash Pal's argument of a separate "class" of varsities by suggesting that any existing varsity could also aspire for the tag.

Yash Pal has also argued that the concept of the varsities drafted by the ministry can be misused. The draft for these Innovation varsities exempts them from Comptroller and Auditor General scrutiny and grants them freedom in academic and administrative matters.

"I worry that it might destroy our education completely," he has said, arguing that "second rate" institutions attracted by the possibility that no one would dictate what they teach, could consider the plan a "good business proposition."

NAGA COUNCIL THREATENS BLOCKADE

Sobhapati Samom

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

IMPHAL: The United Naga Council of Manipur threatened on Friday to turn its off and on agitation on three highways of the state into an "indefinite blockade" from Saturday morning.

"As there is no tangible response by the government of India to our prolonged grievances, the UNC is constrained to intensify its ongoing agitation into indefinite economic blockade," the organisation said in a statement on Friday.

The central and state governments have appealed to UNC to call off the blockade. Manipur Chief Secretary D.S. Poonia had said the blockade was uncalled for since the governments "are always open to a dialogue..."

The step is a resumption of the Naga unrest that started on April 11, when the All-Naga Students Association, Manipur launched its highway agitation, which ended on June 18.

Hindustan Times ND 18/09/2010 P15

Speaking the right language

The HRD ministry's decision to start teaching Mandarin in CBSE schools is a positive move

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal is clearly a follower of Confucius who once said, "If language is not correct, what is said is not meant..." Something perhaps that India and China could well do

ourtake

without. So, Mr Sibal's initiative to introduce Mandarin in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum will go a long way towards exciting interest in schools about China, still largely a mystery to most Indians who seem to identify far more with more distant lands like the US. Mr Sibal is on the right track, given that China is not just a powerful neighbour but also a huge consumer of global resources. Just about everything we take for granted is made in that country. And, definitely, language is a huge connector as we have seen in the case of English.

The average Indian connects far more with things English than anything in the neighbourhood and in this context, it would do well if Mandarin would catch on among our young people. The Chinese are already making every effort to send their young professionals to countries like India and it would make eminent sense for us to reciprocate. The fact that India has eased the cap on visas for the Chinese shows that we are keen on making it easier for us to intermingle at the professional level. India has been the beneficiary of having had English as a universal language, despite the efforts of many leaders to impose vernacular languages on us. States like West Bengal have suffered hugely because of this insular approach. It makes sense in a globalised world to enable our people to learn as many international languages as possible. The United Nations recognises several languages most of which students in India opt for. But, we have rarely looked at Asia as a potential field for acquiring either new jobs or language skills. Maybe this is what has spurred Mr Sibal to introduce Mandarin into the syllabus.

What his ministry now needs to do is to encourage more interaction at the school and university level in the form of scholarships and academic exchanges. We have perhaps been far too West-focused in our approach to education. If China reciprocates the gesture to introduce Mandarin into our school syllabus, with perhaps introducing Hindi into theirs, a foundation could be laid for not just greater interaction at the learning level but at the level of erasing misapprehensions that have plagued our relations historically. Both China and India have huge civilisational traditions that are not understood enough in each country. If the language barrier is lowered, maybe other more intractable barriers will also fall if both countries really put their minds to it.

Times of India
ND 18-Sep-10
p-1

'MBBS must clear exit test to practise'

Those intending to become doctors and treat patients may soon have to clear a common exit test after getting an MBBS degree. The Medical Council of India (MCI) has given a statutory recommendation for a mandatory exit test, which is under active consideration of the health ministry, the Supreme Court was informed on Friday.

Considering the sensitive nature of the profession, MCI has proposed a common exit examination for MBBS pass-outs, Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam told the bench. However, the apex court refused to approve the test without getting responses from state governments. **P 10**

Times of India, ND 18/09/2010 p-19

AIDS virus cure for blood disorder?

Doctors Use Defanged HIV To Treat Teen's Genetic Beta Thalassemia

London: Scientists relied on "defanged" version of HIV virus to treat a teenager with a genetic blood disorder.

The 13-year-old suffered from the inherited condition beta thalassemia and required monthly blood transfusions from the age of three. He felt ill and drained of energy because his system could not produce red blood cells due to a faulty haemoglobin gene, reports the Daily Mail.

The only known cure was stem-cell transplantation, but few patients are able to find a suitable donor. Now scientists have found a new potential cure using gene

therapy, according to Nature.

The team, led by Marina Cavazzana-Calvo of the University Paris-Descartes, extracted haematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) from the young patient's bone marrow. These are the cells that go on to produce all types of blood cell. The cells were mixed in a test tube with an engineered version of the HIV virus that carried the correct version of the haemoglobin gene.

The patient had chemotherapy to destroy his remaining stem cells and then the treated cells were injected into his system. Within a year, the teenager was able to



Doctors mixed the teen's defective stem cells with the virus having a correct version of haemoglobin gene. When injected with the mix, the teen started developing his own red blood corpuscles within a year

stop receiving blood transfusions. Although he is mildly anaemic he has remained stable for 22 months since then.

Study co-author Philippe Lebouche of the Harvard Medical School said the treatment had been "life-changing". He added, "Before this treatment, the patient had to be transfused every month. Now he has a full-time job as a cook."

This is not the first case of a modified HIV strain used to treat a genetic illness. Other French researchers had used an engineered version to cure two children with adrenoleukodystrophy. AGENCIES

Times of India, ND 18/09/2010 p-10

Post-MBBS, an exit test before docs can practise

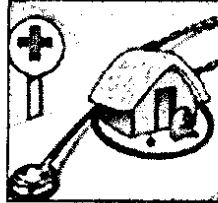
MCI Recommendation Taken Up By Health Ministry: SC Told

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Those intending to become doctors and treat patients may soon have to clear a common exit test after getting the MBBS degree from medical colleges.

The regulatory body, Medical Council of India (MCI), has given a statutory recommendation for a mandatory exit test, which is under active consideration of the health ministry, the Supreme Court was informed on Friday.

Considering the sensitive nature of the profession — dealing with life and death — and keeping in mind varying standards of education in medical colleges, MCI has proposed a common exit examination for MBBS pass-outs



The recommendation of MCI was to standardize the skills of doctors, its counsel told the apex court, supplementing arguments of the health ministry

intending to become doctors and treat patients, solicitor general Gopal Subramaniam told a bench of Justices R V Raveendran and H L Gokhale.

This recommendation of the MCI was to standardize the skills of doctors, said the regulatory body's counsel senior advocate Amarendra Saran, supplementing the arguments of the health ministry advanced through the SG.

This is in line with the decision of Bar Council of India

(BCI) making it mandatory for law graduates to clear a test to be able to practice in courts.

Importantly, both Subramaniam and MCI counsel Amarendra Saran informed the bench that very soon a notification would be issued to put in place a single window admission test for filling post-graduate course seats in all private and government medical colleges from the next academic session (2011-12).

This would ease the tension

and trouble of thousands of students competing for few PG seats, for which they have to travel to different places to appear in entrance examinations for PG courses of different colleges. Clashing of dates of examination often adds to the woes of the students. But all that will be a thing of past from next year, thanks to the common entrance test for PG seats in all private and government medical colleges.

However, the joint attempt of MCI and government to push through the common admission test for MBBS courses in private and government medical colleges did not get approval of the apex court, which said it could not do so without getting the responses of the state governments.

Times Of India ND
18/09/2010 p-2

DUTA at it again: Three-day strike

Academic Schedule Goes For Toss

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The new academic session 2010-2011 in Delhi University has been thrown off track. Though just a couple of weeks are left before the colleges close for the Commonwealth Games, teachers are still disrupting the schedule. The general body meeting organized by DU Teachers Association (DUTA) decided to continue its struggle and have another three-day strike from September 21 to 23.

It has not even been two months since the new academic session started but teachers have already been on strike for eight days and have had a week-long relay dharna, two general body meetings, four demonstrations and marches. Apart from that, the teachers dissociated themselves from the admission process before the start of the session because of which a number of colleges were not able to conduct sports admissions.

Teachers have decided to go on another three-day strike on September 21, 22, and 23. DUTA decided to continue its struggle against the semester system as well as demand the arrest of vice-

WON'T TEACH

- Strike: August 23 and 24; September 7,8,9,21,22 and 23
- GBMs: August 31 and September 17
- A week-long relay dharna in the month of September
- Seven marches and protests between July and September 17

chancellor Deepak Pental for 'selling the gamma irradiator'.

Rakesh Kumar of Kirori Mal College said, "There have hardly been any classes this session. The Commonwealth Games are approaching and in this way we will never be able to complete the syllabus. Being a fresher, I am pretty disappointed."

The colleges will close for the Games from October 1-17 and the term-end exams are going to be held from November 20 to November 29. Of the 59 days, 14 days were either Sundays or public holidays, so only 45 days of classes were left. But due to the agitation, students were not taught for even 20 days in most of the colleges.

Business Line ND 18/09/2010 p-1

India, US must set aside 20,000 work visas

We must learn to deal with large economies as equals, says Infosys HR chief

Moumita Bakshi Chatterjee
New Delhi, Sept. 17

India should start dealing with large economies as "equals" and propose a services pact with the US which allows both nations to set aside specified number of visas (say 20,000 visas) for professionals from the other side, the Infosys HR Director, Mr T.V. Mohandas Pai, said on Friday.

His comments come at a time when tempers are running high in the Indian IT fraternity over US' anti-outsourcing tirade, in-

cluding the recent visa fee hike.

"It is time India learns to deal with big countries as equals...Today, of the 65,000 H-1B visas, 6,800 are reserved for Chile and Singapore. We must tell the US Government that we want to sign a services agreement with you, where we want 20,000 H-1B visas annually for Indians to work in America, and vice versa," he said.

Incidentally, a similar concept exists in global aviation industry where an airline is allowed to operate between



Mr T.V. Mohandas Pai

select countries on the basis of air services bilaterals that are exchanged between governments. For example, the air services bilateral between India and Dubai allows the

designated airline on both sides to offer up to 50,000 seats a week in each direction.

Building a case for India, in turn, to keep aside 20,000 work permits for US citizens to come and work in the country every year, Mr Pai said, "We need American talent to come to India in sectors such as airline, IT, hospitality and construction industry. So no one (neither side) is losing jobs."

Mr Pai added there were concerns on whether the US' moves over the past few weeks will lead to protection-

ism in future. "Ohio (decision to ban offshoring of State IT contracts) is a small issue for \$60 billion industry. It is not Ohio which is a problem...It is what Ohio means and whether many other States are going to do that," he said.

Mr Pai also urged the Prime Minister to take a firm stand on the issue, particularly in the light of US President Mr Barack Obama's upcoming visit to the country.

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>>More on the Web:
www.businessline.in/webextras

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 18, 2010; Section: Times Nation; Page: 1

4 held for stripping, ragging disabled student in BHU

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi: A physically challenged student of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), who was ragged, paraded naked on the campus and filmed on cellphone in obscene poses by his seniors, got justice with the arrest of his tormentors late on Thursday night.

Acting on the directives of DIG DK Thakur, the police here arrested four BHU students on charges of stripping and assaulting Sujit Upadhyaya (name changed)

His seniors invited him to an isolated part of the campus and assaulted and stripped him. They compelled him to make obscene poses and made a video of it

of Buxar about a year back — he has faced untold harassment ever since in trying to lodge a complaint.

In his FIR, Upadhyaya

says he was in BCom-II in 2009 when his pro-activity irked his seniors who invited him to an isolated part of the campus and assaulted and stripped him. They compelled Upadhyaya to make obscene poses and made a video of it and also robbed him of Rs 2,000 and a mobile phone.

Fifteen days later, he was again assaulted and told not to report the incident. When he contacted the dean, he said it was an old issue, and asked him to return in the next academic session.

Best B-School Survey 2010: The definitive benchmarking guide

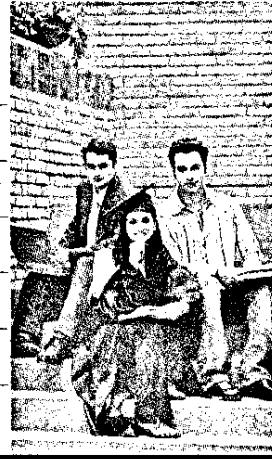
BS REPORTER
New Delhi, 17 September

The most definitive survey of Indian business schools is out. The Business Standard Best Business Schools Survey 2010 shows that the country's top business schools are the Indian Institutes of Management in Ahmedabad and Kolkata, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in New Delhi, Institute of Management Technology at Ghaziabad, Management Development Institute at Gurgaon, National Institute of Industrial Engineering in Mumbai and Xavier Labour Relation Institute at Jamshedpur.

The findings of the survey, and an analysis of the results, have been carried in the September 2010 issue of the *Indian Management*, which is

SUPER LEAGUE

- Indian Institute of Management, AHMEDABAD
- Indian Institute of Management, KOLKATA
- Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, NEW DELHI
- Institute of Management Technology, GHAZIABAD
- Management Development Institute, GURGAON
- National Institute of Industrial Engineering, MUMBAI
- School of Business and Human Resources, JAMSHEDPUR



now available on the stands. There are several business school surveys done every year. But these are all perception surveys and are limited to the top schools. So they touch upon a small part of the universe. This also

runs the danger of excluding the actual information about the business schools. Such perception-based surveys have another risk - they assume that respondents (aspirants, students and executives from companies)

are well-informed about all the institutes. This might not always be true.

The *Business Standard* survey, in contrast, is not based on perceptions but on rigorous analysis of everything that goes into making a business school. All business schools are rated on five parameters: Intellectual capital, admissions & placements, infrastructure, industry interface and governance. Each of these can be measured objectively. There is hence no scope for subjectivity or any bias. Of course, each of the five parameters has a different weight which is decided by an expert committee. The survey does not rank the institutes but puts them in seven hierarchical categories: Super League, A1, A2, A3, A4, B1 and B2.

Turn to Page 4

Best B-school...

THERE ARE CLOSE to 2,000 business schools in India, more than anywhere else in the world. This poses serious problems for the key stakeholders - aspiring students as well as employers. Take aspiring students first. How do they choose the right business school? How are two schools different from each other? The task is not easy for companies either who hire from these business schools. It is not easy to screen each and every student thoroughly. In this scenario, the reputation of the business school becomes all important. This is a gap that the *Business Standard* survey plugs.

The survey is open to busi-

ness schools all over India. The eligibility criterion is that they should be approved by the All India Council for Technical Education or the government or a university. Also, at least two batches of students should have passed out of the institute. This is to assess the placements that happen at the campus. Questionnaires are sent out to the business schools. The responses are tabulated and double-checked by IMRB. Inflated claims and discrepancies are thus weeded out. As many as 50 of these business schools were visited by IMRB executives to verify the information they had submitted. This includes all those institutes that showed huge variation in scores between 2009 and 2010.

For the latest survey, questionnaires were sent to more than 1,500 business schools. Out of these, 255 sent their entries within the time limit.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Sep 18, 2010;Section: Times Nation;Page: 12;

Drug to cut cancer therapy side-effects

Shimona Kanwar | TNN

Chandigarh: Cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy have to cope with some side-effects, including hair loss. They have a hope: a drug, developed by Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), promises to reduce these side-effects by 75%. It will soon be available in the market.

The drug, 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) has completed three phases of clinical trials and has been sent to a Hyderabad-based laboratory for commercial production pending final approval from the Directorate General of Health Services.

At present there is no drug available that can reduce the side-effects of radiotherapy. If the drug is given to any cancer patient before radiotherapy, the side-effects such as hairfall, nausea, loss of appetite and sleeplessness can be substantially reduced. The multi-centric trials had been carried out in eight cancer hospitals and research institutes.

W Selvamurthy, chief con-

troller (R&D), DRDO said: "The drug has been tested on adult malignant cancer patients with success and it has been patented."

The drug is an analogue of glucose which is structurally same as the blood glucose cells in a human body. The cancer cells are hyperactive as they proliferate rapidly and feed on glucose cells in the body, thus depriving the body of its immunity and energy level. Selvamurthy explained: "These cancer cells start eating the analogue glucose, which does not provide energy like the real glucose cells in the blood. Consequently, it weakens the cancer cells. The radiation from the radiotherapy then destroys these weak cells easily without affecting the surrounding normal cells in the body."

The drug has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Dr V M Katoch, director of the ICMR said: "This is a promising drug that will definitely make a significant contribution to the pharmaceutical market."

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Sep 18, 2010;Section: Times Nation;Page: 16;

Kanpur professor charged with rape bid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kanpur: A mathematics professor of the Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University (CSMU), Vijay Pal, was arrested on Friday on charges of attempting to rape his tenant.

The victim has been living Pal's house at Kanpur's Bithoor for the last three

months. She is a former CRPF constable. Pal is an IIT Kanpur alumnus.

According to Bithoor SHO Dilip Kumar, Pal is being interrogated. Police are collecting evidence against him. In a complaint lodged on behalf of the victim, her husband claimed Pal had tried to rape his wife when she was alone in the house on Friday.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Sep 18, 2010;Section: International;Page: 19;

Quantum comp to be unveiled within 5 yrs

Melbourne: A new type of silicon chip that works on light instead of electricity could lead to the first ultra-fast quantum computer within five years, say British scientists.

Jeremy O'Brien, who led the research, said that hugely powerful machines will be able to search vast databases almost instantaneously and greatly increase computer memory. Applications for the device, developed at the Centre for Quantum Photonics in Bristol, are likely to be complex simulations of biological molecules and drugs that are beyond the capability of conventional machines.

"We can perform calculations that are exponentially more complex than before," news.com.au quoted O'Brien as saying.

"This will pave the way to quantum computers that will help us understand the most complex scientific problems," he added.

The chip works by sending light particles down networks of miniature circuits. O'Brien said many experts believed that a quantum

LIGHT TECH

computer would not be a reality for at least 25 years.

"However, we believe, using our new technique, a quantum computer could be performing calculations that are outside the capabilities of conventional computers," he said. He was speaking at the British Science Festival in Birmingham. **ANI**

The Hindu, ND 18/09/2010 P-4

Notice to Union Ministry

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has sent a notice to the Union Human Resource Development Ministry on the issue of violation of basic rights of persons with disabilities.

The intervention has come a couple of weeks after IG-NOU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. P. R. Ramanujam (a wheelchair user) was invited to a high-level meeting orga-

nised by the HRD Ministry but was unable to participate because the venue selected wasn't accessible to persons with disability.

"This incident is a violation of the basic rights of persons with disabilities which has become a routine phenomenon now. It is an utterly shocking incident and if this is the attitude of the HRD Ministry towards a Pro-Vice Chancellor representing IG-NOU, one can imagine what would be the treatment given

to ordinary persons with disabilities without clout or status," said Society for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies president Dr. G. N. Karana. Now acting on the appeal of the Society for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies, the CCPD has issued a notice to HRD Ministry's Department of Higher Education Joint Secretary (Bureau of Distance Learning and Scholarships) seeking explanation within 30 days about the incident.

Notification on CET for PG medical courses in a week

Judge tells Centre: Tamil Nadu opposes CET for MBBS ... do it for PG first, go step by step

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it supported the Medical Council of India's proposal to have a common entrance test (CET) for admission to post graduate medical courses and that it wanted to notify it within a week.

Solicitor-General (SG) Gopal Subramaniam, appearing for the Centre, also told a Bench of Justice R.V. Raveendran and Justice H.L. Gokhale that for the proposed MBBS CET the draft rules and regulations would be sub-

mitted to the court and the response of all States would be sought.

When Mr. Subramaniam sought the court's nod for issuing the notification, Justice Raveendran said: "We do not want to be party to the policy decision. How can we approve a proposal which is not before us. We must know what the proposal is. You first place the proposal before us, then we shall see."

Justice Gokhale cautioned the Centre: "Now Tamil Nadu is opposing the CET for MBBS. A number of other States will also oppose. Students are now volatile, you

- States to be consulted on proposed CET for MBBS

- "Test intended to improve quality of medical education"

have to understand this. Go step by step. Do it for PG first. Otherwise there are chances that you [Centre] may land in some other problem." Referring to the Centre's plea for allowing notification of the PG CET, Justice Gokhale, in a lighter vein, said: "The

court has contributed to many problems. We don't want to add one more problem."

Justice Raveendran told Mr. Subramaniam: "If you notify the CET for MBBS without hearing the States, they will challenge it. We will be glad if some consensus is developed after the State governments respond to the notices. We cannot put a seal of approval without hearing the States, as one State government [Tamil Nadu] ad already opposed the system. Let us not rush it through. The proper way is to seek the response of the States and

then notify it."

To which, the SG said: "We will notify the CET for PG within a week and place on record the draft rules for MBBS CET."

Counsel Harish Kumar, appearing for Tamil Nadu strongly opposed the CET both for MBBS and PG courses and said the State had enacted law abolishing CET for professional courses. Earlier, Mr. Subramaniam explained the steps being taken for arriving at a consensus and said it had received support from doctors, private and government medical colleges. Justice Raveendran was quick to

point out "unfortunately, doctors don't make laws."

Mr. Subramaniam said the CET was intended to improve the quality of medical education and medical services in the country.

Senior counsel Amrender Saran, appearing for the MCI, said new rules and regulations for the CET had been put in place and they had been approved by the government. There would be centralised counselling after the CET and at the end of the course there would an exit test for doctors. The Bench directed the matter to be listed after a week.

Indian Express ND 18-Sep-10

P-14

Gift of giving

Indian universities are yet to fully tap the most obvious source of funds: their alumni

THE University of Madras doesn't know exactly when Rajasekaran Sham registered there as a student, or even what degree he left with. It was probably an MBBS, and it was some time in the 1960s, they think. This is mildly embarrassing for them now, because Sham, a successful radiologist, died a couple of years ago — and left half of a considerable fortune to his old university. They will use the Rs 18.6 crore to construct an indoor stadium and three hostels, of which the vice-chancellor said the university's students are in dire need.

In many parts of the world, this news would hardly be as earth-shattering as it is in India. That Sham had moved to the United States is unlikely to be a coincidence: at this time of year, colleges across that country open their doors to alumni in what is known as "homecoming" season. Pampered alumni return to sports events, pep rallies — and constant demands for gifts, or "to be remembered in your will." East Asia has successfully adopted this model; the state-run University of Hong Kong recently launched an

"alumni challenge" which has raised \$100 million a year in three successive years.

Perhaps it is because our universities and colleges still look to Britain, where an "alumni challenge" would be considered a bit *infra dig* — if not a mortal injury to academic freedom and state support — that Indian colleges haven't adopted close economic links to their alumni. There are exceptions, such as Nandan Nilekani's gifts to IIT-Powai; but even at the IITs, there was a revealing flap in 2000 when some alumni in Silicon Valley demanded, as a condition for their fundraising, that the IITs consider moving towards allowing a mix of entrepreneurship and pure engineering to be taught. The government's reactions have reinforced the distance: the HRD ministry once tried to route all donations through a "Bharat Shiksha Kosh" fund. Both the state and its tame academic administrations need to step back further and announce that a university's stakeholders include its alumni — and if, in return for giving you money, they suggest a few changes, they should be worth listening to.

Green energy set to light up your homes soon

Distribution Cos Need To Replace 6% Capacity With Renewable Energy

Gouri Agtey Athale
PUNE

FIRST it blended green fuel into petrol. Now, the government wants green power blended into electricity to light up our homes, offices and factories. Energy distribution companies have to replace 6% of their total quantity with power generated from solar, wind or hydel energy. Or buy it on paper.

A new financial instrument — reduction in emission certificate or REC — has been created that will be sold by Indian companies producing renewable energy to distribution companies such as Maha-

rashtra State Electricity Distribution Company, Tata Power, Reliance Infrastructure and BEST. One REC will represent 1 megawatt-hour (MWh).

An REC aims to help consumers meet their renewable purchase obligations, or what the government calls RPO. The concept is directed specially at states that have no renewable energy potential but can meet it through the purchase of RECs. "A Certified Emission Reduction (CER) is targeted at carbon emissions. Hence, it is measured in tonnes while an REC is measured in units of kilowatt-hour," said Vivek Sharma, head of energy practice at Crisil Advisory, a

consultancy firm. The paper will begin trading from December on the two national electricity exchanges — the Indian Energy Exchange and the Power Exchange of India.

An official with the Power Exchange of India said potential buyers would be distribution companies of state electricity boards, captive power plants and open access consumers. "Wind, biomass, cogen and hydel generators are eligible to sell RECs. Solar is a separate category, with a separate certificate, it being a very small generator. The focus is non-solar renewable," the official said.

► Market seen at ₹14k cr: P 9

REC mkt pegged at ₹14k cr

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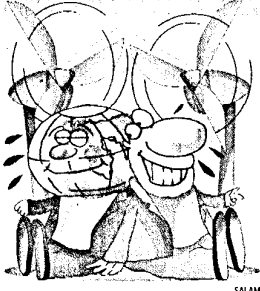
WITH India's 1.60-lakh mw installed capacity, 9,600 mw has to be bought from renewable energy companies physically or as REC. And given the government-fixed price band of ₹1.5-3.67/mwh, the market is worth a minimum ₹14,400 crore. No wonder sellers have begun licking their lips as they wait for this new source of profit.

"We can earn over and above the price per unit that we get from the state power utility. In Rajasthan, for instance, we get ₹3.90 per unit for the wind power we supply to the state utility. When the tradable REC comes into force, we can get an additional ₹1.50 per unit for the power we have sold," said Sayen M Patel, director, commercial, at Sahyadri Industries, a ₹295-crore player in building materials. His company has already installed 25 windmills and plans to add six more to produce 23 mw power not all of which is eligible for REC trading, though.

Each seller will get REC from the state electricity regulatory commission equivalent to the actual quantity of renewable energy supplied to the state grid. The paper can then be traded.

"To really take off, the fledgling REC market needs equally enthusiastic buyers. In theory, they should come rushing. The government has fixed stiff penalties for companies that do not meet their 6% obligation. It is also difficult to buy renewable energy only through short-term contracts or in the spot market. Even so, buyers are reluctant. Some, such as Tata Power, are meeting their 6% commitment through captive capacities. "Of our total generation of 2,977 mw, 647 mw is in the form of wind and hydro power," said Banmali Agarwala, executive director, strategy and development, Tata Power. Other players have already inked short-term contracts for this fiscal and so don't need to buy RECs yet. An official in Reliance Infra, the ADA Group's energy company, who did not wish to be named, said the company signed short-term contracts for renewable energy last fiscal for the current year.

"We have approached the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, asking that this year at least we should be allowed to meet our obligation from the sources and at the rates at which we have already contracted. If MERC does not accept our case, then we will certainly be in the market to buy RECs. But this will cost an additional ₹80-180 crore and this will naturally be passed on to the customer," he said. Reliance Infra has tied up 150 million units at MERC-mandated rates while the balance 400 million units are at a higher price. The high price-band fixed for REC by the government is also a worry for cost-sensitive distribution companies. Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company managing director Ajay Mehta said it has tied up its current annual obligation of 600 mw, which is 6% of the 10,000 mw the company distributes annually. "We met our target last year and we should be able to meet it this year too. We will definitely not be trading because we expect to meet our targets. This trading is to encourage the generation of green power but at whose cost," he said. Meanwhile, the two power exchanges are preparing to help create the REC market. "The price band prescribes a minimum and maximum range between which it (an REC) will trade and the price discovery will happen then," said Deepak Zade, senior vice-president, energy and carbon services, Mitcon Consultancy and Energy Services, an advisory firm for renewables. The demand-side management of REC is ensured through the RPO framework. To ensure supply-side participation, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, CERC, has laid down guidelines and eligibility criteria under which renewable energy generator can get REC benefit. "We are yet to fully ascertain the size of the market after finalisation of CERC Regulations on renewable power produced by CPPs," said an official at power exchange IEX.



SAI AM

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I-T dept raids private education institutes

By Dalip Singh in New Delhi

PRIVATE education institutes in the National Capital Region and surrounding areas have come under the scanner of the Income-tax (I-T) department.

Since Friday morning, more than 150 officers of the Lucknow-based I-T department raided 33 premises of Galgotias Educational Institutions, Sharda University and G.L. Bajaj Institute in Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Agra, Mathura and Gurgaon. It seized many documents allegedly indicating unaccounted for money.

The sleuths were also looking for evidence to corroborate information that these educational institutions have been illegally demanding and taking capitation fee for admission to various graduate courses, including engineering and technology, business management and medical science.

An I-T officer said 13 premises of the Galgotias in Greater Noida, Noida and Gurgaon, besides their publication office in Delhi's Daryaganj, were searched.

Similarly, Sharda University's Greater Noida campus and other places in Agra were combed. The Bajaj Institute's dental college in Mathura was also searched by the officers, besides its other premises in western UP.

Though educational institutions get total tax exemption, the I-T sleuths are looking for instances where funds were diverted for commercial purposes. In that case, the income or accumulated profit becomes taxable. Normally, it has been found that academic institutions take huge admission fee in cash so that it could be adjusted in other financial sub-heads, I-T sources said.

It has also been seen in the past that private colleges and universities employ ghost staff so that the ill-gotten money can be exhibited in the account book as salaries given to employees, who in reality never existed.

Interestingly, private institutes also fudge their financial statements by showing inflated bills for money spent on infrastructure projects and other investments to enhance the capability of the colleges.

The I-T officials also carried out raids on three pharma majors at various places in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh to detect tax evasion.

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More autonomy for CBSE likely

NITIN MAHAJAN

NEW DELHI

Sept. 17: The government is proposing to provide more administrative and financial autonomy to Central Board of Secondary Education, the premiere school education board in the country. The Union human resource development ministry has prepared the Central Board of Secondary Education Bill, which will soon be put forth before the Cabinet for its approval.

Official sources stated that the bill proposes to make CBSE a statutory body which is expected to help the board get more freedom and autonomy. "Once cleared by the Cabinet, the bill is likely to be brought before Parliament in the Winter Session. If the bill is passed, CBSE will be the first board in the country to be established by an act of Parliament," sources added.

This paper had first in April this year reported that the government was con-

templating to upgrade the status of CBSE. The draft of the bill has been finalised after holding exhaustive consultations with stakeholders on the issue.

The CBSE is currently registered as a society and is carrying out the functions of conducting board exams and announcing results of students of its affiliated schools. The CBSE functions directly under the HRD ministry and takes decision in consultation with the ministry on all

important issues.

Official sources stated that once the board is granted a statutory status it can take its own decisions through its board of governors. "Besides, its orders will have stronger implications after it becomes a statutory body by an act of Parliament," sources stated. The new status is also expected to enhance the financial autonomy of the board, wherein it will not need to seek the clearance for funds from the HRD ministry.