

Newspaper Clips

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Offline at night

IIT Delhi may soon cut off internet for students after midnight

Shruti Dargan

■ shruti.dargan@hindustantimes.com

Come January, and the students of IIT Delhi may have reason to feel 'disconnected'. Authorities at IIT Delhi say they may ban internet in its hostels from midnight to 8am, following in the footsteps of a similar proposal by IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Kanpur.

"It has been a while since the proposal for an internet ban in IIT Delhi was floated in the students' affair council, and everyone is game for it. The plan might come into effect from the next semester," says professor Shashi Mathur, dean of students.



Students at IIT Delhi aren't happy about the proposed ban

Along with the internet, the institute may also block the LAN (local area network) services, which help in intra-college chat. "Those who feel the need to study late at night

can go to the campus and use the internet there; the labs remain functional even during the night," says Mathur.

Most students are unhappy about the proposal. "We are

adults, and it should be left to us to decide when to study and sleep. I don't see the ban as an effective measure. If the LAN goes away it'll be a bigger problem. The placement season is coming up, and all the applications go through the LAN," says Yudhvir Thakkar, General Secretary for Student Affairs Council.

"Most of us start our assignments late at night. Such a ban will only hamper our studies," says Samarth Yadav. "The campus is open at night, but it's not a convenient option. You can't expect us to go to the campus at 2am if we need to study, especially in winters," says a student, who wished not to be named.

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Dharna at JNU's VC office

New Delhi: Students of Jawaharlal Nehru University in solidarity with seven students, who were on hunger strike alleging victimisation on the grounds of religion, resorted to 'dharna' before the vice-chancellor's residence late on Tuesday night.

The students, two of whom are critical, are demanding submission of grievance cell report as they have alleged they were deliberately failed in the Persian course. While their professor claimed they had fared very poorly an RTI reply from the university showed the marks were average. **TNN**

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Wonder boy wants to be doc

13-Year-Old First To Undergo Paediatric Liver Transplant

Risha Chitlangia | TNN

New Delhi: His story has been a source of inspiration and hope for scores of liver failure patients — mostly children suffering from biliary atresia — and has prompted them to go for liver transplant. India's first paediatric liver transplant patient, 13-year-old K Shakti Kandhaswamy, aspires to become a doctor.

Born with biliary atresia, a rare congenital defect in which liver is completely damaged, Shakti underwent a surgery just 62 days after birth. As his surgery was unsuccessful his parents were left with no option but to give their consent for liver transplant. "I had no hope that he will survive. I was more worried about my husband, who had donated a part of his liver," said S Thilaka, Shakti's mother.

His mother's fears were justified as there were no success stories to bolster her confidence. "We could not reassure her as our first paediatric liver transplant patient died within days of the transplant. Liver transplant was then in its nascent stages. Today, he is India's first paediatric liver transplant patient to have lived for 12 years and is still going strong," said



Anindya Chattopadhyay

RARE SURGERY: Shakti Kandhaswamy was operated just 62 days after birth

Dr Anupam Sibal, senior paediatric gastroenterologist, who has been treating Shakti since 1997.

From the time he was bereft of hope to the time he is assisted by his son in reading documents in English, Shakti's father, A Kandhaswamy, has come a long way and says he is proud of his decision to opt for liver transplant. "He is like any other kid of his age. He is self-reliant and does ev-

erything on his own. Life couldn't have been better than this," said Kandhaswamy. Shakti's only regret is that he can't play basketball or cricket like his friends. "I get breathless if I run. I prefer to paint and watch television instead. As I want to live long I have to take care of myself and religiously take my medicines," said Shakti.

This young ambassador of liver transplant wants to be-

come a surgeon. "I want to become a surgeon so that I can help people get a new liver and lead a normal life like me," said Shakti. Since 1998, liver transplant scenario has changed drastically. "Today, we have a success rate of 90-95% in liver transplant. Since then we have carried out close to 250 transplants in Delhi alone. Now we get patients from different countries," said Dr Sibal.

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Pune vaccine to help Africa combat meningitis menace

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Come Monday, an indigenous vaccine will help rid Africa of meningitis, one of the continent's worst enemies.

Less than 10 years after the creation of the Meningitis Vaccine Project, the new vaccine — MenAfriVac — is ready to be introduced in Africa for mass immunization.

MenAfriVac, the conjugate single dose vaccine that protects both children and adults, is developed by Serum Institute (SI) in Pune.

It was licensed by the drug controller general of India in December 2009, prequalified by the World Health Organization in June 2010 and registered in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso earlier this year.

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have been selected for the first introduction of the vaccine on the basis of several criteria, including disease burden, the ability to organise mass campaigns and participation in clinical trials to develop the vaccine.

Countrywide vaccination campaigns of the population — in the 1-29 age group — in these three countries will begin on December 6.

More than 25 African nations — stretching from Ethiopia to Senegal — that fall under the region's infamous meningitis belt, will use the vaccine to combat the life-threatening bacterial disease.

Officials said, "In October, district level introduction of the vaccine on more than one million in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali was completed. In just 17 days, 1,088,457 were vaccinated. The

AFRICA'S AFFLICTION

Meningitis is the infection of meninges, which surrounds the brain and spinal chord

2009

▶ In sub-Saharan Africa at least **88,000** were infected and **5,000** died

▶ Severely infected patients typically die within **24-48 hrs** of the onset of symptoms

▶ Among the survivors, **10% to 20%** suffer **brain damage, hearing loss or a learning disability**

▶ Africa sees **small epidemics of meningitis** throughout the year

▶ In every **10 or 12 years**, Africa faces an epidemic

1996-1997

The last epidemic occurred leading to **20,000 deaths**

1988 & 1997

The disease **killed more than 1,00,000**



mass vaccination will start on December 6."

Approximately 300 millions will be targeted for mass vaccination across the meningitis belt, with the entire population (an estimated 450 million) then protected through the broader community protection that could reduce transmission of the disease.

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'Universities could mandate generic production for poor nations'

Many drugs with great therapeutic impact, such as Gleevec for cancer, Stavudine for HIV/AIDS, and Zemplar for kidney failure, have come from university medical research. The Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is a non-profit organisation rooted in a university students' movement to change the norms of patenting and licensing of drugs discovered in universities to ensure their accessibility in developing countries. UAEM executive director Ethan Guillen spoke to Rema Nagarajan about the campaign:

■ How did UAEM come into being?

UAEM was formed in 2001 when AIDS patients were dying because they could not afford the cost of treatment, which was \$10,000 annually. One of the medicines needed, Stavudine, cost \$1,600 per year. Stavudine had been discovered at Yale University which held its patent. Initial entreaties to the university

and Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) to allow generic production were turned down. So, Medecins Sans Frontieres, which was treating HIV patients in South Africa, mobilised a campaign with students at Yale. Eventually they were able to convince Yale and BMS to allow generic production of Stavudine, which brought down the price to just \$55 per year.

■ How can universities help increase access to medical technologies?

Universities are key innovators in medicine and other health-related technologies. For instance, of the HIV medicines approved for use between 2001 and 2006, 36 per cent have patents from universities and public research institutions. Universities are also the originators of critical vaccines. Once a university makes a discovery it often takes out a patent and passes that medical technology on to a pharmaceutical company



through a licensing agreement. The university can put in clauses that require low-cost access to the final product, particularly in poor countries, through a variety of mechanisms. For instance, the university could mandate generic production for poor countries or price concessions. Happily, we're starting to see more such deals.

■ How can university students make a difference?

Today, many universities in the US, Canada and Europe con-

sider offering affordable access to their discoveries in poor countries. These initiatives have been primarily driven by students. From getting bills introduced in the US Congress to advocating on the role of universities as public interest institutions at the World Health Organisation, the students have also worked with the WHO to get medicines to treat heart disease onto the essential medicines list in light of the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in poor countries.

■ What is UAEM's presence in US campuses and outside the US?

UAEM now has a solid presence in approximately 70 universities in the US, Canada, UK, Germany, Norway and Brazil. Recently, Jawaharlal Nehru University signed onto a statement on access, though till date we do not know how the policy is being implemented. We have recently made some contacts there and hope to find out.

■ Will universities be willing

to forego the revenue they earn from licensing their drug discoveries?

Most university technology transfer offices (which deal with universities' patents) don't break even. Technology transfer is an expensive affair and even now large revenues are concentrated on a few individual institutions, often for one blockbuster discovery. Making medicines discovered by universities available for generic production in developing countries will make little difference to university royalties given the small size of the market in the developing world. For example, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for less than 1 per cent of the global pharma market. We need to ask if the revenues earned on a patent is worth restricting access to life-saving medicines for millions. This question becomes even more poignant when we consider that universities are public institutions funded by the public.

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Fee hike: Pupils turn up heat as UK freezes

Ashis Ray | TNN

London: For the third time in less than three weeks, students took to the streets in Britain to protest against David Cameron government's proposed three-fold hike in university tuition fees.

Thousands staged demonstrations, marches and occupations across the country and clashed with police braving a snowstorm.

In freezing temperatures, thousands gathered at Trafalgar Square in central London. Mounted police were deployed here, especially in the area adjacent to Westminster. Twice earlier, this was the scene of violent encounters. In the first instance, there was considerable damage to the Conservative office.

There were protests in Leeds, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Bristol, among other places. More than a thousand students demonstrated in Manchester. In Nottingham, protesters held a sit-in as did their counterparts in Cambridge and Newcastle.

National Union of Students' leader Aaron Porter attacked the



CLAMPING DOWN: Police officers grapple with a student protester during a demonstration in London on Tuesday

Liberal Democrats, junior partners in the ruling coalition government headed by the Conservative party, for failing to keep their promise to vote against rising fees. "The anger felt at this betrayal is real, justified, and desperately disappointing to those who placed in you their hope for a different politics," said Porter in a letter to Lib Dem leader and deputy prime minister Nick Clegg.

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SENIOR IIT PROFESSOR HELD IN FAKE INSTITUTE CASE

ht **IMPACT**

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Police have arrested a senior Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur professor who used the IIT brand and campus to run a fraudulent institution duping poor students, a scam exposed by HT first on October 19.

Investigators plan to grill Amit Kumar Ghosh, an aerospace engineering professor at IIT Kharagpur and the institute's chief vigilance officer, to get details of others involved in the scam, police sources said.

The arrest comes even as the HRD ministry on Tuesday set up a three-member panel to probe the scam. The panel will submit its report to the ministry within four weeks.

Ghosh, who sources said was picked up by the police from his residence on Monday night, is the first IIT professor to have been arrested on criminal charges, institute sources said. But several other faculty members — past and present — and senior IIT administrators are also under the police scanner, investigative sources confirmed.

That Ghosh used his official IIT stamp and office to dupe students into joining the fake Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE), has led the police to conclude the involvement of other IIT administrators and faculty.

The IIT has accepted that it was alerted in 2007 about the fake institute, but did not in turn alert the police, effectively allowing the scam to continue. From 2004 to 2007, the fake institute was allotted official quarters in the IIT. "It is hard to imagine that the operations were conducted from within the IIT for so many years without the knowledge of senior administrators," a police source said.

Documents with police indicate the involvement of J Pal, current head of department of the electrical engineering department at IIT Kharagpur, SK Lahiri, former deputy director of the IIT and YP Singh, former head of the electrical engineering department, sources said. Ghosh has named former IIT Directors — Kasturi Lal Chopra and Shishir Dube — as complicit in the scam. Chopra and Dube have denied the charges.

profile department of management studies, IIT delhi

Earn the IIT advantage

- IIT Delhi is known not only for its engineering education, it has also proved its mettle in delivering quality management training

Vimal Chander Joshi

■ vimal.joshi@hindustantimes.com

After completing her engineering from Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya in Indore, Sonal Bansal wanted to do an MBA. Though she got through two popular B-schools — one located in Ghaziabad and the other in Pune — she didn't think twice before choosing the Department of Management Studies (DMS), IIT-Delhi.

Studying at IIT-Delhi, which had remained a cherished but unfulfilled dream for Bansal and many like her, finally became a reality at DMS. It goes to DMS' credit that MBA students are not insulated those pursuing BTech, IIT-Delhi's flagship programme.

"In the hostel, we stay alongside BTech students and always aligned with the whole gamut of activities that take place on campus," says



Bansal, a final year student of MBA, pursuing a specialisation in finance.

Another student, Siddharth Tiwari, a mechanical engineering graduate, finds the IIT experience as the best he has had across the 16 years of his academic life. "Go to the reading room or the central library, you will always find swarms of people studying there. The entire milieu is intellectually-charged. I find it quite inspiring at IIT," says Tiwari.

The MBA class of 2012 has 98 students and next year,

the number of seats will swell to 125. The channel for admission is Joint Management Entrance Exam (JMEE) and anyone with a four years' bachelor's degree or a master's degree can apply.

Those who make it to the top 400-500 in the JMEE exam can expect to receive a GD/PI (group discussion/personal interview) call from DMS, IIT-Delhi.

Famous for: The 'IIT Delhi' brand. The median pay package for last year's batch was ₹11.86 lakh per annum.

Programmes: MBA, full-time, with a focus on management systems or telecommunication systems management; MBA (part-time) with a focus on technology management and a short-term skills formation programme for entrepreneurial pursuits. There are a couple of management development programmes (MDPs) apart from online MDPs in three areas, namely supply chain management, finance for non-finance executives, and international finance.

Extra-curricular: An

Gone are the days when people would say that managers are born, not made. In today's time, engineering is like a matriculation. You must add to your employability by getting an MBA

— Dr Devinder Kr Banwet, professor, operations, DMS, IIT-Delhi



factfile

With the aim to bring management education to IIT Delhi an MTech programme in management systems was introduced in the School for System Studies. Then it became the Centre for Systems and Management Studies and was then rechristened the Centre for Management Studies. It was given department status in 1993 through an amendment to IIT-D statutes. Then the MTech programme was replaced with an MBA

wishlist

"The infrastructure should improve a bit. Though we have access to facilities at the main campus of IIT Delhi, DMS should also upscale its amenities," says a first-year MBA student

Infrastructure: DMS has five lecture theatres, an auditorium with a capacity of more than 140 people, syndicate rooms, a library, seminar hall, cafeteria and computer labs.

Students have access to Internet through WiFi across the IIT campus and the central library has 21,000 management-related books

Found on campus: "At DMS, the teaching methodology is very interactive. By the end of each semester, we have to submit a term paper in each subject, which is sometimes written individually and on other occasions, done in groups. And for each submission, we form groups among different set of people from the class. This way, we end up working with almost everyone in the batch by the end of two years," says Gaurav Verma, a final-year MBA student.

industrial interaction committee organises an event called Building India Inc, which is a two-day-long, national-level conference where people from different industries participate. The annual business fest is known as Parivartan. The sports committee organises events from time to time.

MBA students actively participate in activities organised by BTech students. These events include Rendezvous, the annual cultural extravaganza, and various Spic Macay concerts

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AIEEE to go online from next year

Hema Rawat

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Taking a leaf out of the Common Admission Test (CAT), the All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE) is all set to go online from next year.

The entrance exam for Bachelor of Engineering (BE) and Bachelor of Technology (B Tech) will be conducted by an expert agency.

However, the board is yet to decide whether the entrance exam for Bachelor of Architecture (B Arch), which is also a part of the AIEEE, too will be conducted online. The AIEEE is conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for admissions to various IITs, NITs and state-level engineering institutions.

Like Prometric, which conducted the CAT on behalf of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) on two occasions, the CBSE too will rope in an outside agency to conduct the national-level engineering entrance exam.

"We have invited proposals by agencies with adequate expe-

THE CBSE WILL ROPE IN AN OUTSIDE AGENCY TO CONDUCT THE NATIONAL-LEVEL ENGINEERING ENTRANCE EXAM.

rience and quality in designing and delivery of large-scale professional exams on Computer-Based Testing (CBT) mode for AIEEE, 2011," said a CBSE official.

"We will soon decide on the agency to perform this task," he added.

The AIEEE will be merged with the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT) from 2011.

While the AIPMT is conducted to fill up 15% seats in MBBS and Bachelor in Dental Surgery (BDS) courses in government medical and dental colleges against the all-India quota, AIEEE draws up a combined merit list for different categories of engineering colleges.

Although the engineering exam will be conducted online, CBSE officials are still not clear about the online version of the AIPMT next year.

Times of India ND 1/12/2010 P-19

IIT-Kgp professor behind fake institute gets full Nov salary

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The police has arrested A K Ghosh, the suspended professor of aerospace of IIT-Kharagpur, on Monday night. J Chatteraj, in-charge of Hijli Top police station on the campus, confirmed the arrest to TOI. However, Ghosh's son Abhishek refused to confirm or deny the arrest.

"Due to our continuous raid, Ghosh had to surrender on Monday night," Chatteraj said. But suspension has meant little to Ghosh. The IIT-Kharagpur administration has paid him full salary for November despite clear rules that salary is halved during suspension.

Meanwhile, the HRD ministry is in the process of finalising a three-member probe team, to look into the issue of running a fake in-

The HRD ministry is in the process of finalizing a three-member probe team, to look into the issue of running a fake institute on the IIT-Kharagpur campus

stitute — Institution of Electrical Engineers (I) — on the IIT-Kharagpur campus.

But the probe is not going to be limited to the role of only Ghosh. It will also look into how other faculty members and former directors were involved with IEE(I). Ghosh has repeatedly maintained to the ToI that the institute was running for many years prior to his taking over

as its president in 2006.

However, within IIT-Kharagpur many faculty members are voicing concern that the HRD probe panel should not have members from the IIT fraternity due to obvious conflict of interest. "It should consist of eminent people from non-academic background. Only then an objective probe is possible," a source said.

Sources claimed, the panel, which has to submit its report within four weeks, might call former IIT-Kharagpur directors — K L Chopra and S K Dube. TOI had reported about Chopra's letter to the fake institute. Though Chopra claimed that the letter is forged, Ghosh alleged that the former director was involved. In case of Dube, IEE(I) was allotted an official quarter as office during his tenure.

Bad back? Grow a new spine

Experts Use Stem Cell Therapy To Make Discs Self-Heal

London: Suffering from chronic back pain? Fret not. You can now "grow" a new spine in laboratory, thanks to a revolutionary treatment developed by Swedish scientists.

Damaged discs, a condition common among older people, occurs when the discs between the vertebrae wear away, leaving them to rub against each other. Until now, few treatments have been available other than surgery — which has a high failure rate — or a lifetime on painkillers.

But, a team at Gothenburg University now claims to have discovered how to regenerate the damaged discs in the back which cause agony to sufferers — in fact they found that stem cell therapy could help the discs to self-heal. Stem cells are the body's building blocks and possess a unique ability to repair damaged tissue and bone.

In their research, the scientists found there were areas on the edge of the discs which have similar properties to stem cells. Their ex-



Areas on the edge of the discs have similar properties to stem cells and can help regenerate themselves

periments on animals showed healing in the discs and they hope to repeat the results in human tests, The Sun reported.

Lead scientist Helena Barreto-

Henriksson was quoted by the British tabloid as saying, "It is generally believed that cartilage has very little or no capacity to heal. Our study found the transplanted stem cells survived and that there was a certain degree of healing in the disc."

She added, "The advantage of such treatment over today's surgical approaches is that it would be a much simpler and less serious procedure for the patient."

Studies in rats and dogs have already demonstrated that the olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs), which insulate bundles of nerve cells, can help repair damage to the spinal cord and nerves leading to animals' paws.

The prospects for using them in treatments have been limited, however, because their only sources were thought to be the lining of the nose and the olfactory bulb in the brain. But experts have now found ways to grow olfactory ensheathing cells from a patient's own cells. AGENCIES

4 'Dollies' created from first cloned sheep Dolly

London: Dolly, the sheep, became a scientific sensation when her birth was announced in 1996.

Now, 14 years on, the scientist, who cloned Dolly, has claimed to have created four more sheep who are the exact genetic duplicates of Dolly, the world's first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell.

The quads, which have been nicknamed "the Dollies", are exact genetic copies of their predecessor who was put down seven years back only to end her suffering from advanced lung disease and arthritis, the Daily Mail reported. Though critics have warned the technology brought with it a high risk of miscarriage — and for those creatures which did survive, ill-health and premature death, Keith Campbell said the latest experiments were partly carried out to check if improvements to the technique cut the risk of problems in and out of the womb.

Named after country and western singer Dolly Parton, Dolly was created from a cell taken from a mammary gland. The rest of the sample of tissue was kept in a freezer since, till it was defrosted to make the Dollies. This means the quads are genetically



TRUE COPY: Dolly was cloned in 1996

identical to each other, as well as to Dolly, and to the ewe that donated the udder tissue.

Campbell, who keeps the Dollies as pets on land at Nottingham University, was quoted as saying, "Dolly is alive and well. Genetically these are Dolly." The cloning of Dolly was a long and tortuous process. In all, 277 eggs were used and only one lamb — Dolly — survived. And, this time, only five embryos were needed to produce each one of the Dollies.

Campbell said the health of the clones was being closely watched. ❧

Times of India ND

1/12/2010 P-21

New tech disables mobile phones in cars for safety

In a bid to stop the growing number of deaths and injuries due to distracted driving, the US department of transportation is considering adding technology to automobiles that would disable cellphones. "The technology is there. You're going to it become adaptable in automobiles to disable mobile phones," secretary of transportation Raymond LaHood said. The department is considering software that disable certain phone features when they are in moving vehicle.

Soon, lighter cars & jets made from fish teeth

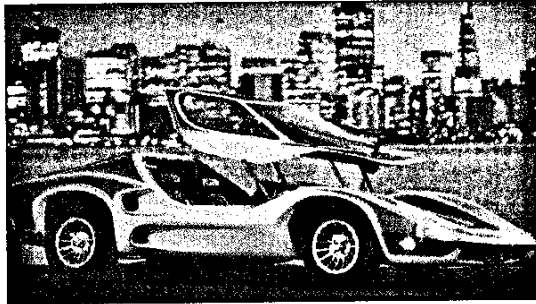
Melbourne: Coming soon: Aircraft and cars made from lungfish teeth, say scientists.

A team at the Queensland University of Technology has claimed the tooth enamel of lungfish — favoured for toughness and durability — could provide the basis for material to make aircraft or vehicles lighter and fuel-efficient.

“Without new materials we would never had had modern and efficient cars, for example. Compared with 60 years ago cars of today have much better handling, acceleration and braking and safety features thanks to the dis-

covery of new materials along the way,” team leader John Barry said. According to the scientists, by copying some of the structures in lungfish teeth it should be possible to make composites which could be used more widely in cars and planes.

“At present, carbon fibre composites are the best available, and although carbon fibre composites are very strong ‘along the grain’ they are very weak ‘across the grain’ and their uses are limited,” he said. “If general-use composites can be developed it will be possible to



DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE: The tooth enamel of lungfish is durable and could be used for making aircraft or cars lighter and fuel-efficient

make cars and aircraft that are lighter and more fuel effi-

cient,” he said.

Barry said the study of

teeth allowed us to learn from nature. “Teeth in different animals have been adapted or ‘engineered’ for various purposes. As engineering materials, teeth are composite materials with properties which are much superior to any existing synthetic composite.

“We were surprised to find the lungfish has a complex tooth microstructure — not simple at all. Teeth are composed 95% by weight of the mineral, hydroxyapatite, which on its own is very weak but when used by a living system is tough and durable,” Barry said. □

Pioneer ND 01/12/11

'Pipeline Engg, Micro Electronics most famous'

NEHA BAHL

Prof Oliver Hinton, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering, Newcastle University, UK, during his recent India visit elaborated on the university's initiatives here and emphasised on its importance as a crucial destination vis-à-vis the global academic scenario. An excerpt of the interview:

■What brings you to India?

I have come here to participate in the FICCI Higher Education Summit. The event has been prudently designed to provide a sound networking platform for various Indian and international universities. It will also enable us to understand the Indian education sector a more emphatic manner.

■What is the strength of Indian students at Newcastle University and what are the most preferred courses?

Indian students form five per cent of our international students at the Undergraduate level and 20 per cent at the PG level. One of the core strengths of our University is the varied engineering programmes designed in view of their employability factor. Pipeline Engineering and Micro Electronics, for instance, draw the maximum number of Indian students. These find a great demand in the Indian context.

■What is the Partner's Programme all about?

Particularly in North East London and various other countries, including India, the turn around of students for Higher Education is not as welcoming. For over 10 years, the University has played a major role in widening participation in university education in the UK. This model has been emulated in other countries as well through its successful Partner's Programme. As per the programme, after completion of the 12th standard, the students undergo one year of engineering in school itself. The course structure is designed and mapped to suit international standards. After commencement of the first year they are awarded a diploma and an option to pursue their engineering degree at the Newcastle campus in the UK. In India, we have a similar arrangement with the Billabong High International School in Thane, Mumbai. The first batch of students has already started.

■Kindly shed some light on your tie-up with IIT-D? What are the dynamics of partnership with Coal India & HSBC India?

The School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences of Newcastle University has developed strong research links during the last 10 years with the Department of Civil Engineering of IITD covered by different sources of funding. The initial collaboration resulted from strong links with a Newcastle alumnus who continues to work in IITD's Civil Engineering department. The main collaboration has been with the Water and Environmental Engineering groups, but this is currently being extended also to Geotechnical and Structural Engineering. This relationship involves key industrial partners such as Coal India Ltd and HSBC India, which was introduced to IIT-D in the context of Newcastle's participation in the HSBC Partnership in Environmental



"UK'S ACADEMIC CAPACITY IS SUBSTANTIAL. EMPLOYABILITY, HOWEVER, DEPENDS ON THE ACQUIRED SKILL SETS"

Innovation.

■How have the IIT-D and Newcastle projects been received so far?

The results of IITD's participation in the worldwide cluster of forest and water projects coordinated by Newcastle's Centre for Land Use and Water Resources research (CLUWRR) for DFID's Forestry Research Programme have been presented to the governments of Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. IITD is also a partner in the project, Re-Impact 'Rural Energy Production from Bioenergy Projects', EC EuropeAid £1.2M (2007-2010) also coordinated by CLUWRR.

■Do you plan to set up an India campus?

In terms of enhancing our India presence, we have already taken a concrete step by setting up an India office. A strong base is pertinent to initiate and actualise larger projects. We have a number of international partners. For instance, we have developed a Medical School campus in Malaysia, working closely with the Malaysian government to serve local needs. We also have a partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology and are working in tandem in the field of Marine Technology. The University can surely consider the possibility of emulating a similar model in India.

■There has been a high influx of Indian students in the UK; do you think the economy is job-ready to support this?

So far, UK's academic capacity is substantial. Employability, however, depends on the acquired skill sets. Those pursuing courses in areas marked by the UK Government as "Skill Deficit", for instance, will find many takers. Apart from producing a job-ready league of students we are also establishing links with Indian and other international corporates to help our students seek a satisfactory job.

ONLINE AND OFF LINE***Education needs more incisive media coverage***

S. Viswanathan

Over time, the pluralistic Indian press, state-controlled radio, and in more recent times television have devoted substantial space and time to education. In the past decade, this coverage has become more extensive and, in some segments, more specialised, more focussed, and more purposeful. Journalism can feel good about this in a double sense: serious coverage of educational activity, its progress, deficits, and defining themes is unquestionably a public service; it also serves the media's interests in engaging with readers, new as well as old, and helps generate both advertising and commercial revenue.

For newspapers especially, the growing interest among parents, which extends to the lower middle classes, in educating their children is both an opportunity and a challenge. Both aspects have been getting some attention in public discourse. The need to reorient the higher education system in tune with the socio-economic and cultural changes taking place in the country and to make it more accessible to the masses was highlighted recently by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a former teacher, and Union Minister of Law and Justice Veerappa Moily at two different functions. Both referred to the challenges that students, teachers, and educational establishments face in changing times.

"Students should be in the forefront in addressing the changes of the present day," the Prime Minister declared in his convocation address at the Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Puttaparthi. "Accelerated changes in technology are leading to new challenges and students should focus on breaking a new path that others will do well to follow." Calling attention to India's steady advance in information technology, biotechnology, space, and nuclear science, Dr. Manmohan Singh underlined the vital importance of universities sustaining the quality of education. Now that the country was playing a greater role on the international stage, the emphasis should be on creating systems that would generate opportunities for young people and equip them with the skills and capabilities to face challenges on a global scale. This could be realised by fine-tuning university curriculum. In keeping with his government's slogan of "inclusive growth," Dr. Singh told the graduating group that their lives would not be complete or successful unless they shared their knowledge with "the less privileged and the less fortunate."

A day earlier, Union Law Minister M. Veerappa Moily, in his convocation address at the SRM University at Kattankulathur near Chennai, painted a less optimistic picture, addressing the theme of a widening gap between education and employment. Joblessness had assumed monstrous proportions and the percentage of unemployed youth getting jobs was decreasing by the year. The Minister's basic diagnosis of the problem was that the development of educational institutions with the requisite faculty and infrastructure had not kept pace with the quantitative growth of enrolment of students.

Mr. Moily did particularly well to register his anguish over the inability of a significant number of students to access well-equipped, top quality institutions of higher learning such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management. "In the ultimate admission process," he noted, "any student scoring below 99.6 per cent [of marks] does not get an admission to IIMs and IITs." He characterised such institutions as being "underused and caged" and as undergoing no significant expansion for more than four decades. This was the case until the 93rd Amendment to the Constitution came into effect, he noted.

The 93rd constitutional amendment has effectively said, in the words of the lawyer Prashant Bhushan, that "nothing in the Constitution shall prevent the State from making any special provision by law for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward citizens regarding admissions to aided or unaided non-minority educational institutions."

Reservation policy and World Cup

Mr. Moily, who headed the Oversight Committee that took care of the implementation of the 93rd Amendment, noted that the expansion rate had gone up to 54 per cent in the few years since the amendment was implemented, from the pre-amendment rate of just one per cent. He claimed that his approach of "Expansion, Inclusion and Excellence" paid dividends and opened up "underused and caged" institutions of excellence, the IITs and the IIMs, and expanded social opportunity. The kind of isolationist approach practised over a long period in these "institutes of excellence," he remarked, was unknown "in the history of human resource development."

The Union Law Minister emphasised that only when weaker sections were given equal opportunity and access to all levels of education on par with stronger sections of society, could hidden talent come to the fore. He drew a parallel with sport organisers' strict adherence to certain principles in ensuring equal opportunities to all aspirants, notwithstanding their levels of play. Even the highest sporting federations, the Minister pointed out, were practising reservation. He gave an interesting example involving soccer. Thirty-two countries qualify for the FIFA World Cup played every four years. If FIFA had stuck to its own world ranking, the top 32 teams would have qualified for the World Cup. However, FIFA has evolved a qualifying-based reservation system in order to enable nations from all continents to play at the highest level. The Federation has segmented the soccer world into eight zones and each zone is allowed to have a specific number of qualifiers. This qualifying format has enabled African, Asian, and other nations with limited soccer infrastructure and resources to get exposure to the World Cup. This has proved a big success and it has resulted in more world-class players emerging from different continents and catching international attention.

The need for more critical analysis

The increased space being given to education by newspapers is heartening. But it must be recognised that this coverage is incomplete, somewhat lop-sided, and often lacks analytical depth. In general across the media, professional education tends to get much greater coverage than general education at the foundational as well as higher levels. Structural aspects and knowledge issues relating to the examination system, pedagogy, teacher-student relations, the content and quality of textbooks, the problems associated with the system of affiliating colleges, and so on seldom get analytical coverage in the Indian press. Although many articles complain of a fall in standards, few go deep into the phenomenon. Generally reports on basic rights such as the right to education, the right to information and the right to health are widely published to create the needed awareness among the students, by the print and digital media. But the continued practice of untouchability in several educational institutions across the country, although banned by the Constitution six decades ago, and discrimination against certain sections of students by teachers go largely unreported by the media. More socially alert and sensitive media, and sustained exposure of this shameful practice will help pave the way for a peaceful atmosphere and an inclusive society, which are indispensable for education to flourish.

IIM summer jobs show buoyancy in economy

Firms across sectors keen on hiring students in large numbers

SREERUPA MITRA

Bangalore

THE summer placements at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have proven that the Indian economy is back on track. The placements for the eight-week internship programme saw students of the most-sought after management schools bagging meaty international offers about 20-25 per cent more over last year.

The last two years saw students coping with the slow moving economy, but this year it's a different picture all together. Not only did all the students across IIMs bagged good job roles, but also companies across sector showed keen interest in hiring these students in large numbers.

"Over 75 students will be interning in overseas locations, an increase of 20 per cent over the last year. Internship locations offered include New York, London, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Dubai and even Vietnam and South Africa,"



RECOVERY MODE: Over 75 students will be interning in overseas locations, an increase of 20 per cent over the last year

said Armit Dhiman chairperson, career development and placement office, IIM-C.

According to Samyuktha Thirumeni, external relations secretary of IIM Calcutta, this year more number of investment banks had made offers and hence the

reason behind the rise in the number of students bagging international placements for internship.

Agreed Praveen Gopal Krishnan, head - student media cell at IIM-B, who said that this year the number of internal offers have

definitely increased but its difficult to quantify as the numbers get clear only by the end of January.

"Last year about 60 students bagged international offers. This year its more mainly because companies such as UBS and Morgan Stanley have participated in the placement process this year," he added.

However, Gopal Krishnan of IIM-B said that bagging an international offer was in vogue till about a few years back but now students are more interested in the profile of the job being offered rather than the destination.

"Moreover at IIM-B we have very solid exchange programmes and about 1/3 of the batch gets to go abroad through these programmes, so students are picking up international offers just on the basis of the profile," he added.

IIM-Ahmedabad and Kozhikode could not be contacted.

shreerupamitra
@mydigitalfc.com

Funding universities better

THE city of Pune witnessed in November a gathering of 300 vice-chancellors from across India and their counterparts from the UK, Russia and Scandinavian countries that deliberated on governance of universities. The meeting was organised by UGC, AIU and Bharatiya Vidyaapeeth. The deliberations, as expected, moved from governance to funding for public universities. The scenario in public universities, as it emerged, is nothing short of pathetic. State governments just pay salary grants and nothing for development. They do not allow universities to enhance fees, so much so that in a few universities in Orissa the fees that are charged for post-graduate programmes are less than Rs 20. It would have been worse had UGC in the tenth plan not decided to give 100 per cent funding to state universities for most of the development schemes. However, the administration in universities is so inefficient and governance so weak that the system is not able to absorb the funds that come from UGC. In the Eleventh Plan, the funding is much more enhanced but the utility of funds is still poor. After listening to vice-chancellors from universities that cater to 85 per cent of students' population who cannot afford not-for-profit private (deemed) universities, one really starts wondering whether the state governments sincerely desire that public system should play a critical role in creation of appropriate human power for meeting the challenges of new economy. Much more than that are they really serious about spreading the advantages of fast moving economy equitably to all sections of society?

In September, European Universities Association (EUA) met in University of Bologna to

Arun Nigavekar



LEARNING CURVE: Universities are able to draw upon an array of unique organisational assets, most of which do not appear on balance sheets

have a first overview of their very interesting project, which is run jointly with the Heads of University Management and Administration Network in Europe (HUMANE), the University of Bologna and the Bavarian State Institute for Higher Education Research and Planning, on diversification of income streams for European universities, which rely heavily on direct public funding. This represents about three quarters (73 per cent) of their overall budgets. But many expect this percentage to decrease and are looking to other sources of income. The online survey in which 150 universities in 27 countries participated had diversified sample that included universities that were not al-

lowed to charge students tuition and administrative fees as well as those that generated 25 per cent of their income from fees. The outcome shows that other income for universities comes from contracts with private sector (on an average 5 per cent to 7 per cent), philanthropic funding (three to four per cent) and income-generating services (four per cent). The creation of spin-off companies and science parks were among the most common measures taken by 70 per cent universities to support income diversification, followed by orientation towards lifelong learning activities (65 per cent). Thomas Estermann, head of the governance, funding and autonomy unit at the EUA, said governments had a

crucial role to play in creating better regulatory environments and providing the necessary incentives to help universities respond to the economic crisis. In particular, he called on public authorities to support leadership development and professionalisation of university management, and to simplify existing funding schemes. "Governments should also grant more financial autonomy to universities, enabling them to develop partnerships, borrow from banks and thereby reduce dependence on state funding," he said.

The message that emerged from deliberations in Pune and Bologna is that public authorities had to ensure the financial sustainability of universities

and therefore basic funding should come from the common budget. However, to mitigate risks entailed by excessive dependency, it is important for universities to develop a funding portfolio spreading over different sources. Universities are able to draw upon an array of unique organisational assets, most of which do not appear on balance sheets. Besides their assets of buildings, facilities and technology infrastructure, the distinctive asset base of any university derives from a wealth of intangible resources. They have human capital — the knowledge, skills, values and energies of academic faculty and other professional staff, and also of the student community. They also possess intellectual capital and relationship capital — the networks of academic, professional, business, governmental, community and alumni associations. Universities have reputational capital — the brand and market standing of the university, which underpin its attractions to staff, students, business clients and other partners.

The universities need to sharpen their administrative and governance mechanisms to use its distinctive assets to take up not only research projects but also consultancy work for industries and public institutions. They also need to put consultancy policy in place so that the academic infrastructure is used effectively and the teaching and support staff can legitimately earn for their intellectual inputs. Most of the western universities are using their intellectual assets for enhancing institutions' financial position. Our Indian universities need to learn from their experiences and evolve strategies suitable for reaping advantage of our emerging economy.

(The writer is a former chairman of UGC)

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Shortage of skilled engineers on the rise

T.E. Raja Simhan
Chennai, Nov. 30

Hiring of engineers for Greenfield projects across sectors is on the increase but there is a huge shortage of such skilled personnel, according to an official of a leading global recruitment company.

With the boom in the engineering industry, sectors such as oil and gas, power, energy and manufacturing are looking for managers with three to four years of experience to work in Greenfield projects, said Mr Rajkumar Todi, Director, Kelly Engineering Resources, which specialises in placing experience engineers in full-time employment across all disciplines such as aerospace, chemical, construction, oil and gas, and power.

At any given point of time, there is a 'live mandate' to hire 250 engineering professionals but there are not many in the market, he said.

INDIA CALLING

Mr Todi said, in the last couple of years, a number of Indians working in oil and gas, and power sectors in the West Asia especially Dubai, have returned to India to work and to avoid the downturn abroad.

For instance, in 2008-09 over 10,000 professionals (mostly engineers) returned from West Asia and of this nearly 20 per cent were absorbed in the power sector. However, some of them have returned as the market has picked up, he said.

Taking a cue from the

► *"Unlike the IT industry, manufacturing is not a 'glamour sector' and it is very difficult for companies to retain people."*

information technology on retaining talent, some of the multinational manufacturing companies are sending new lateral recruits on overseas assignments for three or four months. Unlike the IT industry, manufacturing is not a 'glamour sector' and it is very difficult for companies to retain people, he said.

"Everybody wants to go to the IT industry," he said. A fresh engineering graduate in the IT sector earns twice as much as one in manufacturing.

COMPENSATION

According to a recent survey by Ma Foi Randstad, India's largest integrated HR services company, in the manufacturing sector, the average increase in total compensation for fiscal 2010-11 was 14 per cent. The highest increase of 18 per cent was by power equipment manufacturers followed by pharmaceutical companies. Power, particularly, has been riding on strong projections of growth.

The CEO compensation trends study was conducted by Ma Foi Randstad to determine the increase in total compensation amongst organisations in manufacturing and services to understand the performance of these sectors.

In the services sector, the average increase in to-

tal compensation for FY 2010-11 was 12 per cent. Banking, Financial Services and Insurance sector lead the pack with the highest increase of 14 per cent, the survey says.

IIT teacher sent to jail over fake institute

By Kavita Chowdhury
In New Delhi

PROFESSOR A.K. Ghosh of IIT Kharagpur, accused of operating a fake engineering institute, was on Tuesday remanded in 14-day judicial custody after his bail was rejected by a local court.

He had surrendered before the court on Monday.

The former head of the department of aerospace engineering was allegedly operating a fake Institute, Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), on the IIT Kharagpur campus.

IIT Kharagpur had filed a police complaint, accusing him of operating the IEE with "forged documents" claiming recognition from the IIT. Earlier, students of the institute had also lodged complaints against him.

Ghosh has been booked under sections 417 and 420 of the IPC for cheating and under section 468 (for forgery for purpose of cheating). The

More faculty members booked

charges leveled against him are serious as two of the offences are non-bailable, with a penalty of seven years imprisonment and fine.

In his defence, the professor had submitted documents to the IIT, claiming that previous administrations had granted the IEE official recognition.

The IIT had conducted an internal inquiry, following which, sources said, the documents were found to be fake.

The Union HRD ministry is also holding an inquiry into the matter. The CVC and the ministry had been flooded with complaints from the duped students of the institute.

Official sources in Kharagpur confirmed that several other faculty members, both former and present, have also been named in the FIR. The court has called for the case diaries and is likely to deliberate upon the grant of bail on Wednesday.

Amar Ujala, ND01-Dec-10 p-10

अब जल्द दूर होंगी नए आईआईटी की मुश्किलें

● उषा श्रीवास्तव

नई दिल्ली। नए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) के आड़े आ रही समस्याएं निबटाने के लिए आगामी सोमवार को राज्य सचिवों की बैठक बुलाई गई है। इसमें पर्यावरण, कृषि और गृह मंत्रालयों के अधिकारियों को भी बुलाए जाने की संभावना है ताकि संबंधित अड़चनें हाथों हाथ दूर कर दी जाएं। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने गत अक्टूबर में हुई सभी आठ नए आईआईटी की पहली बैठक में भूमि, कैम्पस और फैकल्टी से जुड़ी परेशानियों को जानने के बाद जल्द समाधान का आश्वासन दिया था।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, दिसंबर के पहले हफ्ते में बैठक बुलाने के निर्णय के पीछे संसदीय समिति की रिपोर्ट भी कारण बनी जिसमें नए प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों में कामकाज की धीमी रफ्तार पर गहरी चिंता जताई गई है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक आईआईटी की संख्या सात से बढ़ाकर 15 कर देने मात्र से देश में तकनीकी शिक्षा का स्तर नहीं सुधारा जा सकता। आठ नए संस्थानों में से छह भुवनेश्वर, गांधीनगर, हैदराबाद, पटना, जोधपुर और रोपड़ ने अपना

- राज्य सचिवों, संबंधित मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों की बैठक सोमवार को
- संसदीय समिति की रिपोर्ट में धीमे कामकाज पर गहरी चिंता जताई गई

अकादमिक सत्र 2008-09 में शुरू कर दिया जबकि इंदौर और मंडी 2009-10 में कर पाए। कामकाज की गति को देखते हुए कहा जा सकता है कि गुणवत्ता की कसौटी पर खरा उतरने में इन्हें अभी वक्त लगेगा।

उल्लेखनीय है कि नए आईआईटी की पहली बैठक मुख्य रूप से बुनियादी ढांचे मसलन भूमि, कैम्पस और फैकल्टी आदि से जुड़ी मुश्किलों पर केंद्रित रही। सभी संस्थानों ने बताया कि किस तरह कृषि योग्य जमीन वन भूमि होने के कारण राज्य अथवा केंद्र सरकार के विभिन्न विभागों से मंजूरी की प्रक्रिया सिरदर्द साबित हो रही है।