

Newspaper Clips

March 2-3, 2014

March 2

Times of India ND 02-Mar-14 p-22

Govt withdraws extension for VCs of 12 central univs

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The HRD ministry has hurriedly withdrawn its order giving extension to vice-chancellors of 12 central universities. On Saturday, the VCs received a new order, asking them to hand over the charge to the senior most faculty member.

After questions were raised about the earlier order which was seen as "illegal", the ministry officials were told late Friday night to come up with a fresh directive, sources said.

Sources said even the University Grants Commission was of the view that the extension order was illegal as it violated the Central University Act. "The Act specifically says that the first time VCs will not get extension beyond five years," a source said. One VC confirmed having received the order.

Meanwhile, the selection process for new VCs of 12 central universities received a setback when G K Chadha, former VC of Jawaharlal Nehru University, passed away. Chadha was member of the search committees for



central universities of Rajasthan and Punjab. "He was the nominee of the executive council of both the universities in the search panel. Technically, search panel can continue with one member less. Executive Council will still have two nominees left in the panel," a source said.

But many applicants are questioning the profile of a few search committees that have college principals and university professors as convenors. For instance, search committee for Central University of Bihar has Meenakshi Gopinath, principal Lady Shri Ram College, as the convenor. Similarly,

The selection process for new VCs of 12 central universities received a setback when G K Chadha, former VC of Jawaharlal Nehru University, passed away. Chadha was member of the search committees for central universities of Rajasthan and Punjab

search panel for Jharkhand has JNU professor Sudha Pai as convenor while Radha Kumar is convenor for Kashmir Central University.

"They are all eminent names. Gopinath is behind the LSR's success story and making it one of India's best colleges. Similarly, Pai and Kumar are scholars of eminence. All three of them could have also become VC. Just because they have not occupied the office of VC, they cannot be disqualified," a senior official said, adding that most of them are visitor's nominees. President is the visitor of most of the central universities.

IIM-A wakes up to its alumni army



THE TORCHBEARERS

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 1 March

Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) Board of Governors' Chairman A M Naik, Director Ashish Nanda and Dean (alumni and external relations) Arvind Sahay have a hectic travel plan these days.

- Fifteen alumni of IIM-A are needed to form a chapter
- 15 alumni chapters, 10 are in the country and five abroad
- The Singapore and US chapters have 400 and 450 alumni, respectively, while the Mumbai one has around 3,000

Having realised that IIM-A has been slow in tapping its alumni globally, the trio, along with other senior faculty, has already visited the institute's alumni associations in Dubai (the United Arab Emirates), Boston and Chicago (both US), even as more visits are being planned to Singapore and New York (US), among other places.

Nanda said: "In the past, the institute has been a bit lax in reaching out to our global community of alumni though that is also because it was engaged in local issues. However, in the last six months, our board of governors chairman and I, along with other senior colleagues have been reaching out to our alumni in various parts of the world. We have been to Mumbai alone three-four times and held alumni meetings. Internationally, we have been first time to Dubai, Boston and Chicago and will be going to Singapore for the first time, too. Other than that, we have had reunions in New York as well."

Sahay admits they had failed to reach out to the 15 alumni chapters, 10 are in the country and five abroad. "So far, chapters have more or less operated on their own, with once in a while representation from the institute. We would now like to be present in at least one event of all the chapters every year. We do not want to wait for them to come to us. Visits have already been made to such events by the chairman, director and me, along with other colleagues, at different times in the last six months," said Sahay.

Global visits are a small part of the initiatives the institute has planned. For instance, soon students in the two-year post-graduate programme (PGP) will get alumni as their mentors.

"We are starting an alumni mentorship process, where already 160 of our alumni have signed up. Each alumnus would provide inputs to one or two students as a mentor for two years," said Sahay.

IIM-A has hired Anjum Khan of the 1990 PGP batch to head the alumni relations wing. And, more reunions are being planned on the campus. "We usually have a reunion on campus in December. But we are working with each batch to conduct larger events, where alumni can engage with each other as families and professionals. Not to forget, the next batch of 2014-16 will be the 50th batch and hence, we will invite people of the first batch of 1964-66 for a reunion," said Sahay.

However, Nanda said the idea was not just to raise funds but also to connect with them.

For now, even as the institute sets a corpus target for raising funds through alumni contributions, Sahay points out three priorities. One, to generate resources for research and increasing productivity through research chairs. Two, more student scholarships. And, third, said Sahay: "We want to raise funds for infrastructure support. Since we are planning to expand our faculty strength to 120 from current 93, we will have to expand faculty-staff housing as well. Hopefully, in the next six months we will have a specified target for raising funds."

Harvard University CSR sessions for India execs

M SARASWATHY
Mumbai, 1 March

In February, executives from public-sector undertakings (PSUs) came together for a four-day capacity-building session in corporate social responsibility (CSR), held by the Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI).

The Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) is looking to launch similar programmes and research.

The World Bank, the department of public enterprises (DPE) and the SAI are working together to assist the government by facilitating access to institutional frameworks with transparent guidelines and effective monitoring mechanisms.

The programme was modelled after the CSR executive education programme developed at the Harvard Business School.

Executives were from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Steel Authority of India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation, Neyveli Lignite, Power Grid Corporation, Shipping Corporation, Vizag Steel and Oil India. Some from private companies like Ambuja Cement, YES Bank and IBM also participated.

Ashish Nanda, director of IIM-A, also a former Harvard faculty member, said these courses were relevant and important for Indian business. "The new Companies Act has thrown a spotlight on CSR. Companies are encouraged and PSUs mandated to spend two per cent of profits on CSR activities," added Nanda, who conducted some sessions in this programme.

Tech varsity admission process goes fully online this year

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Technological University on Saturday announced its application process for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in engineering.

The application process this year will be entirely online and will start on April 4.

Under the online application system, the candidates will first register themselves for admission and then submit the choices for their preferred branches online.

“The system will be totally secure and the candidates would be able to obtain their admission status from anywhere using the internet. For BTech, MTech and PhD admissions, the admission website www.dtuadmissions.nic.in will be operational from April 4, 2014. The admission process will



■ **The online admission process for DTU starts on April 4.** HT

begin soon after the declaration of JEE (main) results,” a statement issued by the university said.

A candidate, according to the university, will need to score a minimum of 60% in the qualifying examination and need to have a valid GATE score to qualify for admission in a full-time MTech programme.

“Those applying for a part-time course need not to have a GATE score but should be employed with minimum one year of work experience at the time of admission,” the university said.

With an eye on giving a fillip to research and innovation in the university, the varsity has decided to double the number of PhD fellowships from 100 to 200.

The major areas for research at DTU include robotics and machine vision, microwave and optical communication, nano science and technology, software engineering, bio-informatics, computer engineering, advanced mathematics and engineering physics.

The university saw a record number of placements last year with 179 companies making 989 job offers. The placement session will continue till May. DTU offers 15 undergraduate programmes and 22 M Tech programmes.

Campuses high on moral policing: UGC report

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: Women constitute 42% of the student population in colleges and universities across the country, but these spaces are nowhere near gender sensitive, a recent UGC report has found.

After the Nirbhaya case and the attack on a JNU stu-

dent last year, UGC had set up a task force headed by Lady Shri Ram College principal Meenakshi Gopinath to review measures for women

► 'Different rules', P 26

safety on campuses and programmes for gender sensitization.

The task force sent out

questionnaires to over 35,500 colleges and 700 universities across the country. Less than 12% of universities and 4% of colleges responded.

The 'Saksham' report, released by UGC, found that our higher educational institutions are not only indifferent to the rights and safety of women, but indulge in moral

policing and are ignorant of even what constitutes a gender-related course.

"We have to place on record that the mode in which many of the questionnaires were filled out betrayed defensiveness on the part of the institution concerned, if not insensitivity and denial," the report said.

'Different rules for boys, girls'

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: The 'Saksham' report, released by UGC, found that our higher educational institutions are not only indifferent to the rights and safety of women, but indulge in moral policing and are ignorant of even what constitutes a gender-related course.

Most of the responses came from Maharashtra, with 275 higher educational institutions responding to the questionnaire, followed by Karnataka at 266. Of the 2,410 colleges and 55 universities in Tamil Nadu, only 84 responded. The report said that 83.5% of institutions that responded denied having received any sexual harassment complaints.

"Some said the women students found it hard to raise their voice to lodge a complaint, and needed to overcome their timidity," the report said.

Asked about existing arrangements on campuses, close to half the respondents said they had set up a committee. Around 10% said they had installed CCTV cameras, 18.5% mentioned fe-

A UGC report shows that a majority of campuses have got their priorities wrong. Only 4% were found to have a helpline number that women students and faculty could call

male security guards, 26.6% a vigilance committee and 10.9% patrolling guards. Only 4% had a helpline number that women students and faculty could call, and 8.3% had a complaint box.

The responses showed a majority of the campuses have got their priorities wrong. Around 9% of the institutions mentioned a separate common room for girls, and a few even separate staircases for women.

Asked for ways to prevent sexual harassment, colleges predominantly suggested improvement in security and surveillance such as raising boundary walls, more security and installing CCTV cameras. Others called for dress codes for women, and self-monitoring among students. Some even suggested

that parents and guardians need to be brought into the picture and should be the first to be informed about any problem on campus.

The report said that around 44% of the institutions said that they had differential policies and rules for men and women students staying out in the evenings. Some said that women had to give notice well in advance to a warden or proctor for staying out.

To a question as to whether gender related courses were being offered on campus, some responded saying that they offered dress designing and beauty courses. "There was considerable confusion as to what exactly constituted gender / women's studies, both in terms of content and purpose..." the report said.

UGC vice-chairperson H Devaraj said the commission had written to universities and colleges to follow the recommendations of the task force in making their campuses safe for women and that they were waiting for feedback.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

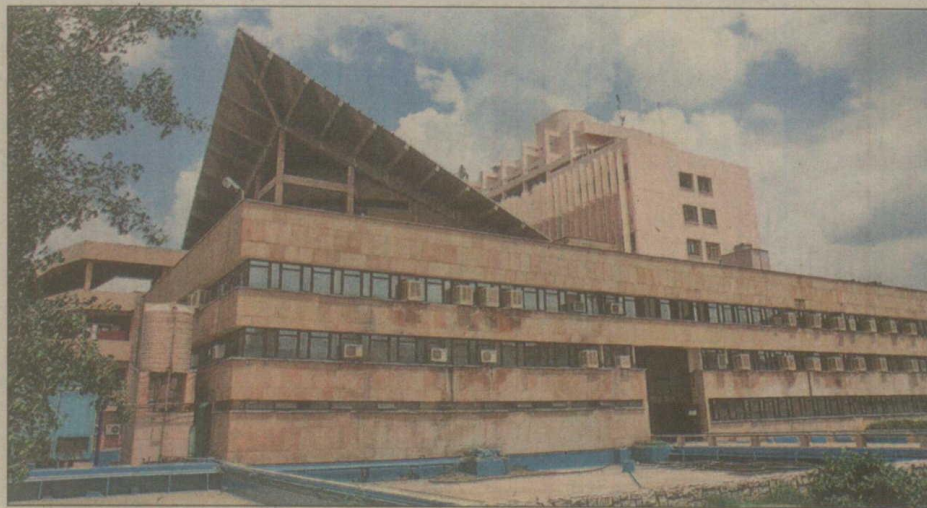
IISc unveils the magic of science

TNN | Mar 2, 2014, 05.49AM IST

BANGALORE: The police officer outside the Centre for Neuroscience, IISc, looked curiously at the exhibition stalls. A volunteer was holding a real human brain in his hand explaining how it works. As the cop stared, an IISc official asked him to join the group of visitors. Shyly, he did. And when he came out after a few minutes, he was beaming. The magic spark of Science had been lit.

As it did with hundreds of students, science enthusiasts and a curious public who celebrated Science at India's premier science institute on Saturday. The 104-year-old institute had organized the Open Day, where the public could walk in and see what happens inside the science labs, otherwise closed to them.

The 40-odd departments of IISc had put up exhibitions, with live experiments, demonstrations of scientific theories and a display of their equipment and research. The 400-acre sprawling campus was buzzing with activity as the crowd walked and cycled trying to catch as much as they could from every department.



■ IITs are collaborating with NASSCOM to create online programs in line with industries requirement

FILE PHOTO /HT

IITs to offer online course in computer science

Vanita Srivastava

After the success of making its lectures available on YouTube, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are all set to launch an online certification course for basic computer science from March 3.

The premier institutes are collaborating with NASCOM and other major IT companies for this programme, which is a direct offshoot of the project of National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) that has been able to make available online a large number of courses taught in IITs to students and teachers across the country.

“The online course will have topics chosen from three computer science courses—programming, algorithms and data structures. The syllabus has been framed in consultation with industry partners and fits the requirements of most major information-technology and other hi-tech companies’ that require trained graduates in a large scale over the next decade,” IIT Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthi told HT.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

IITs are collaborating with NASCOM and other major IT companies for this programme

- It is the part of project of National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL)
- The courses will be available in programming, algorithms and data structures
- A trial has already been done with 900 students in few colleges in Chennai
- The course will run over ten weeks with around 2-3 hours of lectures every week

A trial has already been done with 900 students in few colleges in Chennai, he said. “This concept is something that falls in between that of a synchronized classroom and off line learning,” he added.

IIT scientists developing stem cells for heart

Vanita Srivastava

vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A team of scientists at IIT Madras are developing stem cells to grow into cardiac cells, which can eventually lead to treatment of severe heart problems.

The cells will now be surgically administered into specifically created rat models at the Central Drug Research Laboratory in

Lucknow. The project is being funded by the department of Biotechnology.

“We have developed cardiac patches isolated from biological material and proved the functionality of the cells. These patches when put into the ischemic heart can help reverse the dying cells,” says Rama S Verma, professor, department of biotechnology, IIT-M.

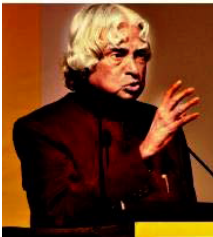
Stem cell therapy holds a lot of promise in the field of medical science, he said adding: “Besides opening new avenues this may also help in preventing an organ transplant.”

After the patches are surgically administered in the rats, he said: “We will check for all the physiological parameters like heart rate and blood flow. This will then help us in analysing the survival rate.”

Besides heart, IIT-M scientists are also experimenting with stem cells for treating liver diseases. They have programmed stem cells derived from cord blood and bone marrow to grow into liver cells. The cells were grown in a special polymer gel.

“If the trials on animals prove to be successful, we will move on to experimenting on humans,” he added.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Mar 3, 2014; Section: Education Times; Page: 47;



rather than being an employment seeker. This transformation can only be brought about by a Principal who has a vision to transform, who has the ability to take risks against all challenges, who is a good listener, who is a good innovator, who maintains a cordial inter-personal or intra-personal relationship and who has the ability to carry the parents, community, media and the teachers for accomplishing the vision of generating an enlightened citizen for the nation.”

Earlier, in his introductory address, Ved Prakash Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director, Rau's Study Circle, said, “A good education is not mere transfer

of knowledge, but it is conditioning of mind into the values essential for making them honest, just and decent human beings.”

Talking about ethics in today's context, Vineet Joshi, Chairman, CBSE, said that it's time not to talk but to act.

Guest of honour Surina Rajan, Principal Secretary - Ministry of Education, Government

of Haryana, was of the opinion that ethics is something which you can see in your own behaviour and it varies from place to place.

Creativity, righteousness and courage combined is knowledge: Dr Kalam

Dipti Srivastava

Be a lamp, a lifeboat and a ladder. Help someone's soul heal.

This was the message of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, to the teachers of today. He was speaking at Building India, a seminar organised by The Times of India in association with Rau's IAS Study Circle, at FICCI Auditorium recently.

“When a teacher remains a role model giving a vision to the pupils or giving them a righteous path, he or she becomes a life cycle phenomenon of inspiration for

GURU SPEAK	
	The seeds of peace in the world have their origin in the righteousness in the heart of every individual. Such righteous citizens lead to the evolution of enlightened society.
	We all know knowledge without the moral compass can lead us to disasters. It is, therefore, essential that we attempt a fusion of both knowledge and values to achieve the goal of real education.
Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Former President of India	V.P. Gupta Chairman and Managing Director, Rau's IAS Study Circle

them,” he explained.

In his interactive discourse, he spoke at length about the dynamics of a school and the role that people at home and school play in the life of a child.

Enunciating the role of principals, Dr Kalam said, “Students should be confident that they can do it; they should have the self-esteem and the capability to become an employment generator

Govt sends VC of DTU on leave

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: The Delhi government asked the vice-chancellor of Delhi Technological University (DTU) to go on leave from Saturday. A section of teachers had complained of violation of DTU Act and other rules in the recruitment process of 2012-13 at the behest of the VC, P B Sharma.

According to sources from the directorate of training and

PROBE PLANNED

technical education, Sharma has been asked to proceed on medical leave as the department plans to probe the allegations against him. "But, on Thursday, Sharma resumed his duties saying he is medically fit. The directorate asked him to go leave, on Friday.

University Forum for Democracy and Innovations (UFDI), a teachers' body of DTU, had made representations to the Delhi government under Sheila Dikshit, alleging irregularities in recruitment. UFDI also questioned the appoint-

ment of the pro-VC. The teachers had accused Sharma of resorting to a pick-and-choose policy in the appointment and removal of department heads.

Refuting all charges and terming the government's decision to send him on leave "unfortunate", Sharma told TOI: "All appointments had been made on the basis of advertisements and rules in keeping with DTU Act, with a list of subject experts from IIT, BHU and other prominent institutions approved by academic council and the former lieutenant governor. All the appointments also got the approval of the board of management, the final authority. I don't see a reason why appointments made through statutory one and a half years ago should be the basis for sending the VC on leave. This is in violation of the Act."

Sharma has been the head of the institution, earlier known as Delhi College of Engineering, for more than 24 years, and was supposed to superannuate on July 22, 2014 from the VC's pos.

When examinations become too stressful

WORRY FACTOR Our exam system does generate tension in students' mind. Ali Khwaja analysis the causes and suggests practical ways to overcome them

Shreyas and Shambu have one thing in common - they both get highly stressed out and inevitably fall sick at the time of exams. But otherwise they are totally opposite to each other in temperament and attitude. Shreyas studies very hard. He does not leave out a single chapter or formula. He has no interest in extra curricular activities and studies for hours every day even when there are no exams.

Shambu takes things easy through the year, enjoys sports and socializing, and only when exams come very close he suddenly starts studying almost round the clock.

But surprisingly both suffer from very similar trauma during exam time - cold sweat, shivering hands, nausea, headache, and the worst - going blank at times in the exam hall.

There are many students who suffer from exam stress to greater or lesser extent but they do manage to finally perform reasonably well. There are children who come crying from the exam hall thinking they have done badly, but finally get better grades than what they had hoped for. Since our exam system does generate tension in students' minds, some amount of stress is natural, and may in fact be a trigger for them to study more.

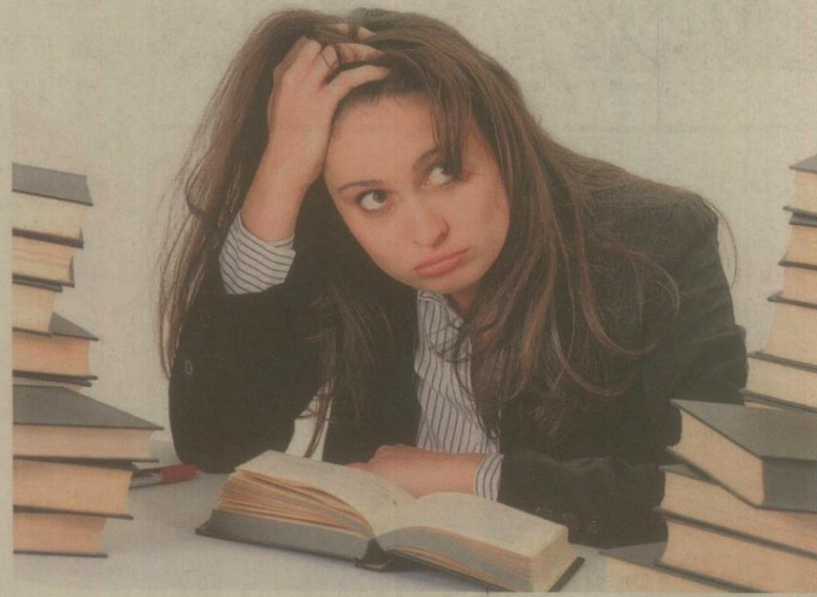
Stress symptoms

Stress levels go so high that they develop serious headaches or nausea, run up temperature, in extreme cases even have panic attacks. Due to so much pressure on the brain they forget important data in the exam hall, make silly mistakes or simply overlook some questions without realising it. Such students are often misunderstood by parents or teachers, and are pressurised into studying more hours, taking private tuition, and are even made to drink "memory tonics". The solution however lies in reducing stress and modifying study methodology, and this should be done well in advance, not on the day of the exam. Preparatory exams, known as "prelims" do give some indication whether a student is running up tension, and close observation of behaviour patterns can be warning signs. Disturbed sleep, loss of appetite, desire to keep running away from studies, obsession with games, mobiles or friends, even locking oneself up for long hours in a room - are possible indicators that the child needs help.

Causes and remedies

■ If a student sets a specific goal in terms of marks, be it 90% or 50%, he will feel the anxiety of not touching the benchmark. Hence a student should be encouraged to aim for progress beyond his last score. E.g. If he has scored 54% in the last math test, he may aim to add 6% and get a first class, or try to work very hard and increase score by as much as 15-20%

■ There are no shortcuts to stress relief, and denial of stress is very dangerous. Simple stress reduction methods, if practiced for at least few weeks before



exams, can be effective. But the method has to be identified by trial and error and then practiced daily, particularly as exams draw near.

■ A simple medical check-up by the family physician can eliminate any physiological causes that may hamper performance.

■ Ensure that the student does not completely give up on his hobbies or games (particularly some amount of physical activity is essential during exam time). Sleep should not be reduced significantly, and food should be eaten on time. Added to that, continuous intake of water (constant sipping of water through the day), and simple deep breathing many times in the day ensure that the brain gets sufficient oxygen.

■ Students who get unduly tensed during exams also need periodic breaks when they are studying for long hours. Short breaks when they get up from the place of study, look intently into the sky or far-off objects for a minute, stretching of hands and legs, a leisurely stroll or brisk walk, some healthy snack or juice, are all very effective. Depending on the individual, a break of about 3-5 minutes needs to be taken once every 30 to 60 minutes. Ensure that the break does not result in long conversations, watching TV or getting mentally involved with some issue that will remain in the mind.

When annual exams are round the corner, encourage every student to do self-introspection and look for the following symptoms: restless sleep, waking

up in the middle of the night, churning stomach, difficulty in digestion, dull headaches, heaviness in the eyes, panic attacks when studying a difficult or boring subject.

If even one or two of the above are slowly increasing, immediately get a health check-up done, preferably by the family physician who knows and understands the student's history. Many general practitioners are competent to prescribe anti-anxiety medication.

If such a doctor is not available, then one should consult a psychiatrist. Care should be taken that the dosage of medicine is exactly as prescribed, and intake should not be stopped without permission of the doctor.

Even if a patient is unhappy with a doctor's prescription, he should take a second opinion, and not just decide that he is all right so he can stop taking the medicine. Similarly, medicine prescribed earlier should not be taken on his own, even if the symptoms are the same as before.

Simultaneously, the number of hours of study should be temporarily brought down, and the time available spent on any stress-relief activity which is suitable to that particular person. Positive affirmations such as, "I will definitely succeed. I am capable. I will do my best. I will overcome this temporary hurdle" repeated dozens of times in a day build up the morale.

All family members should focus to first bring down the mental tension of

the student, reassuring him that in the worst case the exam can be taken later, but his health and well-being is more important. Others around should never panic or start giving unwanted advice. Laugh and joke with the student, keep giving positive strokes, do not set any bench-marks of minimum grades the student has to obtain.

Counselling by a third person, not immediate family members, can be a big boost. An elderly relative or neighbour, a favourite teacher, a senior student he looks up to as a role model, any such person can give a listening ear and give emotional support. In these discussions advice should be avoided, and the student just encouraged to speak out all his thoughts, feelings, fears, doubts etc, without interruption or passing judgement.

If no suitable person is available, then seek the help of a professional counsellor. Always keep in mind that the exam is not as important as the well-being of the student.

I have seen innumerable students who seemed on the verge of failure, were given the right support and therapy, and have gone on to very bright careers. A student can move ahead with lower-than-expected marks, he can re-appear for a failed exam, and can also drop the exam in an extreme case and take it later. But getting back peace of mind, building up self-esteem and confidence are great assets that will ensure the student's success in the exam of life.

India Ranked Fifth in Global Rich List

Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian who ranks 41st, followed by LN Mittal at 49 and Azim Premji at 77

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

India is home to the fifth largest group of billionaires in the world and Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, is the country's richest man with a personal fortune of \$18 billion, says a report.

According to China-based research firm Hurun's 2014 global rich list, Mukesh Ambani was ranked 41st in the list that was topped by Bill Gates, whose personal networth stood at a whopping \$68 billion.

Other noted Indians in the list include Lakshmi N Mittal ranked 49th with a personal net worth of \$17 billion.

Dilip Sanghvi of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Wipro's Azim Premji both ranked 77th with a personal wealth of \$13.5 billion each. Tata Sons' Pallonji Mistry ranked 93rd with a personal wealth of \$12 billion. SP Hinduja & family was ranked 93rd on the list, with a net worth of \$12 billion.

In the global rich list, Gates was followed by Berkshire Hathaway's Warren Buffett (2nd) with a personal wealth of \$64 billion and Amancio Ortega of Inditex was ranked 3rd with \$62 billion fortune. The fourth position was claimed by Carlos Slim Helu & family (\$60 billion) while Oracle's Larry Ellison with \$60 billion was ranked fifth.

The report said that during the past year the Indian rupee weakened 12% against the US Dollar, making it harder for Indians to make the cut-off. Despite the currency fluctuations, India has im-

Lakshmi Mittal Takes 38% Pay Cut

NEW DELHI Lakshmi Mittal, chairman and CEO of world's largest steel-maker ArcelorMittal and one of the richest Indians, took a 38% cut in his salary and perks last year amid his firm reporting second consecutive loss in two years. As per the annual report of Arcelor-Mittal for 2013, Mittal was paid \$2.29 million as salary and perks last year, down 38.29%, from 2012's \$3.71 million. His base salary declined marginally by 0.57% to \$1.76 million, while his short-term performance related pay went down by over 72% to \$0.53 million.—PTI

proved its position over last year. In the 2014 Hurun global rich list, the country is ranked fifth with 70 billionaires, 17 more than 2013.

Interestingly, India has higher number of these super rich individuals than Germany, Switzerland, France and Japan.

The combined wealth of the Indians billionaires comes to a staggering \$390 billion.

The United States is home to 481 billionaires, followed by China with 358 billionaires. The US and China now have half of all billionaires on the planet, the report said, adding that the UK, Japan, Switzerland, India and Russia are growing fast in terms of billionaires.

Moreover, Mumbai is home to 33 billionaires and is among the top six billionaire cities in the world. New York is officially the 'Billionaire Capital of the World' as 84 of the Hurun Billionaires live in the 'Big Apple', up 14 from 70 last year.

India will do quality work in nanoscience, says CNR Rao

WISE WORDS The Bharat Ratna awardee says he is sure that India will continue to push the frontiers of knowledge in nanoscience

HT Correspondent

■ chandigarh@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: India needed to give more focus on research in energy, tissue engineering and biomedical engineering, said Bharat Ratna awardee scientist CNR Rao, on Sunday.

Inaugurating an international conference on nanoscience and technology at Panjab University (PU), Rao said in these fields, technology could make a great contribution.

"After US and China, India is third in the world in terms of publication of scientific research papers on nanoscience. There will be much better and higher quality work in future," Rao said adding that he was sure that India would continue to push the frontiers of knowledge in nanoscience. While answering how he saw growth of nanoscience in India, Rao said in nanoscience, India started from zero and now was doing well. He also lauded government of India for creating the 'Nano Mission'

OUR SUCCESS IN NANOSCIENCE SHOWS THAT TARGETED FUNDING IN WELL-IDENTIFIED AREAS WILL DEFINITELY YIELD RESULTS.

CNR RAO, scientist

in 2007 and said the government had created the mission for a well-chosen area of nanoscience. "Our success in nano science shows that well-targeted funding in well-identified areas will definitely yield results," he said.

He asked the scientists to keep on working and make sure that the research was in line with the subject and its progress and international trends.

PRAISE FOR PU

Rao praised the contribution

INT'L CONFERENCE BEGINS AT PU

CHANDIGARH: International conference on nanoscience and technology (ICONSAT), 2014, started on Sunday evening at PU. The three-day conference is the sixth biennial international conference, sponsored by Nano Mission, the department of science and technology, government of India. The conference is being organised by Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), SAS Nagar, at PU main auditorium. A large number of noted national and international nano scientists and experts are participating in

the event. Bharat Ratna awardee and chairman, scientific advisory council to the prime minister, scientist CNR Rao inaugurated the conference on Sunday evening.

The secretary department of science and technology, T Ramasami, mission director 'Nano Mission' P Asthana, PU vice-chancellor, Arun Kumar Grover and director INST, A K Ganguli also addressed the participants. The conference will focus on new developments in various areas of nanoscience and technology. **HTC**

of Panjab University in the field of science and said he was happy to be at PU to inaugurate the conference.

He also expressed his pleasure that AK Grover, who was an outstanding experimental physicist,

was the PU vice-chancellor:

"I wish it tremendous future. I think it has much to contribute to the future of science and technology in India and all areas of knowledge and creativity."

Rural folks flock IISc on 'Open Day'

Ramzauva Chhakchhuak, Bangalore, March 1, 2014, DHNS:



The ‘Open Day’ at IISc, on Saturday, saw a good number of people from rural areas flocking to the institute. Overall, the turnout was better compared to last year.

One day in a year, IISc throws open its gates to the public for them to experience various activities like experiments, games and presentations organised by its numerous departments.

According to IISc Public Relations Officer N Krishnamurthy, an estimated 12,000 people participated in the activities. As many as 1,000 were from rural areas. A number of people came from places like Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bagalkot, Hassan and even Ananthpur in Andhra Pradesh.

B Sainath and Prakash D, both MTech students of Adichunchangiri Institute of Technology in Chikkaballpur.

“We have a few friends who study here and involved in day’s activities. We are among the visitors and got a chance to see the engine facilities at aerospace department and visited stalls of other departments. It is a great place to learn and experience things first hand,” Prakash said. Even the departments located deeper in the campus, such as Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences saw a good number of people visiting the faculty. “The turnout and response of people is definitely much better this year. This is partly due of our efforts at promoting our activities like by distributing pamphlets,” said Ananya S Rao, a third year PhD student at the centre.

A group of 11 students from Seshadripuram Higher Primary School spent almost the whole day at the institute. “I learnt about the process of manufacturing cars and also semi-conductors. I want to become a mechanical engineer when I grow up,” said Sahana M, one of the school students.

Surya Kiran Sharma, finance professional accompanied his two nephews and was himself engrossed in solving a puzzle at the Centre for Computer Science and Automation (CSA).

“This is not the first time I have come for this event. This is a very good opportunity for young people to get exposed to a number of different disciplines that will help them make an informed decision about their future plans,” he said.

Robo-cars race it out at IISc

Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Mar 3, 2014, 01.00 AM IST



The remote-controlled robo-cars had to be guided along a black line and had to negotiate obstacles. Each obstacle cleared was given 100 points

By: Arunchandra

In a field of 24 robo-cars, the one built by Army Ants team reached the finishing line first

It was a special race at the Indian Institute of Science on Sunday, where students from colleges across Bangalore raced the robots they built.

The exciting event saw 24 robots vying with each other for a photo finish. The scene resembled a Hollywood movie as robots battled it out. The Army Ants team, which came first, took 48 seconds to clear the race, while the first runner-up, Rampage, lost the race by a narrow six seconds.

Eight teams qualified for the finals in the 'Robot Rush' held at IISc Campus, with at least three participants in each team. Each team was a mix of students from different colleges. Students doing research in robotics took at least a week to set the robots up.

They adjusted the sensors, changed speed settings, and made repairs without altering the robot's weight. "The participants had to guide their robo-car on a black line 3 cm wide on a white background. They had to negotiate through obstacles, determine the correct path and compete with other bots in the race. The participants had to do all this using remote switches," said Hari, a student volunteer.

All the trials required approval of the presiding judges. While some were confident that their robot would make it, many were juggling problems. "I couldn't overcome the technical problems even in the second attempt. I am looking forward to participate in the event next year," said Sneha, a participant.

The tracks consisted of straight lines, smooth curves and sharp turns that went up to 90 degrees on the track. "We have designed the tracks in the model of highways. Participants should move throughout the track overcoming all obstacles successfully without changing tracks. Each obstacle cleared was given 100 points and manhandling attracted minus points," said Shashank, a volunteer.

The students had made the robots as per specifications like dimensions of 20cm X 20cm X 20 cm. The maximum voltage between any points on the robot could not exceed 12 volt