

Newspaper Clips

September 25, 2011

Times of India Lucknow
24.09.11 P-3

New V-C at Meerut University

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Governor and Chancellor of state universities BL Joshi on Friday accepted the resignation of Prof HC Gupta, vice-chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut. The governor appointed Vipin Garg, principal, IP College, Bulandshahr as officiating vice-chancellor till further order.

Prof Gupta had resigned on September 1 after some student leaders barged into his office and tried to manhandle him. An infuriated Prof Gupta resigned after the incident.

Prof Gupta, a former alumnus of IIT-Delhi, had a brilliant academic record and was said to be tough, which resulted in backlash from the rowdy student leaders backed by local politicians.

'We are looking at 40,000 PhDs by 2020 in the IIT system alone'

As *The Indian Express* takes Idea Exchange to campuses across the country, we begin with Delhi's St Stephen's College. In this session moderated by Consulting Editor Seema Chishti, Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Telecom and an alumnus of St Stephen's, speaks about his days in the college, the Anna Hazare campaign and his education reforms



SEEMA CHISHTI: During your time as a student here, what was the kind of relationship youngsters had with politics? And how has that changed?
Oh, there has been a huge change. In the sixties, we didn't have a market economy—the state was everything. I don't think any friend of mine opted for a multinational company. Some of my friends were deeply involved in the Naxal movement, some of them went underground. Things were very different, far less competitive, far more laidback. We spent a lot of time doing many other things. I remember we used to have the annual test of general knowledge, and basically we used to sit for the test not to show off our knowledge but to enjoy ourselves.

PRANAV GUPTA (1st year, Economics): You have said that Anna Hazare and his movement should release the names of people who are contributing money to the movement. A recent report noted that till 2008-9, the Congress collected Rs 978 crore through the sale of coupons, of which only Rs 65 crore came from identified donors. If you want transparency from Anna Hazare, why not the Congress?
Absolutely, there should be transparency and I'm sure we file our accounts with the Election Commission and with the tax authorities. Whatever donations we get, we show. But I think you are mixing two separate issues. One is funding of political parties: all political parties must be transparent as far as their funding process is concerned. But we should not mix up funding of political parties with funding of a particular event. To ask who was funding it, is a relevant question—it was an organised event.

BLESIN MATHEW (11th year, BA Programme): What do you think about the recent public attacks on St Stephen's College and its functioning by people who claim to be its only credible alumni?
I think St Stephen's College should be open to criticism. The criticism should be informed criticism. I am extremely worried that the college hasn't grown the way this institution should have grown. I think the alumni should contribute, help the college grow. We also need to change the way the college functions. We should allow public-private partnership. Otherwise, how do institutions grow? Institutions are run by alumni. They are on the governing boards, they make huge contributions to the institution and that's how colleges move forward. I think that's a structural issue we need to address.

ANSHUMAN KAMILLA (1st year, Economics): You want to turn post offices into post banks. But not all post offices are computerised. Secondly, they do not have the core banking solutions incorporated. These issues will be addressed once RBI agrees to allow (post offices) to be banks. But we are going to change the way post offices function. We have a national e-governance plan, where all services are electronically delivered, including post offices. For example, a lot of NREGA payments are made through post offices today. I



Photos: RAVI KANOURA

have prepared a national Electronic Delivery Services Bill which will go to the Cabinet soon and we'll introduce that Bill in Parliament this winter session. Our attempt will be that in the next five years, all public services should be electronically delivered. People are talking about corruption nowadays, people say that when an ordinary person wants a tax refund, they are asked for money. We want your tax refund to be electronically sent to your bank account. There will be no human interface and no option for anybody to ask for money. Similarly, if somebody in a village wants his passport to be delivered, he can apply electronically. There will be no intermediary. We have 27 national missions on e-governance. About 12 or 13 of them are operational—for example, every corporate sector company files its returns electronically.

VANSHIKA KANT (11th year, History Honors): By 2022, the world's population is going to decline and we are going to have a huge workforce that will contribute to the world. What has your government done to improve skill development in India?
We are on the cusp of launching what is called the national vocational education qualification framework. What we are trying to do is to involve school children in vocational education from class 9. In class 12, they will get a CBSE certificate and by that time, they will have acquired skills based on the outcomes of up to four vocations. We are going to make the syllabi in such a way that it is outcome-based. We are setting up the national operational standards because you have to have operational standards to do this. We are creating the curriculum to fit into those operational standards.

SATYA SINHA (1st year, BSc Programme): All MPs say Parliament is supreme, that the right to make laws belongs to MPs. But I think laws should be made outside, surveys should take place, experts should be consulted. Then it should go to Parliament where you correct what is wrong with the draft—discard parts, keep what's right.
What you are saying is absolutely correct and that is what we do. But there is a difference. People say they are making the law, that their law is the right one and if you don't agree with them then, they will have to take action.

ANANDITA SINGH MANKOTIA (The Financial Express): While outlining the National Telecom Policy, you said you would set up a spectrum management body. I did not say that. I said we will



"There is no agenda in the education sector that does not relate to the well-being of the student community... If all universities in India are on the semester system mode, it allows for mobility of students. It will allow Indians to study in US, Europe, or any other place where the semester system is recognised"

Laws don't get made like that, neither in India nor in any other democratic country. Things happen through dialogue. Democracy means dialogue. I listen to you and you listen to what I am saying.

SATYA SINHA: Then why didn't you take both drafts of the Lokpal Bill to Parliament?
It's a constitutional matter. We are the elected government. We make the laws and present them. Today, there are two drafts of the Bill. Tomorrow there can be 50 drafts. The draft which will go forward will be the government's draft. Parliament will discuss the government's draft. The other drafts will be discussed at the drafting stage, then again at the stage of the Standing Committee and then when the law goes to Parliament, it will be discussed. There is no other procedure either in the Constitution or in the parliamentary procedures.

ANANDITA SINGH MANKOTIA (The Financial Express): While outlining the National Telecom Policy, you said you would set up a spectrum management body. I did not say that. I said we will

make sure that licence is delinked from spectrum. Thus far, licence was bundled with spectrum. No telecom operator prior to 3G ever paid for spectrum, right from 2001 to 2010 when 3G was done. It's only in 3G that auctions were done.

B S KUMAR (11th year, BSc Programme): I am a national-level gymnast. I think the new semester system will affect students who pursue extra curricular activities and sports. Last semester, I participated in many competitions and I got very little time to prepare academically during the semester.
What was the agenda behind this? There is no agenda in the education sector that does not relate to the well-being of the student community. What does the semester system do? One, it tests you continually. When I was in college, it was traumatic for us to study for three years and then appear for an exam at the end of three years which would determine our careers, much of it depending on mugging up things. If all universities in India are on the semester system mode, it allows for mobility of students. Then a student at St Stephen's College can take a class in Osmania University by a professor of his choice there, sitting in Delhi. It will allow Indian students to study in US, Europe, or any other place where the semester system is recognised. It also requires the teacher to be far more involved with the student than before. And it requires the student to be far more integrated into the curricula because he has to give papers every few weeks in the semester system and at the end of the semester, he has to give an exam. But you are right: as far as you are concerned, it leaves you with very little time for extra-curricular activities so we will have to look at a model so that your aspirations can be met within the semester system.

CHINKI SINHA (The Indian Express): There is a huge shortage of faculty across the board. What are you going to do to fill that gap?
We are doing a lot of things. The 6th Pay Commission has revised the pay scales. A teacher at the entry-point at university gets a higher remuneration than a person at the entry-point of IAS. You are no longer called a lecturer, you are an assistant professor, an associate professor. You are not prohibited within the university from doing other things. You can earn more

money in the process, apart from the salary you get. As a policy prescription, we are now asking higher educational institutions to make the transition from undergraduate forms of education to post-graduate institutions in a much bigger way—we are looking at 40,000 PhDs by 2020 in the IIT system alone. The PhD system is about how ideas are created and translated into goods and services by industry. We have increased money for fellowships in a big way. And of course, we are now saying you can get a job in the university only if you have a doctorate. That's a precondition.

AKHIL (11th year, Physics): Don't you think politicians should have at least a graduate degree? If you can't manage a degree, can you manage a country?
I think it will be unconditional. Why do you think a graduate is wiser than an average person? Somebody may not have the wherewithal, their family may not have the wherewithal to send their children to college. We have about 20 crore children who are in this age group and about 12.4 per cent will go to college. Our gross enrollment ratio in the age group of 18 to 24 is 12.4 per cent. It may have gone up to 15. That means 85 per cent of children don't reach college. Are you trying to tell me that those 85 per cent who never reach college cannot fight an election? I don't accept that premise. You are in one of the most elitist institutions in the country. You can afford to ask that question. Ask that man in the slum. You can't leave them out of the system.

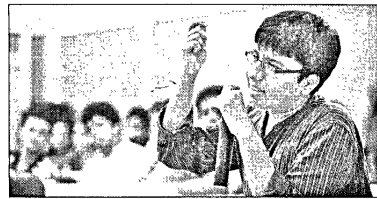
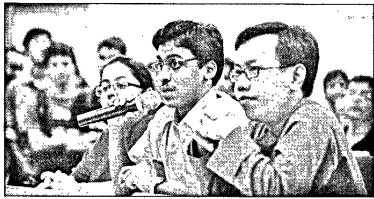
D K SINGH (The Indian Express): You referred to the Tribunal Bill. In this session, your party member was the voice of dissent. Is your party in sync with your reforms agenda at all?
Dissent is fine. This Bill was supposed to be passed without discussion. This was agreed upon in the chamber. So they (the Opposition) took advantage of somebody dissenting and didn't allow the Bill to be passed and punished the students. Of course, my party is in sync with the reforms agenda.

ANURAG ADVANI (1st year, History): As a first year student, I experienced a drastic shift from school to college—the readings we have to do now, formulate our own theories, combine whatever is given and write it in

a specific word limit. Is there a way to bridge this gap between school and college?
It is absolutely necessary. For the first time, about a year ago, I called a meeting. It was a dialogue between vice chancellors and principals of schools. I don't think the school community has ever had a dialogue with the university community. Integration is necessary. What is the expectation from a university of a student who passes out from school? I don't think the university has ever thought about that. I don't think the schools have thought about it either. We have now asked universities to start leadership programmes in universities for school principals. That leadership programme will give an insight to the university about schools and the leadership required in schools and the schools will understand the requirements of the university.

SATINDAR SINGH (1st year, BSc Programme): Most of my fellow students have taken up engineering and there are many who are preparing for the competitive exams next year and are willing to leave this institution even if they get into a B-grade engineering college. What exactly can we do to revive the research culture?
There are not enough incentives in the system for research. Also, I think the attitude of the community is somewhat different. The community says, let me go to an engineering college. I'll get a fairly good job after that. Research takes 10 years. One of the great disincentives to do research in the IIT system is that from B.Tech, you have to move to M.Tech and then you have to do a doctorate. Most kids, after B.Tech, don't want to spend two years doing an M.Tech. They go abroad and start doing research. So all that research that should be done in India is being done abroad. I think part of the problem is also the poor quality of engineering institutions. There is no incentive for a student to be interested in the subject. We need the accreditation process to be put in place. We should grade every institution for quality so the child knows that this is a C grade, B grade, or an A grade institution. What will happen then is that C grade institutions will vanish because no child will go to them and then we will only have quality institutions.

Transcribed by Dipankar Ghose
For longer text, log on to www.indianexpress.com



Deccan Herald Bangalore
24.09.2011 p-2

Times Of India ND
25/09/2011

P-10

'Performance of IITs below expectation'

» The Indian Institutes of Technology in the country have fallen short of expectation, former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr M R Srinivasan has said.

"The IITs were created to be on a par with Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They have done well, but could do better. Not much of research is being done and they should come up with new developments in technology," Srinivasan said at a national summit on quality in education here on Friday.

He noted that Indian Universities neither had the money nor the infrastructure. Many people chosen to be vice-chancellors lacked leadership qualities.

Srinivasan criticised the proposal to bring the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering under the Visvesvaraya Technological University. Confederation of Indian Industry had organised the event.

IIT-K mulls restriction of web access

Kanpur: Authorities at the IIT Kanpur are deliberating on restricting internet access to students during the night saying that it has a negative effect on their academic performance.

"The campus is Wi-Fi enabled and it has been found that students use internet throughout the night on their laptops due to which they are sleepy during classes and it adversely affects their academic performance," registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar said. He said poor performance leads to stress among students and some of them commit suicide after being unable to cope with academic pressure.

A decision to restrict internet access between midnight and 6am in the campus will be implemented only if a consensus is reached, Kashalkar said. PTI

Times of India Lucknow 24.09.11

P-3

IIT-K forms panel to probe suicide

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kanpur: Authorities of the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) have constituted a committee to investigate the suicidal death of Mehtab Ahmed, the first year B.Tech student of material sciences and engineering. Mehtab ended his life on Thursday by hanging himself from the ceiling fan at his hostel room. He was staying in room number D-307 of Hall IX in a single accommodation room.

Talking to mediapersons, registrar, IIT-Kanpur, Sanjeev S Kashalkar said the committee had been formed to find out the exact cause of Mehtab's suicidal death. He said Prof Omkar Dixit of civil engineering department, Prof AR Harish, head counsel-

ling service, Prof MK Ghorai of chemistry department, assistant registrar VP Singh and students' representative Abhinav Prateek were in the fact-finding committee. The panel would submit its report in 10 days.

It is worth mentioning here that Mehtab Ahmed, (roll no. 11397) B.Tech-I student of IIT-Kanpur, was a good student. The son of a sub-inspector Shaikh Ahmad, Mehtab had joined IIT-K on July 20 this year. He had secured 86% in Class XII and 77% in Class X. He had won many awards during his school time. "He completed his schooling from Kannauj and was undoubtedly a good student, keeping in view his performance in Class XII and X in the UP Board," said Kashalkar.

Hindu ND 25.09.2011 P-7

No more late-night surfing for IIT Kanpur?

KANPUR: Authorities at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here are deliberating on restricting the students' access to the Internet at night, saying that it has a negative effect on their academic performance.

"The campus is wi-fi en-

abled and it has been found that students use Internet throughout the night on their laptops due to which they are sleepy during classes and it adversely affects their academic performance," Registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar said.

He said the students' poor

performance leads to stress, which in some extreme cases leads them to commit suicide as they are unable to cope with academic pressure. A decision to restrict Internet access between midnight and six a.m. will be implemented only if a consensus is reached

on the matter, Mr. Kashalkar said.

On Thursday, a B. Tech first-year student committed suicide on campus. This was the ninth such case in the past six years and has become a cause of concern for the authorities. -PTI

Pioneer ND 25/09/2011 FORAY P-7

ENGINEER OF ALMS

A former marine engineer and a professor at a reputed management institute in Mumbai, Sandeep Manohar Desai is often seen in Mumbai's suburban trains holding a begging bowl. He asks commuters for contributions to teach underprivileged slum children. Desai has so far raised ₹21 lakh this year. **TN RAGHUNATHA** met up with this man with a mission

Beating on trains may be a crime punishable under Section 144 of the Railways Act, with an imprisonment up to one year and a fine, but that does not deter 51-year-old Prof Sandeep Manohar Desai from virtually going around with a begging bowl on Mumbai's suburban trains for two to three days. A marine engineer-turned-management studies lecturer-turned-social worker, Desai unabashedly admits that he has, for some time, been resorting to the unusual means of seeking money from commuters travelling by Mumbai's suburban trains.

When he began this unusual routine nearly one-and-a-half years ago, Desai would commute in locals between Goregaon in north Mumbai and Churchgate, the Western Railways terminus in south Mumbai, as many times as possible, for six hours at a stretch in a day. Though he does not travel as much these days, Desai adopts the same *modus operandi* even now. "Yes, I still continue to raise funds by seeking donations from commuters travelling in suburban trains. I travel by these trains whenever I am in Mumbai, say, 2-3 days a week. I make two trips a day. On an average, I collect about ₹2,500 a day," Desai reveals.

Before you begin to mistake Desai for another beggar — the types you encounter in your day-to-day lives, you are sadly mistaken. For, as the crowded local departs from either the Churchgate station (or Goregaon in the reverse direction), he breaks into a brief speech in chaste Marathi, beginning with "Vidya daan sarva sreshthia daan aah" (imparting free education is the greatest offering or donation one can make). He tells the commuters that it is essential for them to make small donations for the noble cause of imparting education to children from poor families. He repeats the same speech in equally chaste Hindi and English. Before long, he goes around collecting whatever money — be it ₹1 or ₹100 — that commuters give him.

"People used to be suspicious of me when I started collecting funds in this manner. Even now, some of them are very rude. Once in a while, I am told to get off the train. However, by and large, the commuters have been large-hearted. Most commuters have started believing me after they have checked up my credentials. In 2011, I have raised a sum of over ₹21 lakh from suburban railway commuters and others," Desai says in a matter of fact manner.

Sometime in September last year, Desai had an interesting experience. Hearing about his charity work, Bollywood actor Salman Khan got in touch with him and offered to make donations to his Trust.

Salman wanted to know from Desai as to how much he had collected. When Desai said he had collected ₹4 lakh, the star told him he would donate as much.

Not satisfied, Desai made an unusual request to Salman, asking him to speak to commuters on his mobile phone. The actor readily oblig-



Sandeep Manohar Desai collects contributors for his slum children school

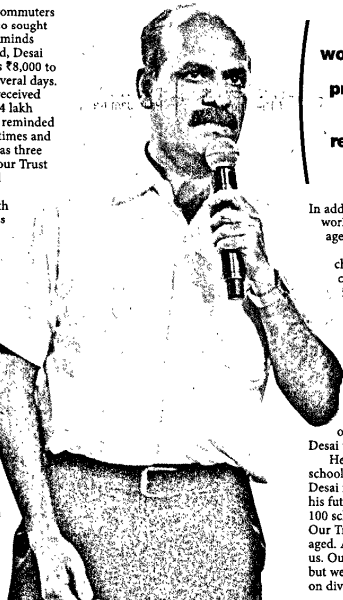


Photos: Sameer Joshi/Fotocorp

ed. He not only urged the commuters to donate generously, he also sought to allay suspicions in some minds about Desai. As word spread, Desai began collecting as much as ₹8,000 to ₹9,000 a day for the next several days. "Unfortunately, I have not received the promised donation of ₹4 lakh from Salman Khan so far. I reminded the actor's associates a few times and the star himself as recently as three months ago. I was assured our Trust would receive the promised donation soon," Desai ruses.

What does Desai do with the money he collects? He is a man with a mission.

Among other things, he uses the money for a charitable Trust floated by him and a few like-minded persons. The Trust runs Shloka Missionaries Public School, a free, English medium school for children, from Goregaon slums. "It is a very small school located in a slum rehabilitation building. Our Trust also imparts training and holds certificate workshops on various subjects. As part of the exercise, we conduct courses on copy writing, creativity, campaign planning, Advertising and Communication under the Shloka Institute, Mumbai.



Impressed by his work, Bollywood actor Salman Khan promised ₹4 lakh for Desai's Trust. However, despite repeated reminders, the sum is yet to reach Desai

In addition, we conduct creativity workshops for children of different age groups," he says.

Desai is investing a major chunk of the donations in the construction of another school in Ratnagiri district in coastal Konkan region of Maharashtra, where he hails from. Dedicated to his mother, the late Sudha Desai, Sudha's World — as the school is named — will commence its activities from 2012. "We are in the process of getting recognition for the school, more than 50 per cent of the construction is over," Desai tells you.

He may have set up the first of the schools, Shloka, just six years ago, but Desai is ambitious when it comes to his future plans. "I have plans to run 100 schools before I leave this world. Our Trust will also run a home for the aged. All depends on God's mercy on us. Our Trust is a multi-purpose one, but we have not yet taken a decision on diversification," he says.

Desai owes a lot to his mother who died of cancer two years ago. "My mother always inspired me to be of service to others. She believed physical capacity or financial power was not too important to gain strength. She followed Mahatma Gandhi's principles of leading a simple life. She was a teacher. I have imbibed many of the things she taught," Desai tells you with a lump in his throat.

Fourth among five siblings, Desai studied up to junior college in Mumbai and pursued Marine Engineering from Directorate of Marine Engineering College, Kolkata. "I have sailed on board ships of Great Eastern Shipping Company (GESCO) and later worked in MNCs like Wartsila Diesel and Castrol. I did my work meticulously and hated monotony in my assignments. I became a good manager when I work on board the ships of GESCO. Life at sea makes you manage difficult situations with limited resources."

"Always itching to do something new and different", Desai gave up his Marine Engineer's job to be with his ageing parents in Mumbai, at a time when his father was ailing. "My father had Alzheimer's disease and my mother could not take care of him alone. I managed to clear the selection procedure for an MBA course and joined the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies," he says. Before long, Desai began teaching at the SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPIMR). "I was not a brilliant teacher. I went headlong into social work in 1997," he discloses.

A confirmed bachelor who has no regrets about not having married, Desai says: "All of my siblings are well settled. I lived with my parents until they left this world. I am a bachelor. It was by design that I grew up to remain single. I have dedicated my time for *seva* for the rest of my life. I believe in the dictum that not all men are fools. Some are bachelors too."

The nomination for the Reliance Industries-IBN18 Real Heroes Award for 2011 in the education and children category came as a surprise for Desai. "I never expect any awards, Real Heroes 2011 Award came as a surprise for me. I dedicate it to the commuters, ticket checkers and the Railway Police Force of Mumbai," he says. Real Heroes apart, Desai has received several other awards, including the Zee Marathi *Ananya Gaurav* recognition and the one bestowed by the Rotary International.

"I am lucky to have received these recognitions. I am also happy to learn from others that the awards are an inspiration for like-minded individuals who want to tread the path of *Seva*," Desai says.

Set up in 2001, the Shloka Missionaries — a public charitable trust — is managed by three trustees Noor Islam, who is one of the founder-trustees, Capt Shirdhar Bharatan and Capt Ajay Badaamkar. Suffice it to say, while, for most, charity begins at home, for Desai running trains serve as the wheels to reach out for charity — in the form of education — to the poor and the needy.

Fraud Fear in Fall Season

Both US universities that were investigated earlier this year on grounds of immigration fraud had a large number of Indian students on the rolls. And this is causing worries this academic season

:: Ishani Duttagupta

It's that time of the year when hundreds of students from India pack their bags to go and join colleges and universities in the US. And though, like previous years, there has been an increase in the number of Indians going to campuses in the US, two incidents of raids by US immigration authorities on colleges for fraudulent practices, which involved a large number of Indian students, in the past few months are causing concern.

Early this year, in January, US immigration authorities raided Tri-Valley University in California, alleging that the school's founder and president, Susan Xiao-Ping Su, was issuing US student visas to foreign nationals willing to pay for them. Over 95% of Tri-Valley's 1,500 students were from India, and the institution listed out the same address for over half of them. Later, in July, the University of Northern Virginia too was raided by the US law enforcement authorities on grounds of alleged visa fraud and here too, hundreds of the students were from India.

These two cases appear to be just the tip of the iceberg, and most immigration lawyers and experts in the US now feel that more and more such dubious colleges and universities will come under the scanner of the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). And it is well-known that a large number of students in such institutions are from India, particularly from Andhra Pradesh.

More Raids Likely

A recent article in the influential *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in the US suggests that Tri-Valley is only the beginning and there are many other colleges, most of them unaccredited, which are exploiting byzantine federal regulations, enrolling almost exclusively foreign students and charging them upward of \$3,000 for a chance to work in the US. "They flourish in California and Virginia, where regulations are lax, and many of their practices – for instance, holding some classes on only three weekends per semester – are unconventional, to say the least. These colleges usher in thousands of foreign students and generate millions of dollars in profits because they have the power, bestowed by the US government, to help students get visas," the *Chronicle* article said.

During a trip to India last month, Reta Jo



Visa Worries: At last count, there were a record 1,04,897 Indian students enrolled in universities around the US. But there are growing concerns over incidents of visa fraud

Lewis, the special representative for global intergovernmental affairs with the state department, said the DHS had the lead on many more universities in the US, which were guilty of such fraudulent practices.

Misuse of Student Visas

Immigration experts in India and in the US point out that the modus operandi among Indian students who are flouting rules follows a common pattern. In most of the cases, the I-20 form, which is required for a

student visa, is issued by a different college, than the one the students finally land up in. The easy transfer norms are made use of by professionals from India who are mostly headed to the US to look for work. In most cases, they are not young students and the sham universities facilitate their illegal stay in the US in exchange for huge amounts of money.

"Genuine students from India, who are aiming to study in the US, should expand their consideration set of potential institu-

COLLEGES AND STUDENTS UNDER SCANNER



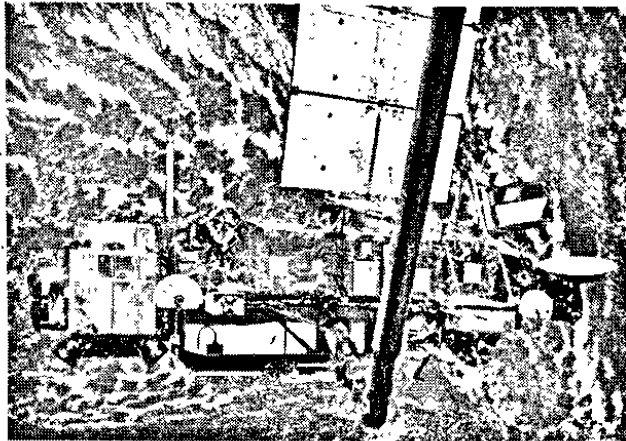
- US is likely to put more universities under the scanner. There are already leads on student visa issues for some universities
- Visa interviews in India are taking longer with more questions being asked
- Students applying for visas are often having to wait longer
- There are some agencies in the US that are on a watchlist and authorities are closely monitoring regional online media in India, including student chatrooms, to get investigative leads

tions beyond traditional top institutions as suggested by rankings. However, they should also recognise that there is a wide spectrum of quality of institutions ranging from Harvard University to Tri-Valley University. The key is to make informed choices and treat any short-cuts promised by 'study abroad' agents or institutions with caution. Students should make sure that the institution they plan to study in is listed in the US Department of Education's website and preferably accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies," says Rahul Choudaha, director of development & innovation, World Education Services, New York.

Even as the US embassy in Delhi has recently announced a 20% increase in the number of student visa applications this year in India from a year ago, there have also been warnings against lack of physical attendance at colleges in the US, failure to maintain full course-load and unauthorised employment. Many student visa applicants felt that there were more questions asked at interviews at the embassy and consulates this year and the process of getting an F1 student visa took longer than previous years. ■

GETTY IMAGES

Nasa's stray satellite crashes through space



Nasa's handout image of the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite. PHOTO. REUTERS

REUTERS
Florida, 24 September

A six-tonne Nasa science satellite pierced the atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean and fell back to Earth, the US space agency said on Saturday, but it was not yet known where the remains landed.

Nasa said its decommissioned Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite, which took an unpredictable course as it tumbled through the upper atmosphere, fell to Earth sometime between 11:23 pm EDT on Friday and 1:09 am EDT on Saturday.

"The precise re-entry time and location are not yet known with certainty," Nasa said of the 20-year-old satellite.

There were reports on Twitter of debris falling over Okotoks, a town south of Calgary in western Canada, most likely satellite remains.

Stretching 35 feet long and 15 feet in diameter, UARS was among the largest spacecraft to plummet, although it is a slim cousin to Nasa's 75-tonnes Skylab station, which crashed in 1979.

Russia's last space station,

the 135-tonnes Mir, crashed into the Pacific Ocean in 2001, but it was a guided descent.

Nasa now plans for the controlled re-entry of large spacecraft, but it did not when UARS was designed.

The 13,000-pound (5,897 kg) satellite was dispatched into orbit by a space shuttle crew in 1991 to study ozone and other chemicals in Earth's atmosphere. It completed its mission in 2005 and had been slowly losing altitude ever since, pulled by the planet's gravity.

Most of the spacecraft burned up during the fiery plunge through the atmosphere, but about 26 individual pieces, weighing a total of about 1,100 pounds (500 kg) could have survived the incineration.

The debris field spans about 500 miles, but exactly where it is located depends on when UARS descended.

With most of the planet covered in water and vast uninhabited deserts and other land directly beneath the satellite's flight path, the chance that someone would be hit by falling debris was 1-in-3,200, Nasa said.

Indo-German centre to spearhead research on lipids

R. Ramachandran

NEW DELHI: While the cultural part of 'Germany and India: Infinite Opportunities,' the 15-month-long collaborative celebration marking the 60 years of the Indo-German diplomatic relations, kicked off here on Friday with the percussion duet by India's Sivamani and Germany's Christoph Haberer, cooperation in basic sciences reached another milestone with the inauguration of the second Indo-German Max-Planck Centre in India.

The Max Planck-NCBS Centre for Research on Lipids will be located at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Bangalore.

The centre is a collaborative venture of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

- During the start-up phase, a research group will be set up in Dresden and Berlin
- Researchers will be involved in biochemical and biophysical analysis of biological membranes

and the Max-Planck Society and an outcome of the long-standing fruitful collaborative research between the scientists of the NCBS and the Max-Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG), Dresden.

German Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office Cornelia Pieper did a symbolic inauguration of the centre in the presence of M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; K. VijayRaghavan, Director, NCBS; Mario Zerial, Director, MPI-CBG; and scientists and other officials of the two countries.

At a meeting held in Banga-

lore on September 22, a formal Memorandum of Understanding, setting out the details of the functioning of the centre, was signed.

The Indo-German Max-Planck Centre for Computer Sciences (IMPECS) was established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Max-Planck Society at the IIT-Delhi in February 2010. It was a product of collaborative research between the IIT-Delhi and the Max-Planck Institute for Informatics (MPI-INF), Saarbrücken.

These centres are set up with equal contributions (in

value) from both sides, and the new Bangalore centre will involve a total expenditure of about €20 million a year. In terms of cash flow, India will spend about €2 million a year and Germany about €10 million. The rest of Indian contribution will be in terms of infrastructure and other expenses towards running the centre.

Lipids are a broad group of molecules occurring in all living organisms, and about 20,000 per organism have so far been identified. They include fats, waxes, fat-soluble vitamins and fatty acids and their derivatives, including mono-, di-, and tri-glycerides. Lipids constitute one of the main structural components of cell membranes. They also act as important signalling molecules and have a significant role in energy storage. However, the detailed mechanisms of their synthesis and

biological functions are still largely unexplored, pointed out Teymuraz Kurzchalia of MPI-CBG, an expert in cell biology.

As he explained, with the genome sequences of various organisms now available, we know the general design and architecture of the cell structure, but different aspects of the "brick and mortar" that make up the cell are still largely unknown. "This is the crucial missing link in the realisation of the promise that genomics gave us about a decade ago of understanding the linkage between genes and the functional molecules," said Dr. Zerial. "Pharmacologically, it is important to understand this gene to lipid linkage. Lipidomics could develop very soon into a key tool in cell and developmental biology, molecular medicine and nutritional science," he added.

One of the important objectives of lipid research today is to carry out an inventory of lipids in nematodes and model organisms such as *Caenorhabditis elegans* and *Drosophila* to understand the basic principles of how different lipids are synthesised and how they are involved in the organisation and functioning of cell membranes and signalling processes in higher organisms, including humans.

According to an NCBS release, during the Centre's start-up phase, which will extend over five years, a research group will be set up in Dresden and Berlin. Its researchers will be involved in the biochemical and biophysical analysis of biological membranes and the genetic analysis of lipid metabolic processes in various animal model systems. The special expertise the NCBS will bring

to this collaboration is new imaging techniques that Sattyajit Mayor and his group have developed to observe processes at nanoscale within the cell, according to Dr. VijayRaghavan.

From the DBT's perspective, the centre for research on lipids will become part of the fast-developing Bangalore Bio-Cluster for research and development in biology along with the already established Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms.

All the institutes established thus far are under the NCBS umbrella, and the Bio-Cluster itself has been created after a Memorandum of Understanding between the DBT and the Department of Atomic Energy, the NCBS's apex administrative department.

Hindu ND 25.09.2011 P-12

Take care of the heart... and it will take care of you

Dr. R. N. Kalra

"We know what works, we know what it costs and we know that all countries are at risk. We have an Action Plan to avert millions of premature deaths and help promote a better quality of life for millions more." – World Health Organisation

World Heart Day is an occasion to spread the message that the leading cause of death in the world is heart disease and stroke and that most of the deaths – 17.1 million lives are lost each year – could be prevented. The day was started in 2000 and it fell on the last Sunday in September. Starting 2011, it will be observed on September 29. The theme this year is One World, One Home, One Heart.

World Heart Day presents a great opportunity to communicate messages about the importance of elevating non-communicable diseases (NCDs) up the global health agenda. Of the 17.1 million lives claimed by the global burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD) every year, 82 per cent of the deaths occur in low and middle-income countries. This excessive number is particularly saddening, for, with a healthy diet and regular physical activity and by avoiding tobacco, the majority of the deaths could be prevented.

Global leaders have recognised the urgency of prioritising the prevention and control of CVD together with the other NCDs, which include cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, by holding the first-ever United Nations High-Level Meeting on NCDs in September. However, the onus of fighting CVD does not rest with policymakers and global leaders alone. Individuals can also reduce the CVD burden by learning about the risk factors and taking vital steps to reduce them.

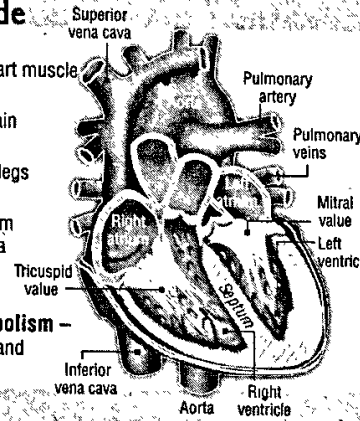
As the hub of family activities and focal point in everyone's life, the household is the perfect place to start taking action to improve heart

Heart Matters

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a group of disorders that affect the heart and blood vessels

Cardiovascular ailments include

- **Coronary heart disease** – Disease of the vessels supplying blood to the heart muscle
- **Cerebrovascular disease** – Disease of the vessels supplying blood to the brain
- **Peripheral arterial disease** – Disease of vessels supplying blood to arms and legs
- **Rheumatic heart disease** – Damage to the heart muscle and heart valves from rheumatic fever, caused by streptococcal bacteria
- **Congenital heart disease** – Malformations of heart structure existing at birth
- **Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism** – Blood clots in the leg veins, which can dislodge and move to the heart and lungs



Key Facts

Biggest killer

CVDs are the number one cause of death globally. More people die annually from CVDs than from any other cause.

17.3 million

An estimated 17.3 million people died from CVDs in 2008, representing 30% of all global deaths. Of these deaths, an estimated 7.3 million were due to coronary heart disease and 6.2 million were due to stroke.

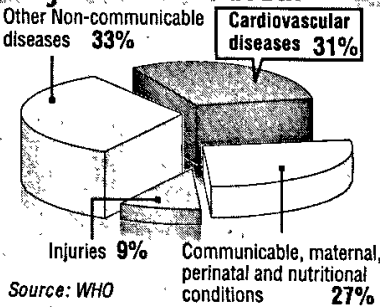
80%

Low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected. Over 80% of CVD deaths take place in low- and middle-income countries and occur almost equally in men and women.

23.6 million

By 2030, almost 23.6 million people are likely to die from CVDs, mainly from heart disease and stroke. These are projected to remain the single leading cause of death.

Major causes of death



How to lower the risk

- Tobacco use, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes.
- Engaging in physical activity for at least 30 minutes every day will help prevent heart attacks and strokes.
- Eating at least five servings of fruit and vegetables a day and limiting salt intake to less than one teaspoon a day also help prevent heart attacks and strokes.

KBK Infographics

health. That is why this year the World Heart Federation and its members are focussing their efforts on the home.

One Heart

However, not all heart events are preventable. It is, therefore, important to know what action one should take in the event of heart attack or ischemic stroke occurring at home by learning about its symptoms and taking preven-

tive steps.

The WHO reports that NCDs are responsible for about 70 per cent of all worldwide deaths. In India, mortality data from the Registrar-General of India prior to 1998 were obtained from predominantly rural populations, where vital registration varied from five to 15 per cent. Stroke is also increasing in India with greater incidence in rural regions. In-

dians are succumbing to heart disease and stroke in their most productive years. But workplace interventions in developing countries can reduce the CVD risk.

A study on industrial work-sites highlights the great promise of working through organised workplaces, but we have to go beyond this sector. In India, over 85 per cent of the working population is in the informal sector – street

vendors, self-employed farmers and those who work in their own or other people's homes. Most are underprivileged and very poorly served by systems of healthcare and social security. And there is an urgent need to find out how to reach them.

If we are to achieve a healthy, powerful and prosperous India, the government and non-governmental sectors, industries, policymakers, the media, city planners and economists all need to work together, along with the health sector, to engineer the country's growth through health.

As part of an awareness campaign, we, at the Kalra Hospital, have identified and advocated a ban on smoking tobacco, developing healthy food options, being active and making frequent visits to healthcare centres for check-up.

Our community outreach programme has covered more than three lakh people. Over 3,000 volunteers, created and trained all over the country, work as a watchdog to monitor people who are at high risk and take them for referrals. More than 45,000 critically ill patients have been given quality healthcare services either free of cost or at a very nominal cost.

The burden of CVD and its risk factors in India calls for a sound public health approach to stem the epidemic. Efforts to put in place an intervention programme should be complemented with a robust surveillance mechanism so as to monitor, evaluate and guide policies and programmes. It has been demonstrated in pilot mode that it is feasible to establish surveillance for CVD risk factors at community levels. The future of surveillance systems lies in their timeliness, systematic approach and enduring partnerships. Consolidating the gains should pave the path for the way forward.

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पंचलाइन को आईआईटी के छात्रों ने दिया प्लेटफॉर्म

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

कहते हैं कि शब्द सारी कहानी खुद-ब-खुद बयां कर देते हैं। इन्हीं शब्दों को आकार देकर क्या कुछ नहीं किया जा सकता है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के दो छात्रों ने 'द विटी शिट डॉट कॉम' नाम से वेब-साइट खोला है।

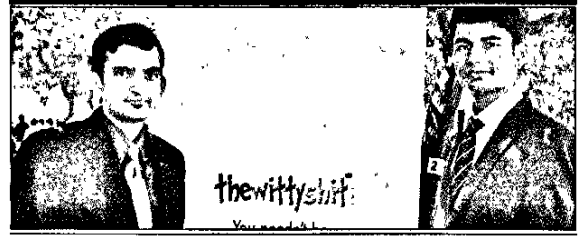
इसके मार्फत वह वन लाइनर, यानी एक वाक्य में ही पूरा फलसफा कह देने वाले लोगों को एक नया प्लेटफॉर्म देंगे। साथ ही उन्हें पुरस्कार भी मिलेगा। ग्लोबल स्टूडेंट्स इंटरप्रिन्योरशिप पुरस्कार में शीर्ष तीस कंपनियों में इस कंपनी का नाम आया था। आईआईटी दिल्ली में अंतिम वर्ष

में पढ़ाई करने वाले अपूर्व और हर्ष स्नेहांशु ने मिलकर ये कंपनी शुरू की है। अपूर्व ने आईआईटी से सिविल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई की है तो हर्ष ने आईआईटी दिल्ली में इंजीनियरिंग फिजिक्स की पढ़ाई की है। अपूर्व ने बताया कि अमूमन फेसबुक पर लोग अपने वनलाइनर लिखते रहते हैं। इनमें से कुछ वनलाइनर लोगों द्वारा खुद बनाए गए होते हैं। ये पंचलाइन ऐसी होती है कि एक बार में जुबां पर चढ़ जाए। ऐसे तमाम लोग फेसबुक पर मिल जाएंगे।

हमारा मकसद ऐसे लोगों को प्लेटफॉर्म प्रदान करना है। खास बात है कि ये वनलाइनर आम आदमी की

पसंद पर खरे उतर चुके होते हैं, जिससे किसी भी कंपनी के लिए इन्हें चुनना आसान होता है। साथ ही इससे कंपनी को ये पुख्ता भी हो जाता है कि आम आदमी को अमुक वनलाइनर जरूर भाएगा। अपूर्व का कहना है कि अगले तीन महीनों में निवेशकों के लिए कंपनी अपने द्वार खोलेगी।

अपूर्व बताते हैं कि अभिभावकों का कहना था कि आईआईटी करने के बाद मैं कोई अच्छी नौकरी करूँ। खासकर समाज में भी बातें उठती हैं कि आखिर आईआईटी करने के बाद नौकरी क्यों नहीं। हालांकि बाद में अभिभावकों ने पूरा सपोर्ट किया है।



इस तरह दीजिए पंचलाइन

the wittyshit.com पर आम आदमी से स्पेसिफिक विषयों, उत्पाद, पर्सनैलिटी के बारे में वन लाइनर यानी पंचलाइन मांगी जाती है। लोगों द्वारा सुझाए गए वनलाइनर में जो चंद वनलाइनर सबसे पसंद किए जाते हैं, उनको तोहफे के तौर पर टी-शर्ट, कॉफी मग, कार्ड और पोस्टर दिए जाते हैं। इन पसंदीदा वन लाइनर को टी-शर्ट कंपनियों को बेचा जाता है। साथ ही इस कंपनी के द्वारा छात्र क्रिएटिव नेटवर्किंग भी कर रहे हैं।

Dainik Jagran Kanpur 24.09.11 P-3

आईआईटी : नये छात्रों को अकेले कमरा नहीं

कानपुर, शिक्षा संवाददाता : महताब अहमद के कमरे में एक और छात्र होता तो शायद उसके मन की बात पढ़ उसे बचा सकता था। महताब की आत्महत्या के बाद कुछ ऐसा ही सोचकर अब आईआईटी संस्थान ने नया फैसला लिया है। इसके मुताबिक संस्थान आगे से नये छात्रों को एकल कमरा एलॉट नहीं करेगा। वहीं रात 12 बजे के बाद छात्रावासों में इंटरनेट बंद करने की भी तैयारी है। महताब ने आत्महत्या के पहले कमरे की दीवार पर कुछ बातें लिख दी थीं। संस्थान का मानना है कि यदि उसके साथ कोई और साथी होता तो शायद वह उससे अपने मन की बातें बांट सकता था। ऐसे में संस्थान ने फैसला किया है कि अब नये छात्रों को एकल रूम एलॉट नहीं किया जाएगा। जिन्हें एकल कमरा दिया गया है, उनके लिए डबल बेड रूम की व्यवस्था होगी। वहीं छात्रावासों में 24 घंटे इंटरनेट सुविधा होने से तमाम छात्र देर रात तक इंटरनेट पर चैटिंग करने में व्यस्त रहते हैं। ऐसे में उनकी पढ़ाई व स्वास्थ्य प्रभावित होने की लल शेष पृष्ठ 21 पर (देखें पेज-4)

Hindustan Lucknow 24.09.11 p-6

अब तो नौकरी भी मिलगी 'गेट' से

रुड़की | सीमा श्रीवास्तव

ग्रेजुएट एप्टीट्यूट टेस्ट इन इंजीनियरिंग (गेट) अब एमटेक और स्कॉलरशिप हासिल करने का ही जरिया नहीं रहा। इसके माध्यम से इंजीनियरिंग ग्रेजुएट अब देश के नवरत्न संस्थानों में जॉब हासिल कर सकते हैं।

एनटीपीसी, इंडियन ऑयल एवं बीएचईएल जैसे संस्थान अब 'गेट' स्कोर के आधार पर अपने यहां इंजीनियरों की भर्ती करेंगे। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (एमएचआरडी) द्वारा हर साल 'गेट' परीक्षा आयोजित करायी जाती है, जिसमें इंजीनियरिंग ग्रेजुएट हिस्सा लेते हैं। 'गेट' स्कोर के आधार पर एमएचआरडी उच्च शिक्षा के लिए अभ्यर्थियों को स्कॉलरशिप देता है। आईआईटी रुड़की 'गेट' चेयरमैन प्रो. प्रदीप कुमार ने बताया कि बीएचईएल,

सुशखबरी

- देश के महारत्न संस्थानों में 'गेट' स्कोर के आधार पर इंजीनियरिंग ग्रेजुएट को मिलेगी जॉब
- गेट स्कोर के आधार पर उच्च शिक्षा के लिए देता है स्कॉलरशिप

एनटीपीसी आदि 'गेट-12' स्कोर के आधार पर इंजीनियरिंग ग्रेजुएट को अपने संस्थान में बेहतरीन जॉब देंगे। इसके लिए इन संस्थानों ने सैकड़ों रिक्तियां निकाली हैं।

ये संस्थान फिलहाल 'गेट-12' स्कोर के आधार पर जॉब देंगे। यदि किसी ने 'गेट-11' क्वालीफाई किया है और वह इन जॉब के लिए आवेदन करना चाहता है तो उसे अगले साल 12 फरवरी को होने वाली 'गेट-12' की परीक्षा क्वालीफाई करनी होगी।