

## Newspaper Clips October 11, 2014

### **Irani accepts NCERT director's resignation**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/irani-accepts-ncert-directors-resignation/>

The HRD Ministry has accepted the resignation of NCERT Director Parvin Sinclair and forwarded it to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for further action, with the latter expected to clear the resignation soon.

Sinclair had resigned earlier this week after the ministry instituted a probe against her for alleged financial irregularities. Sinclair has had a running battle with the ministry under this government after she decided to initiate a review of the curriculum in the first week of May, before the new government could take charge. A panel of experts had been constituted for this.

Sources confirmed that HRD Minister Smriti Irani accepted the resignation. Sources claim her exit would impact the process of curriculum revision, with changes likely in the expert panel.

- See more at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/irani-accepts-ncert-directors-resignation/#sthash.uTzXb4YG.dpuf>

### **Faced with charges, NCERT director Pravin Sinclair quits**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/faced-with-charges-ncert-director-pravin-sinclair-quits/articleshow/44781493.cms>

NEW DELHI: Of all the heads of autonomous institutions under the HRD ministry, NCERT director Pravin Sinclair was expected to fight any move to oust her. But faced with some allegations, including a note to the ministry from Dinanath Batra, and sensing the mood of some top HRD bureaucrats, Sinclair put in her papers with more than two years of her term still left.

Highly placed sources said the HRD ministry had sought department of personnel & training's view if Sinclair could be sacked and only when the reply was in affirmative, she was given a fait accompli. However, Sinclair refused to talk about her resignation.

One allegation against Sinclair was violation of general financial rules in the purchase of maplitho paper and cover paper worth over Rs 50 crore. This allegation was also part of Batra's note to the HRD ministry after the new government came to power.

Interestingly, the HRD ministry's school bureau has been sitting on the file as late as September 30 and still no decision has been made. The issue has been hanging in the ministry since 2012. When it first came to light in 2012 and Central Vigilance Commission forwarded a complaint to the HRD ministry, secretary R Bhattacharya ordered that facts about the case be gathered. Sinclair also gave her response which the vigilance section did not find satisfactory. The ministry's vigilance section then asked the school division to give its response which is still awaited.

Sinclair was made to resign even without the CVC getting the report from HRD which could have been further investigated by CBI. "There are enough instances in the HRD ministry when heads of institutions with CBI chargesheet

against them have been appointed and completed their term. Former IIT Patna director A K Bhowmick was chargesheeted in coalnet scam and completed full term," said a ministry official.

Known for her forthright views and refusal to accede to the ministry's diktat, bureaucrats resented Sinclair. What also brought her in conflict was that she initiated the process of reviewing 21 focus groups of different curriculum areas. "In the last few months, NCERT was told all big decisions have to be cleared by the ministry," said a source.

## Question paper patter for IIT-JEE 2015 available

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/iit-jee-2015-paper-pattern/1/395072.html>

The question paper pattern for the 2015 exam has now been made available for the aspiring candidates. [JEE](#) is conducted by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Bombay across the country.

The pattern of the exam paper is as follows-

There will be two papers - Paper I and Paper II

Each paper will be divided into three sections - Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics

All three sections will have objective type questions based on multiple choice and numeric answer type questions to test comprehension, reasoning and analytical ability of the candidates.

Negative marking for each wrong answer is applicable

.The question paper will be either in Hindi or English depending upon the choice of language as opted for by the candidate while registering for the exam. Once the choice of language has been made, it cannot be changed.

The exam will take place on May 24, 2015. It will be held in two sessions. Paper-1 will be held in the morning Session (9:00 am to 12:00pm) while Paper-2 will take place in the afternoon session (2:00pm to 5:00pm) on the same day.

The online registration for the exam will begin from May 02, 2015 and will close on May 07, 2015. The date for downloading the admit card is May 09, 2015 to May 12, 2015.

IIT- JEE is the qualifying entrance exam in engineering courses to top Indian institutes and colleges like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), National Institute of Technology (NIT), Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) and other reputed government colleges of India. The

## IIT-M satellite campus to come up in suburbs

[M Ramya](#),TNN | Oct 11, 2014, 02.46 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/IIT-M-satellite-campus-to-come-up-in-suburbs/articleshow/44778986.cms>

CHENNAI: IIT-Madras is likely to start a satellite campus not too far from the city soon. It will host some of its research facilities in the space.

IIT-M director Bhaskar Ramamurthi said the institute had asked for space in 2008 when capacity expansion was

mandated. The state made an attempt to allocate land in a year or two, but the plan fizzled out because of the real estate boom then. We couldn't wait then and went ahead with expanding our facilities on campus, professor Ramamurthi said.

Meanwhile, the Kakodkar committee recommended an increase in the number of PhD scholars. The institute hosts 500 PhD students a year now, and expects them to take around five years to complete their doctoral degree. This will mean that the institute will have to host 2,500 PhD scholars over five years. This requires a lot of space for labs, equipment and for setting up large interdisciplinary centres. At present, there are 14 such centres at the institute; IIT-M's strategic plan includes scaling this up to 25 by 2020.

"The land has been identified, but it's not going to be next door. It's not possible to get it in within the city. It is likely to come up around 40km from here. We'll need around 200 acres," professor Ramamurthi said.

He said that the institute was positive about getting land this time. "The Tamil Nadu government has been scouting for land for us. The state hasn't given us the land, but the clearance is in the final stages," the institute director said.

There are challenges in setting up a satellite campus. Academics believe that it may not be a good idea to move department to another campus, so the plan is to set up a discovery park for research there rather than undergraduate classes. "We need space to take up new research, and research is the most independent of activities carried out in the institute. The faculty may have to travel to take classes, but the research scholars are unlikely to be affected by the distance from the institute," professor Ramamurthi said.

And, if the deal falls through this time as well, the institute has a Plan B. "We will go vertical," the director said. The oldest buildings on campus, which will be around 60 years old, will be demolished and high rises will take their place so the greenery around the campus is not eaten up

## यहां से शुरू हुआ सत्यार्थी का संघर्ष, IIT से डिग्री लेने के बाद भी नहीं की नौकरी



**रांची.** शांति का नोबेल पुरस्कार प्राप्त करके भारत का मस्तक ऊंचा करने वाले कैलाश सत्यार्थी का झारखंड से गहरा नाता रहा है। उन्होंने झारखंड को अपनी कर्मस्थली मानकर बंधुआ मजदूरी उन्मूलन और बचपन बचाओ के लिए लंबा आंदोलन छेड़ा। यूं कहा जाए कि उनके सामाजिक आंदोलनों की शुरुआत पलामू (झारखंड) से ही हुई। अपनी सुख-सुविधा का त्याग कर वह झारखंड के सुदूर जंगली इलाकों का चक्कर काटते रहे। लोगों को बाल मजदूरी और बंधुआ मजदूरी समाप्त करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।

आईआईटी कानपुर से इंजीनियरिंग की डिग्री हासिल करने वाले सत्यार्थी चाहते, तो भारी भरकम पैकेज लेकर नौकरी पर लग जाते, लेकिन उनका मन देश सेवा की ठानी। जब 1987-88 में केंद्र सरकार ने बंधुआ मजदूरों के संबंध में डाटा जारी किया, तो पलामू जिला बंधुआ मजदूरी के मामले में देश में अक्वल था। उसी समय सत्यार्थी ने पलामू को इस अभिशाप से मुक्त करने की ठान ली।

सत्यार्थी मध्यप्रदेश से पलामू जिला के चैनपुर प्रखंड पहुंचे। यहां हजारों बंधुआ बाल मजदूर नारकीय जिंदगी जी रहे थे। इनकी मुक्ति के लिए उन्होंने आवाज बुलंद की। इसी का परिणाम रहा कि धीरे-धीरे बंधुआ मजदूरों की संख्या घटने लगी। इससे उत्साहित होकर उन्होंने बचपन बचाओ आंदोलन का नारा दिया। झारखंड में उनका अंतिम दौरा 26 अगस्त 2013 को हुआ। बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के कार्यक्रम में हिस्सा लेने के लिए तब वे कोडरमा भी गए थे।

HT.COM ND 11.10.14 P-8

# Meritorious students loses hope without jobs

Jeevan Prakash Sharma

**D**espite an all-India rank 640 in the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) in 2008 (replaced by JEE later) and all-India rank 5 in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) in 2013, Triveni Prasad Nanda, a graduate from the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Bhopal, faces an uncertain future.

The Bhopal school and SPA Vijaywada were established in 2008 by the Central government as 'institutes of national importance'. Like Prasad, hundreds of other meritorious students, too, were drawn to the schools to pursue degree and master's degree courses in architecture.

When the first batches of more than 120 of BArch students in both institutes, admitted in 2008, passed out in 2013, they found – to their horror – that both schools did not have degree granting status. The second batch which has passed out this year shares a similar plight.

"As we did not have a degree certificate, the Council of Architecture (CoA) refused to give us a registration number that would allow us to practice as architects. So I chose to go for a master's and secured AIR 5 in GATE. Then, on the written assurance of the SPA Bhopal that I would get the degree certificate, I got admitted to IIT Kharagpur and will complete my master's in 2015. However, by that time if the Central government does not pass an Act in the Parliament to empower the two SPAs with degree granting status, all my hard work and money will go waste," says Prasad.

According to officials of the two SPAs, the fate of around 1,000 meritorious students hangs in balance as the MHRD has yet to pass an act to empower these two SPAs with degree conferring status.

Both schools have been offering a five-year bachelor of architecture, a four-year bachelor of planning and two-year master's in architecture and planning from 2008 onwards without being affiliated to any university or having the status of a university.

Like Prasad, Nagpur-based Atul Lalsare, too, does not find his career going anywhere significant. After completing his BArch from the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, (VNIT) Nagpur in 2010, he was selected for a national students' scholarship 2010 by the Institute for Steel Development and Growth, Kolkata, after which he applied for an MArch programme

**WHEN 120 OF B.ARCH STUDENTS PASSED OUT IN 2013 THEY FOUND OUT TO THEIR HORROR THAT THEIR COLLEGES DID NOT HAVE A DEGREE GRANTING STATUS**

in urban design from SPA, Bhopal. He passed out in 2012, but has yet to get a job. "I lost my father at an early age and my mother has brought me up with her hard-earned money. Only I knew how she managed to pay the ₹3 lakh fee for my master's course. Now even after completing the course I don't have master's degree certificate and cannot apply for any government job," says Lalsare. He feels lucky, however, to be registered as an architect because of the BArch programme he did from VNIT, which granted him a degree certificate.

Says Akhil Chaudhary (name changed), who completed his BArch from SPA Vijaywada in 2013, "Those who passed BArch in 2013 and 2014 and B Plan in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are badly impacted because they can't practice their profession independently. Those who completed their BArch and B Plan from other institutes and came to SPA Bhopal or Vijayawada for MArch and MPlan are facing problems."

Alumni associations of the two SPAs allege that the government is not responding to their requests to take appropriate steps "We met Ashok Thakur, secretary, higher education and pleaded that meritorious students of the country not be victimised. The HRD minister Smriti Irani recently came to Bhopal to lay the foundation stone of one of our buildings and the faculty apprised her of the plight of hundreds of students but nothing has happened. It seems that our requests

are falling on deaf ears," says Navjit Gaurav, president of the alumni association of SPA, Bhopal.



■ Bhopal school does not have degree granting status.

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# Like teachers, like pupils

Quality education remains a distant dream

**A**S if this was not bad enough news that close to 50 per cent of the class V pupils in our schools fail to read a text meant for class II or solve a two-digit sum, there is a report that 95 per cent teaching aspirants have flunked the India Central Teacher Eligibility Test meant to assess their knowledge and instruction abilities. Last year the percentage of failure was even higher, at 98. It offers no consolation to a system that continues to raise serious questions about the quality of teacher training programmes, poor communication skills, flawed process of selection and complete lack of mechanism to continuously assess and upgrade their skills. Since a majority of the failed aspirants were B Ed degree holders, these questions become even more pertinent.

From basic to higher education, nothing seems to be moving in the right direction, while our politicians exhort the young to be world leaders in the knowledge industry. A lot of expectations were raised under the RTE Act, and the government put in more money to make it a success. But like several other half-baked government schemes which are implemented to show rosy data on paper, the changes implemented under the Act resulted in getting higher numbers for universal education, but the quality suffered. If the interest and aptitude of the pupil is the primary motivator behind all education programmes, the selection of competent teachers would follow.

The appointment of teachers in government schools has for long been politicised; teaching positions have been offered as rewards by various governments. May it be the illegal appointment of 3,200 JBT teachers in Haryana or that of 1,983 physical training instructors whose appointment was quashed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court for lack of required qualifications, incidents like these undermine the position of teachers on commitment and competence. A flawed education system cannot produce competent teachers. Educationists and policymakers must find ways to improve school education apart from spreading it far and wide.

# Self-financing units under NSS for UGC universities

IKNOOR KAUR ■ NEW DELHI

All universities under the University Grants Commission (UGC) have been asked to form self-financing units (SFUs) for students under the National Service Scheme (NSS) in order to provide students with all the benefits of the scheme. While the expenditure of setting up these units must be borne by the universities, the universities can charge a nominal fee from students and mobilise funds through corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

In a letter written by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Secretary Rajeev Gupta has said that "ideally the scheme should be available to all eligible students, but due to fund constraints, the scheme currently covers less than 10 per cent of the students eligible to join it."

Thus, in view of this, Gupta further said that a new mechanism had been

**While the expenditure of setting up SFUs must be borne by the universities, they can however, charge a nominal fee from students and mobilise funds through corporate social responsibility**

introduced, but the same was supposedly not implemented fully. "The department had introduced a mechanism for permitting the setting up of self-financing units of NSS in 2007-08. The operational guidelines for setting up of SFUs have been simplified recently. A copy of the same is enclosed for ready reference. It may be seen that the SFUs are entitled to all the

benefits of the scheme at par with Government-funded NSS units, the only difference being that the expenditure on setting up such units is required to be borne by the education institutions concerned," wrote Gupta.

However, Gupta stated that if necessary, a nominal fee could be charged from students for NSS programme activities and may also mobilise funds through CSR activities of corporate sector.

The UGC, in accordance with that, said that all educational institutions should join this youth development effort by setting up SFUs of NSS. "The SFUs are entitled to all benefits of the scheme at par with Government-funded NSS units, the only difference being that the expenditure of setting up such units is required to be borne by the educational institutes concerned," said Pankaj Mittal, joint secretary of UGC.

HT.COM ND 11.10.14 P-4

## LUNAR LURE

# NASA to mine Moon for water

Press Trust of India

**WASHINGTON:** NASA is exploring the idea of mining the Moon to provide drinking water for future manned outposts when humans are successful in colonising the lunar surface.

The US space agency is developing two separate mission concepts to assess, and learn how to exploit, stores of water ice on the Moon and other lunar resources.

The missions — called Lunar Flashlight and the Resource Prospector Mission — are scheduled to launch in 2017 and 2018, respectively, Space.com reported.

"If you're going to have humans



■ The agency is developing two separate missions for the purpose. GETTY

on the Moon and you need water for drinking, breathing, rocket fuel, anything you want, it's much, much cheaper to live off the land than it is to bring everything with you," said

Lunar Flashlight principal investigator Barbara Cohen, of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Alabama.

The Lunar Flashlight probe would measure and map deposits of water ice in permanently shadowed craters near the lunar poles with the aid of its solar sail. Lunar Flashlight aims to find water ice that would be accessible to future explorers, be they human or robotic. "What we're looking for is water right at the surface," Cohen said.

Such deposits could provide drinking water for potential manned lunar outposts. Moon water could also be split into its constituent hydrogen and oxygen — prime components of rocket fuel, the report said.

Deccan Herald ND 11/10/2014 P-12

# Nasa may look for water on moon

**WASHINGTON:** Nasa is exploring the idea of mining the moon to provide drinking water for future manned outposts when humans are successful in colonising the lunar surface.

The US space agency is developing two separate mission concepts to assess, and learn how to exploit, stores of water ice on the moon and other lunar resources.

The missions — called “Lunar Flashlight and the Resource Prospector Mission” — are scheduled to launch in 2017 and 2018, respectively, Space.com reported.

“If you’re going to have humans on the moon and you need water for drinking, breathing, rocket fuel, anything you want, it’s much, much cheaper to live off the land than it is to bring everything with you,” said Lunar Flashlight principal investigator Barbara Cohen, of Nasa’s Marshall Space Flight Centre in Alabama.

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The Resource Prospector Mission (RPM) plans to send a

rover onto the lunar surface to get an up-close look.

The rover would land at a polar site and map surface and subsurface concentrations of hydrogen at two different locations.

RPM would use a neutron spectrometer to measure water concentrations up to one metre underground and a near-infrared spectrometer to make its surface measurements.

The mission is also geared to help enable future exploitation of water ice on the moon.

**PTI**