

Newspaper Clips September 28, 2010

Hindustan Times ND 28/09/2010 p-2

Students suffer as dengue grips IIT-Delhi

CONFLICT Authorities deny students' claim of nearly 150 cases, say only 50 so far

Rhythma Kaul

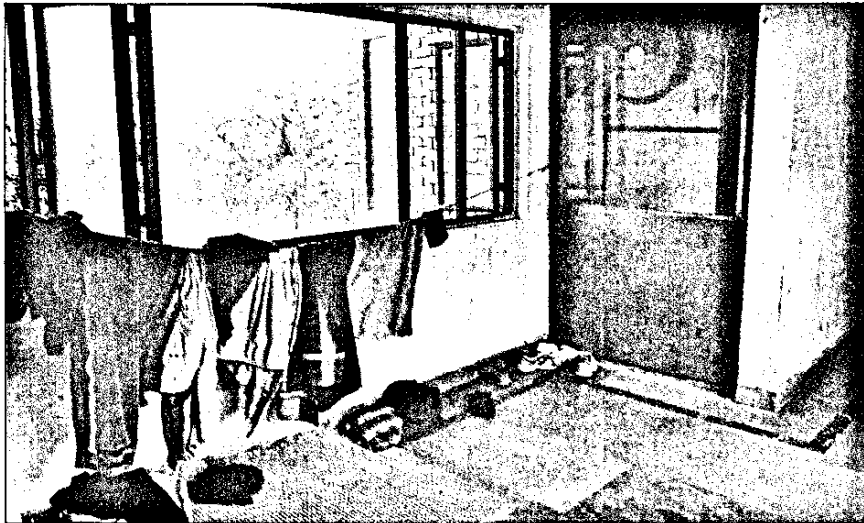
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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is the latest to fall to dengue, with nearly 150 students down with the disease since monsoon set in.

The 11 hostels of IIT-Delhi houses 6,000 students. The campus has a total population of 16,000, including the faculty and other staff members. The institute authorities claim there have not been more than 50 dengue positive cases so far.

"There's no denying that we have had dengue cases, but 50 cases in a population of 16,000 is not alarming," said Dr Surendra Prasad, Director, IIT Delhi.

The students and faculty members, however, differ. "I share a room with two other students, and all of us are down with dengue. In my hostel alone you'll find about 25-30 dengue cases, and the entire campus will easily have more than 100 students suffering from dengue," said a student of first year mechanical engineering,



■ A reason for IIT students falling ill is that the hostel windows don't have mosquito nets. RONJOY 8080/HT

staying in Kumaon hostel, who is recuperating at a relatives place in south Delhi. The students and faculty members refused to be identified, as they feared action from the authorities.

A senior faculty member in the department of computer science also claimed a lot of cases went unreported. "Not all come to IIT hospital as it's a small set-up and not equipped to handle huge numbers. I per-

sonally know 10 people in my neighbourhood who went to a private lab and tested positive. Three of my own family members are down with dengue," said the professor, who himself has been on leave from work for

more than two weeks due to dengue.

"The hostel windows provide easy access to mosquitoes as they don't have wire meshes. I haven't seen any fumigation worker or even someone spraying larvicide in the water collected around," said a third year student of mechanical engineering staying in Zanskar hostel, who knew of eight hostel students suffering from dengue.

Apart from the construction work being carried out on the campus, the institute authorities also blame neighbouring villages for mosquito breeding. "Though we are doing our best, the rains and our neighbouring village have hampered preventive measures," said Rakesh Kumar, Registrar, IIT-Delhi.

As a result students are losing precious study hours. "I missed my minor exams and now will have to take it at the end of the semester, which means double the syllabus. This is enough loss to affect our grades," said a first year student of bio-chemistry, who had to be hospitalised in AIIMS.

Hindustan Times ND
28/09/2010 p-6

PRINCIPALS TOLD TO KEEP STAFF'S ATTENDANCE LOG

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: After asking college principals to stop paying salaries to frequently striking teachers, the University of Delhi, on Monday, asked the colleges to maintain an attendance register for teachers.

Several teachers have been boycotting work in protest of the semester system being implemented in the university's undergraduate science programmes.

A letter issued by the Registrar to all the college principals mentions those teachers who have been teaching old courses in annual mode despite repeated reminders. These are the same teachers who are responsible for giving lessons in the first semester. The letter says that the teachers will now have to give an undertaking to **take up in class** the university-approved semester-based syllabi and to make up for lost time to complete the syllabi.

If the teachers fail to submit an undertaking by September 30, they will not be paid the salary for September. Also, the and pay and allowances paid after July 21, when the new academic session began, shall be recovered. As the drawing and disbursement officer, the principal will have to ensure that the new order is followed.

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), however, has rejected the circular. It said they will continue teaching in the annual mode. "All teachers are teaching in accordance with the time-tables prepared by respective staff councils and those courses which are prescribed by the University Ordinance under DU Act and Statues. The V-C's illegal orders cannot supersede the provisions of the University Act, Statutes and Ordinances," read a press release issued by the DUTA.

Varsities' quota policy to change

RESERVATION As per Delhi HC, institutes will have to rework OBC cut-offs



■ The IITs, DU and other central institutions have set their cut-offs for OBC students based on a policy that the Delhi HC has dubbed contrary to the concept of reservation. FILE PHOTO

ht SPECIAL

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: The IITs, Delhi University and all other central higher educational institutions may need to change their admissions policy for reserved category students as per a recent Delhi HC judgment against Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The IITs, DU and other central institutions set their cut-offs for Other Backward Classes students based on a policy that the Delhi HC has dubbed "contrary to the concept of reservation", sources told *HT*. The HC order has been challenged in the SC by former IIT Madras

Director PV Indiresan.

Like JNU, the IITs set their cut-offs — in individual subjects and aggregate score — for OBC candidates at 10% below the general category cut-offs. IIMs also decide OBC cut-offs based on general category cut-offs.

DU and other central universities also do the same. Their levels of "relaxation" in cut-offs for OBC candidates generally vary between 5% and 10% below the general category cut-offs.

The HC argued that by setting OBC cut-offs based on general category cut-offs, the eligibility of OBC candidates is determined by general category performance.

"By requiring OBC candidates to secure marks within 10% bandwidth of the last can-

Requiring OBC candidates to secure marks within 10 per cent bandwidth of the last candidate... is contrary to the concept of reservation.

DELHI HIGH COURT

didate admitted in the General category amounts to requiring the OBC candidates to compete with the General category candidates which are contrary to the concept of reservation," the court had said in its indictment of JNU's quota policy earlier.

Officials from JNU, DU and the IITs told *HT* their policy of setting OBC cut-offs based on

general category cut-offs is drawn from an April 2008 HRD ministry order.

The order, while asking institutions to balance reservations and academic quality, does not specify limits to the relaxation that institutions are allowed for OBC cut-offs. It allows each institution to set its own OBC cut-off determining process.

Officials at DU and the IITs however argued it does hint at linking OBC cut-offs to general category cut-offs by referring to a balance between "the standards of education" and filling quota seats.

The HRD ministry order refers to the April 2008 SC order where the apex court held the UPAs controversial 27 per cent OBC quotas legal.

Hindustan Times
ND 28/09/2010 p-13

IIT UNWILLING TO RECONSIDER DECISION ON TELLIS SACKING

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad has told the human resource development ministry that it is unwilling to reconsider its decision to sack gay rights activist and faculty member Ashley Tellis.

In a blunt reply to an HRD ministry prod on the case following a representation to the government by Tellis, the IIT has said that the decision to sack the professor could not be reversed.

The IIT Hyderabad reply — accessed by *HT* from Institute sources — says decision to sack Tellis was taken by the IIT Board of Governors after it considered all aspects of the case, and the decision cannot be reversed.

Tellis, who was on probation in the IIT Hyderabad liberal arts faculty, was sacked this June after the Institute BoG concluded that he was guilty of “unlawful behaviour.” IIT officials claim they received several complaints against Tellis before deciding to remove him from their faculty.

But Tellis — who has a PhD from Cambridge university — has argued in his representation that he was victimised and discriminated against because of his sexual orientation.

Tellis was sacked close on the heels of the Aligarh Muslim University decision to sack gay professor S.R. Siras for his sexual leanings. Siras subsequently committed suicide.

The decision to sack Tellis drew wide condemnation from India's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual community which argued that the sacking was discriminatory and violated Constitutional rights of sexual minorities.

Common law entrance '11 to test current affairs

Shruthi Balakrishna | TNN

Bangalore: Come next year, aspiring legal eagles will be tested on their aptitude and reasoning. With the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) set to be held on May 15, 2011, the CLAT committee plans to emphasize more on certain sections of the question paper.

To start with, the committee which met last week, aims to stress on current affairs rather than on general knowledge. "We want to test students' knowledge on current affairs than just on some standard facts and figures," M P Singh, vice-chancellor, The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, told TOI.

Secondly, he said, there might be exclusion of legal knowledge as sections like legal aptitude, critical and logical reasoning will be given prominence. However, the question paper



NOT JUST BOOKISH KNOWLEDGE

components will remain similar to that of last year, except that certain sections will be stressed upon.

The components are: English, general knowledge, legal law, logical reasoning and maths. "Instead of legal law, focus will be on legal aptitude. Maths will be basic — Class X level. We want to judge the student's analytical ability, and not knowledge alone," Singh said.

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At 38, Mumbaikar among Cambridge's youngest profs

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

Mumbai: At 38, Vikram Deshpande is all set to become one of the youngest professors at Cambridge University. He will assume his new role from October 1. Deshpande, an alumna of IIT, Bombay, is currently a reader in the engineering faculty at Cambridge.

When asked about the secret to his success, Deshpande told TOI over phone from the UK, "It's important to pursue a career in a field that you are passionate about. Only then you can work hard at it."

As a student at Bombay Scottish School, Mahim, Deshpande was a far cry from the stereotypical image of the studious kid with his head buried in his textbooks.

His father, Sudhir Deshpande, recalls how mischievous he was as a kid, and how, on



LATE BLOOMER: Vikram

field trips and at the airport, he was the first to give his parents the slip and run off on his own to discover the place.

"While he was very bright with his concepts, everyone thought his older brother was better at studies than he was," laughs his father.

While Deshpande was a fun-loving, friendly lad during his student days in Mumbai, his talent didn't go unnoticed. His guide at IIT, Bombay, M S C Bose, wrote him a glowing testimonial in 1994.

Times of India ND 28/09/2010 P20

US mulls law to wiretap the internet

Facebook, BlackBerry, Skype To Be Hit; Debate Rages About Balancing Security & Privacy

Charlie Savage

Washington: Federal law enforcement and national security officials in US are preparing to seek sweeping new regulations for the internet, arguing that their ability to wiretap criminal and terrorism suspects is "going dark" as people increasingly communicate online instead of by telephone.

Essentially, officials want Congress to require all services that enable communications — including encrypted email transmitters like BlackBerry, social networking websites like Facebook

and software that allows direct "peer to peer" messaging like Skype — to be technically capable of complying if served with a wiretap order. The mandate would include being able to intercept and unscramble encrypted messages.

The bill, which the Obama administration plans to submit to lawmakers next year, raises fresh questions about how to balance security needs with protecting privacy and fostering innovation. And because security services around the world face the same problem, it could set an example that is copied globally.

They basically want to turn back the clock and make internet services function the way that the telephone system used to function

James Dempsey | CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY

James X Dempsey, vice president of the Center for Democracy and Technology, an Internet policy group, said the proposal had "huge implications" and chal-

lenged "fundamental elements of the internet revolution" — including its decentralized design.

"They are really asking for the authority to redesign services that take advantage of the unique, and now pervasive, architecture of the Internet," he said. "They basically want to turn back the clock and make internet services function the way that the telephone system used to function."

But law enforcement officials contend that imposing such a mandate is reasonable and necessary to prevent the erosion of their investigative powers.

"We're talking about lawfully authorized intercepts," said FBI's Valerie Caproni. "We're not talking about preserving our ability to execute our existing authority in order to protect the public safety and national security."

Investigators have been concerned for years that changing technology could damage their surveillance ability. In recent months, officials from FBI, Justice Department, National Security Agency, White House and other agencies have been meeting to develop a proposed solution. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Business Line ND
28-Sep-10

p-4

CARE to start rating educational institutions soon

New Delhi, Sept. 27

Rating agency, CARE, today said it will soon start grading educational institutions, starting with engineering and management schools. "We have got board approval for introducing the concept of rating educational institutions. We will start with rating the engineering and management schools initially and then expand to other arenas," Credit Analysis and Research Ltd (CARE) Managing Director, Mr D.R. Dogra, told PTI. He said the rating agency is currently finalising the methodology to be adopted for grading these institutions and it will be completed soon. CARE is also planning to come up with grading for scrips of listed entities. The methodology for this has been finalised. "We will rate the equities on the basis of fundamentals of the company and valuation potential," Mr Dogra added. A 'Fundamental Grade 5' would mean a good grade for the stock, while a grade of 1 would indicate weak fundamental. Similarly a 'Valuation Grade 5' would mean there is enough scope for valuation of that company to go up in the future, he explained. — PTI

Icfai group to invest Rs 400 cr in setting up 8 varsities

G. Naga Sridhar

Hyderabad, Sept. 27

The Icfai Group is planning to invest Rs 400 crore in the next two years to set up eight universities in various States.

"We have received the necessary approvals from the Governments of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab," Mr Koshy Verghese, Head, Icfai Federation of Universities, told *Business Line* here.

At present, the Hyderabad-based Icfai runs eight universities (some which are in the deemed status) in Andhra Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, Tripura, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Jharkhand besides business schools under the brand of Icfai Business Schools (IBS).

"Our objective is to have a pan-India presence. By end of 2012, we will have about 15 universities up and running," Mr Verghese said.

The group, which has over 4,000 students on its rolls, would mobilise Rs 400 crore through debt and internal accruals.

"We have come a long way starting from distance education and universities in 1985 and 1995 respectively. We do not

have any problems in approaching the banks," he said.

Apart from management, education, pure sciences, Icfai would also be expanding its courses in humanities, as there are good employment opportunities coming up in disciplines like economics, he added.

On the issue of lack of regulatory approvals for some of its group institutions, Mr Verghese said: "We have taken the regulatory framework quite seriously and are in the process of obtaining regulatory approvals wherever necessary."

PLACEMENTS IMPROVING

On the placements scenario for Icfai students, he said things were improving.

"Keeping in line with the economic trends, last year placements were not 100 per cent in Icfai as was the case with other institutions. But this year, things are looking better and we expect 100 per cent placements," he claimed.

There are plans to expand the faculty base. "Our teacher student ratio is between 1:12 and 1:15. We will be doubling our student and faculty strength by end of 2012 when we will have 15 universities," he said.

Business Line ND 28-Sep-10 p-21

IIM-C PG students get more offers this year

Our Bureau

Kolkata, Sept. 27

The placement process of the third batch of Post Graduate Programme for Executives (PGPEX) from Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIM-C) saw a rise in the number of companies participating and offers made during this year, against last year.

Close to 60 companies took part in the final placement this year, against 33 companies last year, according to a press statement issued by IIM-C.

The institute received 45 offers for 47 students (batch strength: 51, four students opted out of placement assistance) compared to 30 offers for 34 students (batch strength: 37, three students opted out of placement assistance) last year.

There was also a substantial increase in both mean and median salaries over comparable last year's figures.

"The increase in median salary was greater than that

► *Close to 60 companies took part in the final placement this year, against 33 companies last year.*

of the mean salary this year. The average salary this year was Rs 18.4 lakh, compared to Rs 18 lakh last year. This also augurs for the next year's placement season," the release pointed out.

SALARY OFFERS

The highest salary, however, remained the same as last year at Rs 35 lakh. The institute also received an international offer this year. The overall quality of offers was also good this year with most offers accepted at the level of Director, Vice-President or General Manager levels.

"One of the most exciting trends this year is the imple-

mentation of Sixth Central Pay Commission recommendations last year. Three students from the batch who had Navratna PSU backgrounds chose to revert to their parent organisations," the release said.

Companies such as McKinsey & Co., Deloitte, TCS, Hewlett-Packard, Mindtree Consulting, Amazon Consulting, Accenture and Sapient in Consulting, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Rediff.com, HCL and Infosys BPO in IT/ITES/Telecom, Opus Soft, Google (India) and Zycus in Sales and Marketing, KPIT Cummins, Wellspun Group and Siemens in Project Management/Operations and Direct Internet Solutions, Infosys, Tata International and Manipal Education Group in Strategy and Business Development were some of the key recruiters this year.

Close to 50 per cent of the jobs were in the consulting domain, against 31 per cent last year.

Mayapuri effect: UGC issues norms

ANUBHUTIVISHNOI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

FIVE months after the radiation leak at Mayapuri was traced to the Delhi University's Department of Chemistry, where the radioactive Cobalt-60 had been lying unused for 25 years and was later auctioned off to scrap dealers in Mayapuri, the University Grants Commission on Monday approved comprehensive guidelines on usage of radioactive material by varsities and colleges across the country.

Entitled 'UGC Guidelines for Universities, Research Institutes and Colleges for procurement, storage, usage and disposal of radioactive and other hazardous material/chemicals', the guidelines list out standard operating procedures (SOP) to be followed by each institute to prevent Delhi University-like laxity.

Following the Mayapuri incident, the Human Resource Development Ministry had asked the UGC to frame regulations for the procurement, handling, storage, transport and disposal of hazardous material at universities and colleges. On this, the UGC set up an expert committee for the purpose.

The salient features of the new guidelines are:

- Each varsity should have a University Safety Committee (USC), constituted by the Academic Council, to review the safety in handling of radioactive and other hazardous chemicals. An apex committee at the UGC level will monitor these safety committees.

- All the radiation-related activities in laboratories have to be carried out by designated radiation staff under the supervision of a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) — a faculty with experience in radiation design-

EXPRESS ARCHIVE



Cleaning up in Delhi's Mayapuri area after a radioactive leak

nated so by AERB.

- Procurement and usage of radioisotopes must be carried out as per the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004, and Atomic Energy (safe disposal of radioactive waste) Rules, 1987, and other related notifications. Each lab will have to prominently display the SOP.

- For the liquid readily soluble/dispersible in water waste, a very small quantity can be disposed by a qualified personnel in the sanitary sewage system. The gross quantity of radioactive material released into the sewerage system by the institution should not exceed 37 Gbq per year. Solid radioactive waste in small quantity can be disposed of by burial in pits located at isolated sites owned by the varsity.

- An AERB-cleared incinerator may also be used for incineration of radioactive animal carcasses as long as they will not result in air-borne radioactive contamination in excess of operational limits.

Besides, the guidelines outline emergency procedures for fire incidents, contamination of personnel while handling unsealed source, and dos and don'ts in a chemical lab emergency.

Indian Express ND 28/09/2010 p-3

On V-C proposal, DU clears attendance system for teachers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE Delhi University (DU) administration on Monday decided to begin an attendance system for its teachers. The move follows the university Vice-Chancellor using his Emergency Powers under 11G of the University Statute the second time in a week to gain an upper hand against protesting teachers of the university.

Teachers have, incidentally, also been asked to sign an undertaking

where they agree to teach in the semester mode and complete the syllabi on time.

Most colleges of DU do not mark attendance for teachers, a practice stemming from an implicit trust the institutes place on their teachers. "We trust our teachers to do their job. We can always monitor attendance informally by checking the attendance of students — if students' attendance is taken, the teacher must have been present," said the principal of a DU college.

This comes as a huge blow for the

Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), which had successfully mobilised teachers' support against implementing a biometric attendance system. The body on Monday asked teachers not to sign any such undertaking.

With the Vice-Chancellor holding on to his position with the help of a particular reading of the University Statutes and the DUSU joining the DUTA on their side of the battle, the tactics are getting more strong-armed, and more desperate, by the day.

Business Standard ND28/09/2010 p-4

IIM-A to share placement experience

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 27 September

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), for the first time, will invite top 10 B-schools in the country to be a part of its new placement process and understand the same.

IIM-A, which had last year, switched over to a cohort-based placement system (from day-based placement system), will be holding a recruiters' conclave in Mumbai on October 1, where it has invited B-schools, in-

cluding Indian School of Business, Hyderabad; S P Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai; Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, and XLRI, Jamshedpur, apart from other IIMs.

A cohort is essentially a group of firms that offers similar profiles and remuneration packages.

"The conclave is one way of sharing our learning of the cohort process. This may be an interesting process for other B-schools, too, to know about," said Saral Mukherjee, placements chairperson at IIM-Ahmedabad.

"This is for the first time that a forum has been created where recruiters can express their hiring concerns not only to IIM-A but also other B-schools," Mukherjee added.

IIM-A could not invite more B-schools to the conclave due to logistics constraints at the venue, Mukherjee said. He did not divulge the number of companies invited for

the conclave.

IIM-A decided to make the shift from day-based placement

IIM-A DECIDED TO adopt the cohort-based placement process to give students more time to learn about the nature of jobs they are being offered

process to the cohort-based one to give students more time to learn about the nature of job they are being offered and allow the companies a longer span of time to select the right candidate.

An HR head *Business Standard* spoke to said his com-

pany was evaluating participation in the conclave. "The cohort system does not really suit our way of recruitment. But, nevertheless, we may participate as we have had a long-term recruiting relationship with IIM-A," he said.

IIM-A, this year, has decided to extend the cohort-based process for the summer placement season too, which would begin from November 12. "The summer placements will see over 400 first-year students getting a feel of the new recruiter-friendly process," said Mukherjee.

IIM-C PGPEX placements conclude

BS REPORTER
Kolkata, 27 September

With more recruiters and offers, Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta has concluded a better placement season this year for its third batch of post graduate programme for executives (PGPEX). Offers have been made and accepted at the level of Director/VP/GM.

This year, 60 companies took part in the final placement, with 47 students getting 45 offers (Batch strength was 51, of which four opted out of the placement assistance). Last year, 34 students got 30 offers from 33 companies (Batch strength was 37, of which three opted out of the placement assistance). There were a substantial increase in both mean and median salaries over the comparable figures for last year. However, the increase in median salary was greater than that of the mean. The average salary this year is ₹18.4 lakh, compared to ₹18 lakh last year while the highest salary remained at ₹35 lakh. This year, there was an international offer which was not the case last year.

The recruiters this year included McKinsey & Co, De-

loitte, TCS, Hewlett-Packard, MindTree Consulting, Amazon Consulting, Accenture and Sapient in the Consulting sector; Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Rediff.com, HCL and Infosys in BPO in IT/ITES/Telecom; Opus Soft, Google (India) and Zycus in

Sales and Marketing; KPIT Cummins, Wellspun Group and Siemens in Project Management/Operations and Directi Internet Solutions; Infosys, Tata International and Manipal Education Group in Strategy and Business Development.

AILING SYSTEM

Undermined by lack of faith



Future course: Ajit Patil, a first-year postgraduate student at Poddar College. Unlike Ayurvedic purists, Patil says he plans to practise both allopathy and Ayurveda.

The Ayurvedic system is riddled with flaws that start with the training of doctors. Things don't get any better after they graduate

By PRIYANKA P. NARAIN
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MUMBAI

In May, Vinit Rathod wrote Maharashtra's state medical entrance examination. Like the 320,000 other students who attempted the exam, Rathod hoped he would get into a medical college that would give him his white coat and a shiny MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) degree. But if he failed to meet that cut-off, he planned to get a BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) degree instead.

When the exam's results were announced in June, Rathod instantly knew that his chances of pursuing that elusive MBBS—or even a dental degree—were dim.

With a low state rank of 6,306, he had no choice but to amend his dream. It still consisted of opening a small clinic, where he could play physician to neighbourhood families. Only now, the signboard would bear the letters BAMS instead of MBBS.

But Rathod is beginning to realize that even this modified dream may elude him. During the admission process—where the government allocates medical college seats based on choices of students over three or four rounds, until all available seats are filled—Rathod was shocked to see that he had no Ayurveda colleges to choose from. "The choice of Ayurveda," Rathod explains, "was simply not there."

This has become a familiar annual cycle. Every year, the department of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and homeopathy), which manages Ayurveda education, derecognizes all government and

government-aided Ayurveda colleges because they "fail to meet the exacting criteria that the government wishes them to follow", says Kuldip Raj Kolhi, the AYUSH director for Maharashtra. This year, of the 254 Ayurveda colleges across India, only 77 have been offered recognition thus far.

So, every year, state admissions proceed, heedless that students have been denied an entire discipline of medicine. Every year, the finest, most promising students select colleges and medical streams without even being able to consider the option of Ayurveda.

Every year, even as Ayurveda loses potentially fine young doctors, deans of Ayurveda colleges travel to New Delhi to make "presentations" to the government, begging them to relax the rules a little so their colleges may be re-recognized as an approved centre of learning.

Every year, the government obliges. And so, every year, armed with a re-approval, but without any real change in infrastructure or teaching staff, these colleges open for admission to the last remaining students—students with the lowest ranks, who have been unable to secure a seat anywhere else, students who have no other choice.

Thus, a new cadre of Ayurveda practitioners, bound by fate rather than desire, is formed—students stuck with a discipline they did not want, colleges stuck with students they wish they did not have to teach—to people a system already manned by those who wish

they weren't in it.

When these students hobble into the classroom, they "go into shock", says Namyata Pathak, an MD (Ayu) doctor and a research associate at the Kasturba Health Society in Mumbai. "There is no effort made to orient us into this ancient system of healing. It's like we've been hurled back in time, when texts were written in incomprehensible Sanskrit and physicians believed that the human body had over 300 bones. I cannot describe that deep shock a student faces in those early months when there are no maps to understand the road ahead."

Pathak offers criticisms of the structure of the curriculum as well. "They taught anatomy in the first year, but they completely ignored biochemistry," she says. "How can you ignore such a huge leap of science? And how can you then wonder at the lack of researchers in Ayurveda? Anyway, because they did not teach biochemistry in the first year, students didn't understand pharmacology in the second year. The whole thing just snowballs, because the foundations were not thought through." To cope, she says, students need mentors who can "handhold, cajole, teach, let you watch while they practice".

Even that is difficult, says Vinita Inge, an MD (Ayu) student. By tradition, Ayurvedic doctors (or *vaidyas*) are protective of their skills and their formulations. In old *vaidya* families, Ayurveda is an art passed down only to male heirs. "Even if we want mentors, we have to go and beg at the doorsteps of famous *vaidyas*," Inge says. "If someone allows us to sit in their clinic, they will not tell us what medicines they are giving the patient or how they are making it. It's all very frustrating."

Shalaja Chandra, the bureaucrat who drafted the first policy paper on Ayurveda in 1999 and is putting together a report, ahead of the next Five Year Plan, on the state of Ayurveda, believes the curriculum needs drastic revision. "There is too much of a 'me too' factor working in Ayurveda," she says. "There are too many people trying to compete with modern medicine. But Ayurveda has so much to offer that modern medicine does not. Let's focus on that. Let's focus on what the discipline is, rather than trying to make it into something else."

As with learning, so with practice. Two years ago, the government launched the National Rural Health Mission, which aims to revitalize traditional healthcare systems by, among other things, appointing Ayurvedic doctors in hospitals and public health centres across India.

Sharvati Amrutkar and Manoj Kulkarni—a newly married couple, both

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To read the first part in this series, log on to
www.livemint.com/ayurvedacare.htm

postgraduate Ayurvedic doctors—were among the first such appointees. Amrutkar turned down a job at Mittal Ayurvedic College in Mumbai, which offered her Rs15,000 a month, to take this post, far from home and friends. When the couple moved to Rahata—a village of 20,000 on the outskirts of Shirdi, Maharashtra—to serve as AYUSH doctors in a local government hospital, they were filled with idealism. They both hoped to provide model Ayurvedic healthcare to rural India.

Since that early enthusiasm, every day has been a struggle. "We report to allopathic doctors," says Amrutkar, watching over her eight-year-old son, admitted to the hospital with a fever. "They tell us to follow allopathic practice—give paracetamol, they say. The government grant for Ayurvedic medicines reaches the hospital at the start of the year. But our bosses do not provide Ayurvedic medicines to us. They tell us: 'Patient *badhao, phir layenge* (increase the number of your patients, we'll get medicines then)!' How will we increase patients if we have no medicines to give them?"

Getting paid is another struggle. Both doctors are entitled to a monthly salary of Rs12,000, but like their peers in similar posts across India, they don't see the money for four, sometimes five months. "It's not that the government hasn't sent our salary to the hospital," Amrutkar says. "The salary, like the grant, reaches the hospital early in the year. But the system is corrupt. We often have to pay Rs500, sometimes Rs1,000 to get our salary cleared. We often feel like leaving. We probably will. And yet, we wonder, if we also leave, who will stay to give them?"

Even this precarious life is enviable, some students say; at least the couple works within a system that wants to revitalize Ayurveda. Many students graduate as doctors who aren't too confident, more secure in practising as the local allopath than as a trained *vaidya*.

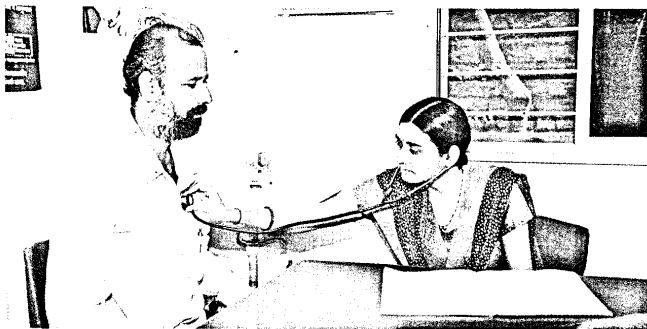
Students such as Ajit Patil, first-year postgraduate student at Poddar College, are unabashed about their decision. "We've been told by our professors that we are trained to practise both," he says. "I plan to go back to my home in Kolhapur and practise both—allopathy and Ayurveda. We are permitted to do it."

For the Ayurvedic purists, options are limited. The website of NASYA (National Ayurveda Students and Youth Association) optimistically lists about 45 courses that students can pursue after their undergraduate and postgraduate studies. But its list of job opportunities for Ayurveda doctors doesn't even reach double digits.

Doctors can become pharmacists at government dispensaries, hospitals or institutes; they can retail Ayurveda medicines or (after sufficient experience at a respected firm) open a pharmacy; or they can work as sales executives in pharmaceutical companies. If none of this works, they can always teach in Ayurvedic colleges.

It is little wonder, then, that many students in their final year of study are terrified of finding their way in the world. "Beyond our own circle, we have little respect," says Mrudula Lad, a fresh postgraduate who now works as a resident medical officer in a Mumbai government hospital even as she hunts for ways to contribute to Ayurveda. "Mostly people look upon us as hacks. They don't understand Ayurveda, and we aren't confident enough to command the respect we deserve. Something in this system—the way of thinking, the way of teaching—is not working. It's not working for Ayurveda, it's not working for us."

This is the second in a five-part series examining everything that isn't working for Ayurveda in India. Next: Ayurveda's fractured supply chain.



Medical malady: Sharvati Amrutkar with a patient at a government hospital in Maharashtra's Rahata village. Appointed under the National Rural Health Mission, Amrutkar says indifferent bosses and delayed salaries have made every day a struggle.

HEART OF THE MATTER

Smoking, stress and a sedentary lifestyle have ensured that heart attacks are no longer affecting just the elderly. We tell you why even the smallest signal should ring alarm bells, and what you can do to manage your heart better

BY SHEWTA TANEJA
& BENITA SEN

Changing lifestyles, irregular diets and chain-smoking have made heart diseases knock at the doors of our peers, friends, neighbours and sometimes even that young nephew. According to a study published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* (IJMR) this month, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are projected to be the main cause of disability and mortality by 2020. It is predicted that 2.6 million Indians will die due to coronary heart disease; this would be 54% of all CVD deaths. Coronary heart disease is a condition characterized by the build-up of plaque in the coronary arteries; any disorder related to the heart and blood vessels, including coronary heart disease (heart attacks), is part of CVD.

The study points out that CVD-related deaths occur a decade earlier among Indians than among their counterparts in developed countries—in their most productive years, rather than post retirement. Keshava R., interventional cardiologist, Fortis Hospital Bangalore, says: "Ten years ago, we were getting about one person in their 20s for heart attacks. Today, that number in our hospital has become 1-2 every month."

The reason for the high rate of CVDs

employees from organizations such as GE India, JK Tyres, L&T, Eveready, Wipro and Hughes Systique, indicating that 76% of the employees of these companies have never had a cardiac check-up and 38% were simply not aware how a healthier lifestyle would affect their heart.

In the following case studies, we talk to three men in their 20s-40s who had to unexpectedly deal with heart-related illnesses. They are now back to their normal lives, wiser, healthier, fitter and more attuned to their hearts, but these stories tell you why even the smallest signal should ring alarm bells and how you can manage your heart better.

BV Preran, Bangalore

First heart attack at 27

Past life: It was mostly peer pressure that prompted B.V. Preran, 27, a businessman in Dobballapur, a small town near Bangalore, to experiment with drugs, cigarettes and alcohol since his school days. He joined his father's business in 2001, and to beat work stress, he started smoking and drinking excessively. "I was smoking 10-15 cigarettes a day, mostly spiked with ganja (marijuana)."

On 10 July, he was out partying with friends when Preran felt shooting pain in his chest, neck and left forearm. His friends rushed him to a general physician, who assumed that since Preran was only 27 his problem was gastritis-

Turnaround mantra: Just under three months later, Preran is a changed man. He has given up smoking and drugs completely. He walks an hour daily. Apart from regular check-ups, he has adopted a diet plan that includes more vegetables, pulses and white meat. He has stopped eating out and sticks to home-cooked food, cooked in very little oil. He has also become an evangelist for "No Smoking".

Doctor's verdict: "When a patient as young as Preran complains of a burning sensation around the chest area, doctors tend to diagnose it as acidity. Thankfully for him, the doctor on duty suggested an ECG because he realized that Preran was a chain smoker," says Dr Keshava R., who did the angioplasty. According to Dr Keshava, common reasons for a heart attack in the early 20s are excessive smoking or genetic predisposition. "In your early 20s, the body is too young to suffer because of a cholesterol build-up. Smoking, however, is damaging, whether it is one cigarette or 15," he says. He stresses that all patients should quit smoking 100%. "If a heart attack doesn't induce them to quit smoking in the first two weeks after an operation, nothing will." Stick to a vegetarian diet, avoid all red meats and exercise for at least 150 minutes per week. "Brisk walk is the cheapest and the best," he adds.

complaint, acidity. A neighbourhood clinic treated him for indigestion but the severe burning in the lower chest and upper stomach continued. Fortunately, Kumar went to work, where he consulted the medical officer. The rest is straight out of a medical thriller. "He was lucky since I saw him about 8 hours from the time the pain started," says T.K. Paharaj, director, Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory, and senior consultant cardiologist, BM Birla Heart Research Centre, Kolkata. Dr Paharaj found a major block in Kumar's main artery, which was removed. Two stents were fitted and immediate relief and improvement in the heart showed on the monitor.

Initially Kumar could not believe he had a heart problem. Now he knows that in all probability eight years earlier and once after that, the severe acidity attacks he suffered were actually heart attacks. **Turnaround mantra:** Kumar, a smoker for 25 years and on one-and-a-half to two packets of cigarettes a day for the last 10 of those years, now takes his doctor's advice seriously. "I last smoked on 29 May." On advice from his doctor, his meals now include more vegetables and fruits. He makes

we get ourselves checked regularly by a doctor? You may think you are fine, but let the doctor endorse that."

Nima Namchu, Gurgaon

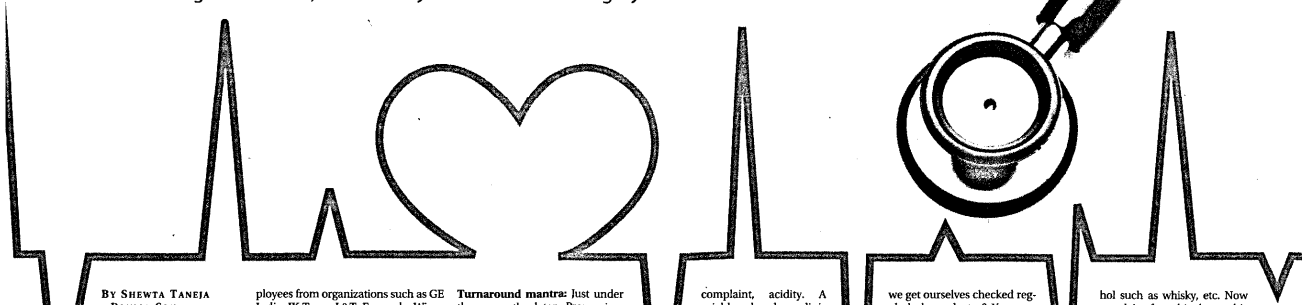
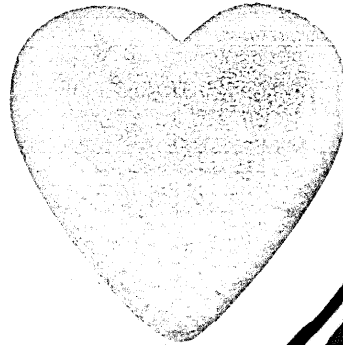
First heart attack at 40

Past life: Nima Namchu, 40, started smoking when he was 15. In a little over 10 years, he was smoking 30-40 cigarettes a day. Like thousands of young urban Indians, he ate more cholesterol-rich food than he ought to have. His plate often held red meat and butter. The healthy boy who grew up in the hills of Kalimpong, walking miles uphill and down every week, got sucked into a stressful, sedentary urban life. Weighing 80kg at 5ft 6 inches when he should have tipped the scales at around 65 kg, Nima, who has 18 years in advertising, was aware he had to be careful, and even went for executive medical checks every year. "I had tried everything from changing my diet to making my life less sedentary but I did not quit smoking," he recalls.

One day in December, in the middle of a presentation, he collapsed. He was rushed to hospital when he complained of acute chest pain and breathlessness. An ECG showed acute myocardial infarction. A quick angiography showed the killer blockages.

hol such as whisky, etc. Now on advice from his doctor, his food is cooked in just three teaspoons of oil a day, he does not eat red meat and his plate is often laden with fruit, vegetables and salads. On rare occasions, he sips red wine. Work is still important but he manages his schedule better. "I try to get at least 8 hours of sleep," he says. He walks for at least 45 minutes a day. He pounds the treadmill if the weather is inclement or takes the eight flights of stairs to his apartment about once every nine months, he has lost 9kg.

Doctor's verdict: Recalls Kushagra Katariya, CEO and chief cardiothoracic surgeon at Artemis Health Institute, Gurgaon, where Namchu was treated: "Nima was hypertensive and a chain smoker. Even people who have an active past and are from traditionally healthy communities can suffer heart problems if the lifestyle isn't heart-healthy." Looking specifically at Namchu's case, Dr Katariya says one should not be complacent even if there is no family history of heart problems since more immediate factors, such as the sleep-wake routine (less than 7 hours of sleep can harm the heart), smoking, diet and a sedentary lifestyle can damage the heart.



Asian Age, ND 28-Sep-10 p-5

Sibal to discuss bill with House panel

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Sept. 27: Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal is likely to hold consultations with Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill. The bill has been deferred by the standing committee last week.

Official sources stated that the minister is likely to try and build consensus on the issue as the deferment of the bill has already created a major embarrassment for the government after the educational tribunal bill was also deferred on the last day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The bill has come under criticism from several quarters for not evolving adequate consensus on the sensitive subject. The standing committee is headed by influential Congress leaders

Oscar Fernandes and has Rahul Gandhi as a member.

Sources stated that the consultation process will aim to placate the section of Congress and UPA allies who have also opposed the Bill openly along with the opposition parties. "The consultation is likely soon as the HRD ministry is under tremendous pressure to further its reform agenda," sources stated.

The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill is one of the several high priority laws proposed for education reforms.

The proposed legislation intends to check capitation fee and act on institutions that fail to adhere to quality norms in education.

The deferment of the Bill comes weeks after the educational tribunal bill was deferred on the last day of the monsoon session of Parliament after opposition from even Congress MPs.

Financial Express ND
28/09/2010 p-8

With reservations

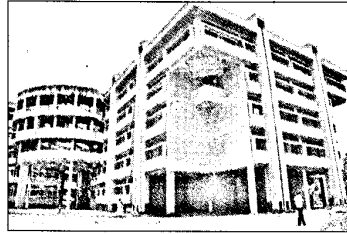
India Inc does well to say no to government

India Inc has done well to say it cannot reserve 5% of its jobs for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe persons. This was in response to industry minister Anand Sharma writing to industry associations asking why the government should not make this mandatory. India Inc's point is a simple one: it is responsible to its shareholders for delivering a world-class return, it is not its job to meet the government's political commitments. In the pre-reforms period, the government gave India Inc all manner of protection, so it could still ask for favours in return. Today, with no one willing to talk of extra protection, why should India Inc do the government's job? The other aspect which the chambers have not highlighted is that in the current year, it will pay out over Rs 6 lakh crore to the government. This money is for the government to spend on meeting its social obligations of providing clean water, subsidised food and so on. Whatever the government needs has to be met from this fund. If the money is not enough, it needs to find more ways to raise money—taxing corporates at a higher rate sounds like the obvious solution, but past experience has shown that higher tax rates lead to lower tax collections.

What the government is forgetting in its zeal to fulfil its election promises is that India Inc also needs to hire people—to the extent around 25% of the country's population is SC/ST, and another 40% OBC, industry just has to hire them. So why make this mandatory which just scares off industry? Industry's fear, and rightly so, is that once it agrees to a 5% reservation, the government can either hike it or start implementing this at various managerial grades as well. The only way to implement the election promise is to ensure SC/STs get greater education with the use, if need be, of more scholarships. Rather than blindly implementing quotas even in educational institutions, a better idea, as IIT Delhi showed so many decades ago, is to ensure that weaker SC/ST students, the ones who can be admitted only under quotas, go in for remedial classes—IIT Delhi found there wasn't too much of a difference between SC/ST and general category students after this. India Inc will be pleased to hire them after this. Without any reservations.

SEATS FOR SALE IN PGI

- Agents claim to rig MBBS and MD entrance tests
- Seat costs ₹ 80 lakh upwards
- PGI not alone, racket may be all over India



The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh

A TRIBUNE INVESTIGATION

CHITLEEN K SETHI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 27
Painstaking investigation by *The Tribune* has revealed shocking details of some self-claimed touts who ensure medical seats to aspirants for a hefty price.

These agents claim to have rigged some of the toughest MD and MBBS entrance tests conducted by the Centre and several state governments and flaunt the fact that they got admissions for their rich "clients" using impersonators to appear in the entrance tests in place of the actual candidates.

While impersonation was one modus operandi, these agents, operating out of Mumbai and New Delhi in the garb of running coaching centres, offer to get "direct" admission to several private medical colleges in the country with the commission shared between the touts and the colleges.

Investigations into the

claims made by these agents revealed that they might not be exaggerating. Following up on some "success stories" flaunted by these agents, *The Tribune* discovered two junior residents pursuing their MD in the prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) here. The duo was allegedly admitted to the PGI after the agents got some-

one to impersonate them in the MD entrance test. While one doctor joined the PGI after "clearing" the test held in December 2008, the other joined the institute through an entrance test held recently.

Posing as parents interested in the admission of their ward to the MD course, *The Tribune* team talked to these agents and the conversation was secretly recorded. The agents "offered" the MD seat of any clinical branch. The cost of the seat, depending on the choice of the branch, ranged from

Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1.2 crore. When *The Tribune* team asked how it would be made possible, the agent said: "You don't have to worry about it. We will manage everything. The candidate doesn't need to appear in the entrance test. Someone else appears for him." The agents also gave the names of the two doctors who had got the seat "using their services".

"You can contact them. Take my name and ask them about us. You will come to know that we are genuine and deliver," boasted the agents.

Enquiries in the PGI revealed that the doctors, whose names the agent had given, were actually pursuing their MD in two different departments.

Posing as parents again, the team met these two doctors. Initially, one of them refused to divulge anything. However, when he was told about the agent, he opened up and confirmed that the agent arranges persons who can

impersonate for candidates. He even mentioned the name of the other doctor who had come to the PGI via the same agent.

The other doctor was busy in the emergency ward when *The Tribune* team met him. Startled, he started giving explanations why he chose to come through an agent. He said he had appeared in the test earlier too but could not clear it. So, he decided to get the services of these agents, who, he said, were effective.

When contacted, PGI director Dr KK Talwar said he was in Delhi in a meeting. The official spokesperson of the PGI, Manju Wadwalkar, said the allegations would be looked into at the highest level.

Going by the claims of these agents and their "success stories", there are reasons to believe that the impersonation racket has been running for some years now and it does not appear to be limited only to the PGI.

(To be continued)

"It will cost you ₹ 1.2 crore for a PG seat in radiology," says agent

From page 1

tension. You leave all that to us. Your work will be done. TT: I hope there is nothing to fear? Does the exam take place in the PGI?

Agent: The exam takes place in Chandigarh. There is nothing to worry. You relax. We will manage everything.

TT: How much money has to be given initially?

Agent: Initially, you will have to pay at least Rs 10 to 15 lakh.

TT: How do we make that payment? Do we meet someone here?

Agent: No you will have to come to us and give the payment to us.

TT: Ok. I will pass on this information to Mrs Sharma. I will also give her your number. She will get in touch with you.

Agent: Yes. Yes she can talk to us anytime. She should give your reference. Do not take any tension. Consider the work as done.

TT: We believe you. One more thing...does the initial amount remains same for the radiology branch?

Agent: No, for radiology, the initial amount is more. It will be Rs 20 lakh.

TT: Ok. I will convey this to Mrs Sharma. Dr***** was also telling us that you can also manage admissions in ***** (a prestigious government medical institute in New Delhi)?

Agent: We can get admission done everywhere.

TT: What is the rate for admission at ***** (a prestigious government medical institute in New Delhi)?

Agent: The rates are the same everywhere. Wherever you want, we can get the admission. The first exam that is approaching is in November-December of the PGI and ***** (a prestigious government medical institute in New Delhi)?

TT: How do we make that payment? Do we meet someone here?

Agent: No you will have to come to us and give the payment to us.

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TT: What is the rate for admission at ***** (a prestigious government medical institute in New Delhi)?

Chandigarh to this college in Mumbai in paediatrics.

TT: The doctors whom we met said there was no need to pay the entire amount in advance.

Agent: That is how we operate. We don't take the entire amount beforehand. We only take a token advance. And the day your child gets the admission, you have to pay the rest of the amount.

TT: Can we pay the rest of the amount in cash?

Agent: Yes. You can pay in cash also. In case of cash, I will tell you whom to get in touch with?

TT: Will we have to go to Delhi to make the cash payment?

Agent: When you have to make the payment tell me. You can pay in Chandigarh or even in Ludhiana.

TT: OK. In any case, the payment has to be done by Mrs Sharma. Since they are NRIs, perhaps, they will like to pay by cheque.

Agent: Cash or cheque, we don't have any problems. It is totally a transparent deal. Only it should not be leaked out too much.

TT: Do we have to pay anything to anyone in the PGI?

Agent: No payment has to be given to the PGI. All the payment has to be made directly to me after the work is done.

(To be continued)

"It will cost you ₹ 1.25 crore for a PG seat in radiology," says agent

Transcripts of the conversation with a Mumbai fixer

Posing as relatives of parents interested in ensuring admission of their ward to the MD course, *The Tribune* team talked to Mumbai-based "agent" over phone. The agent promised to get our candidate an MD seat in the PGI in exchange of a hefty sum. Here are the excerpts of the conversation:

Tribune Team: *****ji? ***** ji speaking?

Is it *****ji?

Agent: Yes I am speaking.

TT: *****ji, as suggested by you we have met those two persons in the PGI. Dr***** told us that we could rely on you for admission. He told us that

most of the money has to be given only after the work was done. But the other doctor***** seemed to be a little hesitant in talking to us.

Agent: They are a little scared of talking about this. Had you told me about your visit, I would have talked to them. But now you are sure that we deliver what we claim?

TT: Yes, yes, we are very satisfied. Dr***** told us we can trust you completely. I told all this to my relative Mrs Sharma (imagined name) whose son wants admission in the PGI. He has finished his internship and had

appeared for the PGI entrance test in December but could not clear it. They are interested.

Agent: The next exam is in November-December. We will do the work then.

TT: How do we go about it? What is the procedure?

Agent: What branch he wants?

TT: Any branch will do. The child has appeared in the test two-three times. Now he is desperate. It's an NRI family and money is not a problem.

Agent: Any clinical branch will do? Like radiology, orthopaedics, ENT?

TT: Any branch will do.

Agent: The work would be

done. We take the 100 per cent guarantee. If you want a good branch like paediatrics, we will charge around Rs 80 lakh. In case of radiology, the rate would be Rs 1.25 crore.

TT: The doctors were also telling us that there is no need for the child to study as someone else would appear in the test. The child finished his MBBS three years ago and has not touched a book ever since.

Agent: You need not worry. We will get the work done.

TT: Will the exam take place in the PGI or at some other place?

Agent: You don't take any

Continued on page 11