

Newspaper Clips

September 24, 2011

Hindu Chennai 23.09.2011 p-5

Former student of IIT-Madras becomes its director

“The institute will find solutions to pressing problems of society”

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Bhaskar Ramamurthi has been appointed the new director of Indian Institute of Technology-Madras.

“The institute will continue to focus on fundamental and translational research given the development imperative of the country and find solutions to the pressing problems facing society,” said the professor of electrical engineering.

President Pratibha Patil, in her capacity as Visitor of IIT-Madras had approved the appointment of Prof. Ramamurthi. This was conveyed to the IIT-M Board of Governors Chairman Prof. M.M. Sharma on Thursday.

“The chairman informed me this morning. I will assume charge on Friday morning,” the new director said. To



Bhaskar Ramamurthi

him, IIT-M, along with the oldest IITs, has to elevate itself to the next stage in fundamental and translational research as both were required.

It would continue to pursue fundamental research contributing to global knowledge pool and leverage innovation and technology to

produce visible success stories that would impact society in a positive way in sectors like education and agriculture.

“People are looking up to the IITs to improve the quality of their lives, especially in rural India,” Prof. Ramamurthi said optimistic of delivering products and solutions suited to the inclusive growth model of the country.

Research would also be a major thrust area. Most of the IITs have doubled the Ph.Ds in the past five years but still the output was modest compared to that of China and doctoral scholars were required for industry and teaching, he pointed out.

Dean of Planning at IIT-Madras till now, he graduated from IIT-M in 1980 with a B.Tech in Electronics Engineering and then went on to

pursue his M.S and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara. After obtaining his doctorate, he joined the AT&T Bell Laboratories in the United States where he worked on problems in indoor wireless communications and joined the faculty at the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT-M in 1986.

His research area involves modulation and coding for mobile communications, wireless communication networks and design and implementation of wireless local loop systems.

He is a founding member of the Telecommunications and Computer Networking Group (TeNeT) that has come up with several products like Rural ATM, medical diagnostic kit and Indic computing to name a few.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 24, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 18;

SC no to joint med, engg exam

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday shelved an ambitious student-friendly initiative from the HRD ministry through the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) proposing to integrate AIPMT and AIEEE into a single entrance test for admissions to undergraduate medical and engineering courses.

An SC bench which entertained the CBSE's proposal and sought views of the health ministry for nearly a year, dismissed the plea saying there was no unanimity.

When CBSE counsel requested for more time to iron out differences with other stakeholders, the bench said that unanimity had to be found within the government and the court was not the forum.

The bench had earlier appre-

ciated the noble intention to relieve the students from multiple entrance examinations, but the health ministry had said a common test for medical and engineering courses would create confusion and chaos in the merit list.

The CBSE had said that amalgamation of AIPMT and AIEEE would relieve students and their parents of a lot of stress both physical and financial.

DIFFERENT STROKES for DIFFERENT FOLKS

V S SUNDER

UNIVERSITIES AS ROLE MODELS

More than a decade ago, I once went with my family to spend a year visiting universities in California and Iowa in the United States. Upon our return, my brother asked my daughter (now a teenager but only about six years old then) just what she liked about America. Her perspicacious answer was that she could cross the road, and even walk to school all by herself.

(You only press a button, wait for the light to turn green, all cars stop, and you can cross the road!) Now I am on the verge of becoming sixty years old, am constrained to become increasingly dependent on a wheelchair due to a neurological problem, and increasingly and myself yearning for the joy of this wonderful freedom expressed by her.

Can we Indians ever hope to crawl out of the black hole we have dug for ourselves with our appalling lack of civic sense — as witnessed by:

► More than 70% of our drivers seeing nothing wrong with (i) driving the wrong way on a one-way street, or (ii) driving past a red light, and worse still honking at the car in front who prevents them from doing so by stupidly waiting for the light to turn green?

► Brazenly getting out of an air-conditioned car, unzipping and urinating on the side of the road?

► Tossing waste matter (such as the wrapper of an ice cream cone or an empty plastic bag which once contained potato chips) out of a car window, and in the extreme case, throwing domestic garbage over the wall into the next house?

► On a personal note, can I hope to ever again cross a road by myself in my own country?

Some time ago, I realized that nobody is going to wave

ty I still have as a research mathematician as well as contacts through friends and relatives (I come from a family of respected and distinguished musicians, scientists and social workers) to apply pressure where it might help in order to improve the state of accessibility and inclusivity in our society. I have been trying the following ploys:

1. Bullying the (admittedly sympathetic and sensitive) Director and Administration of my own institute (IMSc, Chennai) into enabling me to access almost every corner of my institute with such satisfactory results as to cause an Indian friend visiting here from the United States to remark on the remarkable level of wheelchair friendliness of IMSc.

2. Writing, as here, and appealing to people's sense of what is right.

3. Making it a point of going in my wheelchair to various social events and trying to highlight the lack of sensitivity in the construction of our public facilities by making a fuss if that seemed to be warranted.

4. Responding to people who invite me to meetings of an academic nature by saying I will come (with my wheelchair) provided they can personally guarantee that the guest house and venue of the meeting I am invited to will all be accessible.

5. Writing to ministers at both central and state levels about the need for addressing concerns of accessibility.

I am happy to report that action taken as described in ploy No. 4 above has been satisfactorily successful. I have had very positive results in the University of Hyderabad (see the unofficial blog <http://hcurocks.wordpress.com/> of the VC of UoH) and the Indian Statistical Institute campus in Delhi — with both places having made a few ramps just before my visit there.

from ploy No 5. While I realize that the magnitude of practical issues needing to be resolved, before anything can be achieved at a national level, is huge, I wish to elaborate on something I proposed to the Union minister of urban development during my last visit to Delhi.

As our centres of learning should be role models for the rest of society to emulate, let us start by making the campuses of all our universities and institutes models of etiquette on the road as well as accessibility of buildings: thus, no horns; giving right of way to the smaller vehicle whereby rights of pedestrians take highest priority; making all buildings accessible to the physically (visually, mobility-wise, etc.) challenged.

This article is an entreaty to the directors and VCs of our centres of higher learning to accept this as a challenge to set their houses in order and set an example.

This suggestion is not unrealistic; our youth are far more conscious of the environment and responsibility to the fellow man than their cynical 'elders'.

There is a remarkable 'Access Audit Report on the International Guesthouse' (see <http://www.du.ac.in/fileadmin/DU/DUCorner/pdf/InternationalGuestHouse.pdf>) under the project 'Accessible University of Delhi' by Samarthyam (see <http://www.samarthyam.org>) which can be taken as a model of what to do and how to do it. This is an eminently implementable suggestion; maybe our salvation can only come from our youth.

Professor VS Sunder is a mathematician who incidentally "works out of a wheel-chair" at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. (You can read more about him at the url

a magic wand to bring this about for me, and decided that as this was a case of 'what's good for me is good, period', I would shamelessly utilize such visibility/marketabili-

ty my conversations with the directors of both IISc, Bangalore and IIT, Madras have been quite positive. In contrast, nothing tangible has yet transpired

<nups://www.imsc.res.in/~sunder>.) He wishes to use this space to periodically remind people of the special needs of the differently-abled members of our society.

Mint ND 24-Sep-11 p1

'Faster than light' may be a possibility?

BY JACOB P KOSHY
jacob.k@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

Whirring mysterious particles that are part of the massive experiments in the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known by its French acronym CERN, may have upset century-old laws of physics that, among other things, make time travel impossible and keep the fastest moving objects slower than light.

As part of ongoing experiments, neutrinos, among the most mysterious constituents of matter, were sent through the ground from CERN on the Franco-Swiss border towards the Gran Sasso laboratory 732km away in Italy. Strangely, they seemed to show up nanoseconds earlier than they were supposed to.

"When an experiment finds an apparently unbelievable result and can find no artefact of the measurement to account for it, it's normal procedure to invite broader scrutiny, and this is exactly what the OPERA collaboration is doing, it's good scientific practice,"

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'Faster than light' may be a possibility

▶ FROM PAGE 1

CERN research director Sergio Bertolucci said in a press statement. "If this measurement is confirmed, it might change our view of physics, but we need to be sure that there are no other, more mundane, explanations. That will require independent measurements." OPERA refers to the Oscillation Project with Emulsion-tRacking Apparatus, the name of the experiment.

Naba Mondal, a particle physicist at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, said though the results were unprecedented, a more conclusive understanding of the phenomena would begin unfurling over the next three months.

"These are results that shake the foundations of physics. But the Fermilab (an underground laboratory in Illinois, the US, dedicated to neutrino studies) will perform independent evaluations. That should hopefully be out in the next three or four months and give us a clearer view of any experimental errors," he said.

Experimental errors may creep in from the inherent uncertainties in measurement methods to evaluate neutrino speeds, according to scientists associated with the experiment. "We have established synchronization between CERN and Gran Sasso that gives us nanosecond accuracy, and we've measured the distance between the two sites to 20 centimetres," said Dario Autiero, among the research-

ers involved in the study. "Although our measurements have low systematic uncertainty and high statistical accuracy, and we place great confidence in our results, we're looking forward to comparing them with those from other experiments."

The intriguing results were put up on *arxiv.org*, a respectable online repository of particle physics experiments that allows experts from across the world to review and evaluate the results of experiments. Research results that stand these tests then make their way to formal published journals.

The OPERA experiment was inaugurated in 2006, with the main goal of studying how neutrinos morph into various avatars as they travel through space. According to Einstein's theories, the faster a particle travels, the heavier it becomes, and as it approaches the speed of light, it becomes infinitely heavier. However, neutrinos are strange quirky offshoots of the formation of matter that were initially thought to be massless, and travelling at the speed of light. However, for even neutrinos to travel faster than light—at 380,000 km per second—was still a theoretical impossibility.

Mondal added CERN experiments weren't really looking for neutrinos. "This is almost like an accidental discovery. That is what makes this so surprising. Because a consortium of scientists has evaluated the data over months, chances of them making a mistake are extremely slim," he said.

Business Line ND
24-Sep-11 P17

IIM-C to tap corporates for funds

Indo-Asian News Service

Chennai, Sept. 23

The Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIM-C) is planning to tap Indian corporates for funds to complete some of its infrastructural projects following increased intake of students over the last three years.

"The student intake has gone up. This year the total intake is around 450 students. Earlier, the intake was around 260 students," IIM-C Director, Mr Shekhar Chaudhuri, said.

"We are building around 530,000 sq ft of new facility. Half of the project is over. We have built 14 classrooms out of 19 planned. Two new hostels are under construction. The total project outlay is around Rs 195 crore," he added. He said the institute had decided to approach corporates for Rs 50 crore to complete the infrastructural projects.

The Dean, Prof Sougata Ray, said: "We have spent from our internal accruals and our corpus. We would like to have some balance in our corpus built over the years and hence the decision to tap the corporates."

Institute officials said corporate philanthropy for higher education in India was not popular though some Indian groups had made donations to foreign universities. "Making donations to foreign business schools by Indian groups may also be a brand-building strategy," an official said.

Speaking of finances, Mr Chaudhuri said the institute was self-sufficient in funds generation and has not received any funds from the Government since 2003 for day-to-day activities.

"Our revenue is around Rs 100 crore. We are earning good revenue - around Rs 30 crore - from our long duration corporate training programme," Mr Chaudhuri said.

NEW ADMISSION CRITERIA

IIT-B students defer protest

M SARASWATHY
& DISHA KANWAR
Mumbai/New Delhi, 23 September

STUDENTS of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, (IIT Bombay) have planned a series of non-violent protests against the IIT Council's new admission proposal. A boycott of classes, initially planned for September 23, has now been postponed to October 14.

A group called *iitiains.org* on social networking site Facebook is spearheading the protests. "We are requesting not just the IITs, but also students of classes 11 and 12 from other colleges, professors and teachers to join our protest," said an IIT student associated with the group. The group's main concern is that the quality of IITs would be affected by the new proposal and lead to an untested selection process.

Other IITs have not been actively involved in the movement due to the fact that their examinations are on and their placement season is approaching. "I have supported the cause on Facebook, but cannot go beyond that due to the ongoing examinations," said an IIT Kharagpur student.

Though IIT Delhi has not registered any official protest, scrapping of IIT-JEE is the talk across the campus.

"We will boycott classes. We may also resort to wearing black shirts and not having mess food as a part of our non-violent protests. The protests will continue until the necessary changes are made. We want to send a strong message to the IIT Council," said an IIT-Bombay student who did not wish to be named.

The much-debated proposals of the IIT Council chaired by Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, which include scrapping of the IIT-JEE examination, having a common entrance test and giving equal weight to Class XII board examination results, will be implemented from 2013-14.

An IIT Bombay student said: "The move that has been introduced is definitely not the best one. There are very few people who are interested in engineering. A special aptitude is clearly required for getting into an IIT, which cannot be achieved merely by scoring good marks in Class XII. The new system is also not free of problems."

The alumni, too, have been involved in the protests. "Examinations are going on in several IITs and that is why it was pushed out to October 14. The call is for boycotting classrooms in spirit; the classes can still be held in ground, labs, people can give exams, study for exams, study outside class room. We and the students will be writing mails to all professors, MP, MLAs, seniors, government and any email/address we can get hold of. Our goal is to avoid confrontation, the government can fix their mistakes. They did not consult the best brains and neither did they take a poll on what people want," said an ex-IIT Kharagpur student associated with the protests.

The sentiment shared by most of the students is that as IIT JEE is an application based exam in synchronization with engineering requirement, giving 75 per cent weightage to XII exam which is more of a rote learning will impact the kind of student intake. The inclusion of social science subjects like history, geography etc in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

is a move that is detested by students.

One student said, "It is totally non sense to include social sciences in IIT entrance. For engineering, logical and analytical brains are required. Those interested in social sciences can pursue it separately." He also added that rather than providing poor brilliant students with free IIT coaching so that they can also clear it, Sibal is destroying the already institutionalized pattern of exam doing away with even the elite brilliant students.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Sep 24, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 14;
**13 students
fined ₹25k each
for ragging**

Prafulla Marpakwar | TNN

Mumbai: The Government Medical College in Aurangabad has fined 13 final year students Rs 25,000 each for ragging a fresher, in what might be the first such case of its kind in Maharashtra.

The 13 seniors were accused of forcing the victim to play cricket with them in the rain despite his repeated entreaties and protests. A day later, he took seriously ill. An inquiry into the incident found the 13 MBBS students guilty of ragging.

"On receiving a complaint, we instituted a probe as per the guidelines prescribed under the anti-ragging act," said college dean K S Bhopale. "After it was confirmed that the student was ragged, we fined each guilty senior Rs 25,000 and banned them from participating in cultural activities." The father complained in writing to Bhopale, who set up a panel to probe the allegation. The Medical Council of India prescribes a range of punishments contingent on the gravity of the offence. Among the penalties are suspension from classes, rustication for one to four semesters and a fine of Rs 25,000 and Rs 1 lakh.

आईआईटी ने आत्महत्या के मामले को प्रेम का मामला बताया

कानपुर/भाषा।

"जब हम न होंगे, याद किये जायेंगे" जैसी कविताओं और हॉस्टल के कमरे की दीवार पर लिखी अंतिम इबारत "आई एम टायर्ड, व्हाई सो सैड, व्हेन दिस इज पार्ट ऑफ लाइफ" जैसे जुमलों से आईआईटी प्रशासन इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा है कि कल शाम आत्महत्या करने वाले 19 साल के बीटेक के छात्र महताब खान ने प्रेम प्रसंग के चलते अपनी जान दे दी।

आईआईटी ने घटना की तह तक पहुंचने के लिए चार सदस्यीय तथ्य अनुवेषी समिति का गठन किया है। हालांकि संस्थान में पिछले पांच साल में आत्महत्या की यह नौवीं घटना है और इस तरह की तमाम घटनाओं के बाद इस तरह की समितियों के गठन की परंपरा रही है।

आईआईटी प्रशासन ने पिछले साल दिसंबर में पीटी. आई की आरटीआई के जवाब में बताया था कि पिछले पांच

◆ पिछले पांच साल में आत्महत्या की यह नौवीं घटना है।

◆ आईआईटी ने आत्महत्या के कारणों का पता लगाने के लिए कमेटी गठित की।

वर्ष में आठ छात्र छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या की और इन सबका कारण निजी और मानसिक तनाव ही था आईआईटी के निदेशक प्रो संजय धांडे ने पीटीआई से बातचीत में कहा कि आत्महत्या करने वाले बी. टेक प्रथम वर्ष के छात्र महताब आलम के कमरे से उसके हाथ से लिखी कुछ कवितायें मिली हैं इन में एक जगह लिखा है "जब हम न होंगे तो याद किये जायेंगे"। इसके अलावा उसने मरने से पहले अपने कमरे की दीवार पर पेंसिल से लिखा है "माई बेस्ट फ्रेंड रवि, शुभम, उमेश आई एम टायर्ड ऑफ आईआईटी....." वगैरह।

उसके कुछ मित्रों से पूछ.

ताछ में पता चला कि कन्नौज में किसी लड़की के साथ उसकी दोस्ती थी। उसके कमरे से मिली प्रेम कविताओं के बोल भी इसी तरफ इशारा करते हैं। कमरे की दीवार पर लिखी इबारत में आईआईटी से तंग होने की बात पर रैगिंग की आशंका के बारे में धांडे ने कहा कि आईआईटी परिसर में रैगिंग नहीं होती और वह लगातार काउंसलिंग करने वाली टीम के संपर्क में था अगर ऐसी कोई बात होती तो वह जरूर बताता। कल्याणपुर थाने के सर्किल आफिसर शैलेन्द्र लाल ने कहा कि कमरे से कविताएं मिलने पर किसी नतीजे पर नहीं पहुंचा जा सकता। उसने अपने जिन तीन दोस्तों रवि कश्यप, शुभम शुक्ला और उमेश चौहान के नाम अपने कमरे की दीवार पर पेंसिल से संदेश लिखा है, उनका पता लगाने की कोशिश की जा रही है क्योंकि यह तीनों आईआईटी कानपुर के छात्र नहीं हैं।

गौरतलब है कि आईआ.

ईटी में छात्रों की आत्महत्याओं की जांच के लिए बनने वाली तथ्यान्वेषी समितियों की जांच रिपोर्ट के संबंध में पीटीआई संवाददाता ने नवंबर 2010 में आरटीआई के तहत जो जानकारी हासिल की उसके अनुसार 2005 से 2010 के बीच आठ छात्र छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या की। इनमें से पांच छात्र छात्राओं ने अपने छात्रावासों के कमरों के पंखों से लटक कर जान दी जबकि एक ने फैंकल्टी बिल्डिंग की छत से कूद कर तथा दूसरे ने ट्रेन के आगे कूद कर जान दी, जबकि एक छात्र ने कोई जहरीला पदार्थ खाकर जान दी। आईआईटी ने आत्महत्याओं की घटनाओं की जांच के लिए तथ्यान्वेषी समितियों का गठन किया। संस्थान इन समितियों की रिपोर्ट के बारे में बताने को तैयार नहीं है। प्रो धांडे के अनुसार समितियों की रिपोर्ट सार्वजनिक नहीं की जा सकती क्योंकि यह संस्थान का अंदरूनी मामला है।

Dainik Bhaskar, ND P-9
24/09/2011

प्रेम प्रसंग के चलते की थी आईआईटी छात्र ने आत्महत्या

कानपुर। "जब हम न होंगे, याद किये जायेंगे" जैसी कविताओं और हॉस्टल के कमरे की दीवार पर लिखी अंतिम इबारत "आई एम टायर्ड, व्हाई सो सैड, व्हेन दिस इज पार्ट ऑफ लाइफ" जैसे जुमलों से आईआईटी प्रशासन इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा है कि गुरुवार शाम आत्महत्या करने वाले 19 साल के बीटेक के छात्र महताब खान ने प्रेम प्रसंग के चलते अपनी जान दे दी। आईआईटी ने घटना की तह तक पहुंचने के लिए चार सदस्यीय तथ्यान्वेषी समिति का गठन किया है। हालांकि संस्थान में पिछले पांच साल में आत्महत्या की यह नौवीं घटना है और इस तरह की तमाम घटनाओं के बाद इस तरह की समितियों के गठन की परंपरा रही है। आईआईटी प्रशासन ने पिछले साल दिसंबर में एक आरटीआई के जवाब में बताया था कि पिछले पांच वर्ष में आठ छात्र- छात्राओं ने आत्महत्या की और इन सबका कारण निजी और मानसिक तनाव ही था।

Dainik Bhaskar, ND

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24/09/2011

छात्र बीच में नहीं छोड़ सकेंगे प्रवेश परीक्षा

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के बीटेक-बीएस इनोवेशन विद मैथमेटिक्स एंड आईटी पाठ्यक्रम में दाखिले के लिए आगामी 25 सितंबर को होने वाली प्रवेश परीक्षा में कोई भी छात्र परीक्षा बीच में छोड़कर नहीं जा सकेगा। विश्वविद्यालय ने साफ कर दिया गया है कि दो घंटे की इस परीक्षा में शामिल होने वाले सभी आवेदकों को पूरा समय वहीं बिताना होगा। विश्वविद्यालय रजिस्ट्रार की ओर से जारी आदेश के तहत कहा गया कि 25 सितंबर को होने वाली बी.टेक/ बीएस की प्रवेश परीक्षा विश्वविद्यालय में उपलब्ध पांच परीक्षा केन्द्रों पर आयोजित की जाएगी। इनमें आर्ट्स फैकल्टी, डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ मैथमेटिकल साइंसेस, डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ फिजिक्स, श्रीराम कॉलेज ऑफ कॉमर्स व डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ जूलॉजी शामिल हैं। परीक्षा केन्द्रों पर 1852 परीक्षार्थियों को प्रवेश परीक्षा देने का मौका मिलेगा और सुबह 11 से दोपहर एक बजे के बीच होने वाली इस प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए रिपोर्टिंग टाइम साढ़े नौ बजे का है।