

# President returns files on appointments to IITs, varsities

A few files on judicial appointments may also be returned unsigned

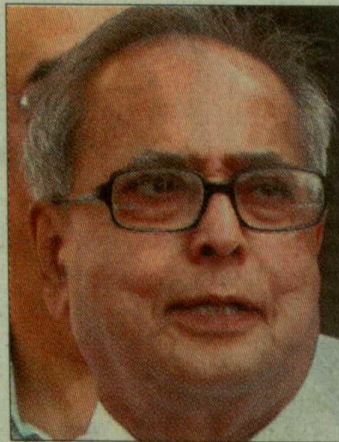
**APPU ESTHOSE SURESH**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

AS THE general election draws close, Rashtrapati Bhavan has decided to return several files unsigned. Majority of these files relate to appointments in various Central universities and IITs.

Sources said several files pertaining to judicial appointments too are lying unsigned and are likely to be returned without the President's assent. They, however, said the President is yet to take the final call.

On March 18, Rashtrapati Bhavan returned five important appointment files to the HRD Ministry.

One of these files related to an appointment in IIT-Kanpur to appoint the Visitor's nominee for the selection of Professor in the Department



**PRANAB MUKHERJEE**

of Industrial and Management Engineering.

Another file, related to IIT-Madras, was for the conferment of an honorary degree on Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, the chairman of Narayan Hrudayalaya Hospitals.

A file seeking permission of the President to replace the Executive Council member in

the selection committee of vice-chancellors of Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya in Madhya Pradesh and the Central University of Rajasthan was also returned.

The remaining two files that were returned pertained to the appointment of Visitor's nominee in Delhi University for the appointment of teachers and the other for appointing the Visitor's nominee on the board of management of the Central Agricultural University, Manipur.

President of India is the ex officio Visitor and Chancellor of all Central universities and also it is the President who issues the "warrant of appointment" of judges to High Courts and the Supreme Court. It is understood that among the pending judicial appointments are those of judges to several High Courts, includ-

ing the Delhi High Court.

The sources in the government said the return of the files pertaining to "minor" appointments to IITs and universities is a clear indication that the President is unlikely to play along with the UPA government in pushing important appointments such as those of Lokpal and its members, a process which has already been set in motion.

They said the files were sent to Rashtrapati Bhavan for the President's assent after the elections were announced. On March 3, the government had decided against sending ordinance on anti-graft bills that were pursued by the Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi after gauging the reluctance of the President to sign one after the Model Code of Conduct had come into force.

# Blackout prevention project in collaboration with three IITs

Read more at:

[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/32735815.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/32735815.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

LONDON: A Scottish University has been awarded a 95,000-pound grant to participate in a power blackout prevention project in collaboration with a consortium of universities including three Indian Institutes of Technology.

Dr Campbell Booth from the Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering of the University of Strathclyde has been awarded the grant for the "Advanced Communication and Control for the Prevention of Blackouts (ACCEPT)" project.

The consortium of universities includes Strathclyde, the University of Manchester, Imperial College London, and the three IITs: IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Kharagpur.

The project addresses the potential for use of Smart Grid and Phasor Measurement Unit technologies to support novel integrated protection and control tools for the prevention of wide-area blackouts.

This project has been supported as part of the UK-India programme involving a total of 8.3 million pounds from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) through the Manufacturing and RCUK Energy Programme themes, with matched resources from India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

There are seven projects in Advanced Manufacturing and five in Smart Energy Storage under this programme.

The value of co-founded research between UK and India has grown from 1 million pounds in 2008 to over 100 million pounds in 2013.

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## Solar energy plant to power IIT-Kanpur

Abhinav Malhotra, TNN | Mar 27, 2014, 10:47 AM IST

KANPUR: After setting up a 50 kilowatt solar power plant on the institute campus, IIT-Kanpur is now in the process of commissioning a 1,750 kilowatt roof-top solar power plant. This work would be done in two phases. In the initial phase, a solar plant of 350 kw capacity will be set up. This will take nearly six months. The second phase will be taken up later.

The power generated by the solar power plant will be supplied to the IIT-K grid and the same will be supplied back to the institute for meeting the power needs of the institute. This would also reduce the dependence on the power supplying agency in the city -- Kesco. At present, the 50 KW solar power plant which had been inaugurated July 3, 2013, is generating 250 units of power which is supplied to the grid. The same power is supplied to a student hostel in the institute to illuminate it. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his visit to the institute on July 3, 2010 had viewed the model of the 50 KW solar power plant which came up on the institute in three years time.

Importantly, IIT-Kanpur has major plans for the expansion of the solar power projects. The success of the 50 KW power plant paved the way for setting up of more such plants and 1750 KW power plant forms the part of the same plan.

While, the 50 KW power plant was meant for research work and had been set up on experimentation basis, the 1,750 KW power plant will be fully used for meeting the power needs of the premier IIT-Kanpur. Prof RS Anand, Principal Research Engineer, Department of Electrical Engineering of IIT-K, informed that roof-top solar power plant of capacity 1750 KW (1.75 megawatt) will be installed here in the institute. "Initially, we are in the process of setting up 350 KW solar power plant. This will take six months from now after which the 1,400 KW capacity plant will be installed. The 50 KW plant is already functional. It is giving 250 units of power each day which is supplied to the grid but this much of power is too less for an institute like IIT-K, therefore, larger capacity power plant will serve the purpose to a broader extent," said Prof Anand of IIT-Kanpur.

## Indian Naval Academy signs MoU with IIT Madras

*P. Sudhakaran* | Mar 27, 2014, 08:43 AM IST

KANNUR: The Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) with the aim of collaborating together for academics and research in the areas of mutual interest, exchange of academic information, scholarly information, materials and publications.

The MoU signed earlier this week in Chennai will also facilitate the cadets and students of both the institutions to participate in project competitions, faculty exchange programmes, sponsorship of cooperative seminars, workshops, etc and facilitate faculty development programmes, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, professor Bhaskar Ramamurthy, director of IIT Madras, said that the IIT Madras engages in interactions with society, organizations and industry through a variety of outreach programmes.

"It is always a special privilege to work with the armed forces. With the signing of the MoU, we have committed ourselves formally to work together more closely towards our common goals," he observed.

Vice admiral Ajit Kumar P, commandant, INA while thanking the director, said the Indian Naval Academy, which is already the largest Naval Academy in Asia, and aims to become the best Academy of its kind in the region, would benefit immensely from the IIT Madras which has a rich experience and legacy of more than five decades.

The INA had earlier signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and also Govt Engineering College Kannur (GECK) at Mangattuparamba, to collaborate together at the academic level.

# Age issue holds up Boston University prof from accepting IIM-Bangalore top job

**Anubhuti Vishnoi** Posted online: Wednesday, Mar 26, 2014 at 0000 hrs

**New Delhi** : THE country's top B school, the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore, is facing a leadership crisis despite the government approving the appointment of Boston University professor Sushil Vachani for the top job last year.

Since Vachani is two years away from turning 65, his age has become a bone of contention. According to the rules, a government academic position can be held only till the age of 65. This means Vachani's tenure as IIM-Bangalore director will be no longer than about two-and-a-half years or half the actual term of an IIM director — five years.

Photos: [Former Infosys honcho V Balakrishnan declares Rs 189-cr in assets](#)

The age factor is not a worry for Vachani at Boston University. Vachani, it is learnt, has expressed concern about leaving his tenured position as Professor of Strategy & Policy at the Boston University School of Management for a post that will be cut short due to his age. Due to these concerns, Vachani, whose appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in 2013, is yet to take up the position. While he has not yet officially written to the Human Resource Development Ministry, Vachani is learnt to have sought clarity on whether he can get a full five-year tenure, which may not be easy given the government's rigidity in such matters.

Vachani's appointment came soon after Prof Ashish Nanda from Harvard University accepted the top job at IIM Ahmedabad. That quitting a job abroad to take up a position in India is no cakewalk is clear in both cases. In Nanda's case, the nod came only after his dentist wife found a way to practice in India.

"While it was earlier indicated he would join as IIM Bangalore director in January, 2014, Vachani has sought clarity on whether he can get a full five-year term or if an extension of the tenure will be possible. Since this is not an easy assurance, given the ACC rules, he did not join in January," an HRD Ministry official said.

"He has now taken up another academic engagement, which will keep him occupied till July. The government has to take a call on this issue at the earliest possible. If Vachani is unable to join, we need to start the selection process afresh — another nine-ten month long exercise," the official added.

Sources said making an exception for Vachani would prove difficult, especially since he was not the first choice to head the institute.

Pankaj Chandra, the previous IIM Bangalore director, was recommended for a second consecutive term in January 2013, but he turned down the offer. Ever since Chandra completed his term, IIM Bangalore has been steered by an acting director.

Vachani, who did his B Tech from IIT Kanpur, went to the Harvard Business School and IIM Ahmedabad. Vachani also worked at [Tata Motors](#) and Boston Consulting Group in the US.

Also read: [Sunny Leone's 'Ragini MMS 2' must be banned, actress deported for 'assault on Hindu gods', says HJS](#)

# IIM-A joins hands with Harvard, MIT and Berkeley for research

Institutes to address bottom of the pyramid issues; joint research to raise IIM-A's world ranking

VINAY UMARJI  
Ahmedabad, 26 March

What happens when marquee institutions of the world — Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University and University of California, Berkeley — join hands with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad? There will be joint research projects to develop field water quality testing and filtration equipment, ambient pollution measuring products and mobile technologies for health purposes.

In a first, these institutions have decided to work together through a consortium to benefit and address issues of the bottom of the pyramid around Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The projects will be partly funded by the US Agency for International Development (US AID).

US AID is the US federal government agency responsible for administering civilian foreign aid. It operates in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. As part of the consortium, faculty and students at IIM-A, along with those of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar; National Institute of Design; Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology; Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, will work with skilled researchers, faculty and students



**"For each project, there is a champion institute behind it such as MIT, Harvard and Berkeley. We will look at the Indian perspective with the help of other institutes in Ahmedabad that will be complementary in nature"**

ASHISH NANDA, Director, IIM-A

from Department of Urban Studies and Planning, as well as D-Lab at MIT, South Asia Institute of Harvard University and Center for Effective Global Action at UC Berkeley. The projects will begin in June this year and would result in student and faculty exchange.

"We are enthused by the positive commitments by MIT, Harvard and Berkeley to conduct research in this part of the world. It is a wonderful opportunity for us and we have been talking about research in three areas to begin with. These will be in water filtration, pollution measurement and mobile technology to help poor and geographically dis-

## CAMPUS COLLABORATION

Standalone foreign tie-ups by Indian B-schools

Indian B-school	Foreign varsity
IIM-Ahmedabad	Harvard Business School (US) Columbia Business School (US)
IIM-Bangalore	Melbourne Business School (Australia)
IIM-Calcutta	Community of European Management Schools
Indian School of Business	Cornell University (US) Columbia Business School (US)
IIT-Madras	Universite de Technologie de Troyes (France) Technion - Israel Institute of Technology (Israel) University of Waterloo (Canada) University of Liverpool (UK) National Tsing Hua University (China)

persed," said Ashish Nanda, director, IIM-A, adding, "What is attractive is that for each project there is a champion institute behind it, such as MIT, Harvard and Berkeley. We will look at the Indian perspective with the help of other institutes in Ahmedabad that will be complementary in nature."

The US-based institutes, as part of the Comprehensive Initiative on Technology Evaluation, seek to build a consortium of higher education institutes in the Indian sub-continent to carry out research around areas of interest in the developing world, which can then be used by different stakeholders for creating/sponsoring

new product/solution development.

"Such an engagement with MIT, Harvard, and Berkeley would entail collaborative research, joint course offerings, co-incubation and testing of technologies. Collaboration across higher education institutions around Ahmedabad can bring together a group of researchers in design, technology, communications, business and entrepreneurship to work together. Such an endeavour would simulate an eco-system that a large multi-disciplinary university provides in the West," said Rakesh Basant, former chairperson of Centre of Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship at IIM-A.

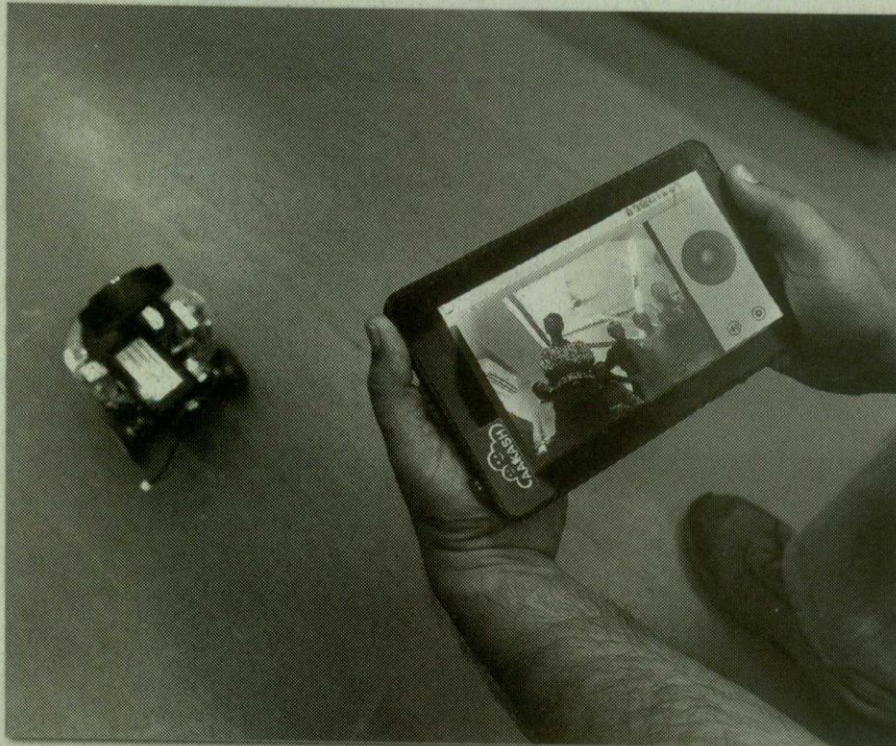
# Engineers must solve real problems

**A**S I approached the lanky young man holding up my name at the exit of Lucknow airport, he bent down to touch my feet. Maybe politicians and men of religion are used to this from complete strangers. His gesture not only surprised me but made me uncomfortable. He introduced himself as a first-year student of computer science at IIT Kanpur (IIT-K) and a student volunteer for Techkriti 2014. He had come to take me to the institute by road, 70 kilometres away.

Techkriti is an annual, entirely student-run, technical and entrepreneurial festival at IIT-K that began in 1995. As the name implies, technology creation and innovation are at the heart of this mega-event, positioned now as one of Asia's largest technology festivals that attracts more than 25,000 student enthusiasts from all over the world. The four-day festival backed by a good number of popular sponsors, hosts high-tech competitions, games, workshops, pulsating music shows and, of course, speakers. This year, the students carved out a small space for a couple of social entrepreneurs to share their work, allowing me to return to my alma mater after 28 years.

On the way to Kanpur, I asked the bright young student why he was spending five hours to get me to campus when the driver could well have done it. Unconvincingly, he said something about it being an honour. Upon pressing him a bit, I soon learned that receiving and dropping speakers over long distances, was the job of junior student volunteers running the festival. At what cost to the poor soul? In this

Brij Kothari



**VALID REASONS:** In this 2012 file photo, a software engineer controls a remotely controlled robotic camera, seen transmitting real-time video to the new Aakash-2 computing tablet, at the IIT campus in Mumbai

case, this young student had to forego, among other exciting Techkriti events, a lecture by professor Alvin E Roth, a Nobel laureate economist. Whatever he had done out of respect, at my end, quickly turned into guilt. I would have preferred a balanced form of respect rather than the deferential one on display.

On the way, the student expressed a desire to join a programme in management, after his bachelor's in computer science. When I asked him what drew him to management, he threw the question back at me, asking, "Actually, please tell me what management is?" I wanted to

say, that management is a field of study that every smart aspiring engineer, doctor, and professional in the country wants to pursue at an IIM because of the lure of the pay package following graduation. Somewhere in those two years, they understand what management is.

Just then we arrived at a railway crossing where we had to stop behind a long line of vehicles. After a bit of a wait, the train chugged by and the crossing gates opened. Engines began to rev, drowned only by loud honking. Despite all the commotion, nothing seemed to move. On both sides of the

crossing, the drivers had positioned their vehicles as if the road was one way, in their direction, of course. Head to head traffic brought everybody to a standstill.

To know how many times a day such a traffic jam takes place at that crossing, one needs to only look at the train schedule. This is a management problem, I told the student, and it starts with a simple technology solution. Put a long enough divider in the road on both sides of the railway crossing. If people still occupy the entire road, put metal spikes that allow for traffic flow only on the correct (left) side of the road. The

technology part is easy, but getting the UP government to implement it may be the real challenge, at that railway crossing, and without a doubt, at many others across the state.

The 70 km stretch from Lucknow airport to IIT Kanpur took us 150 minutes. I did the math. Two of UP's largest cities, Lucknow and Kanpur, with a metropolitan population of nearly three million each, were connected at a turtle speed of 28 km/hour!

The campus was built up and unrecognisable. A cursory look at Techkriti projects suggests that some things had not changed. Just as I had done as a student nearly three decades ago for my final project, researching the properties of silver iodide at high temperatures as a student of physics, still not sure why, my impression is that many students may yet be aiming for sophistication in technology and innovation without adequate exposure to some of the problems, even around the campus, that desperately need solving. P Sainath, one of the speakers at Techkriti has talked elsewhere about the need to invent a leak-proof tap. In a similar vein, one wonders what engineering solutions there might be to save the drudgery of work for millions of rural women.

What the students at IITs may need to do is step out of the campus in search of real problems to solve, that affect the lives of millions of fellow citizens. Finding meaningful problems to solve is perhaps the most difficult step in innovation. The solutions then flow.

*(The writer is a social entrepreneur and is on the faculty of IIM-Ahmedabad)*

# Four scientists in fray for IISc directorship

New Delhi, March 26, 2014, DHNS:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/394878/four-scientists-fray-iisc-directorship.html#>



**After almost eight years, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore may have a new director as the current incumbent Padmanabhan Balaram is set to retire.**

Four eminent scientists are in the fray to replace Balaram and the likely candidate's name may be disclosed at the IISc council meeting, scheduled on Saturday.

Department of Biotechnology Secretary K Vijayaraghavan is the forerunner, reliable sources told Deccan Herald.

When contacted, Vijayaraghavan, who became DBT Secretary about an year ago, denied going out of the department. Other three academicians are senior IISc professors D D Sharma, Raghavendra Gadagkar and Vijayalakshmi Rabindranath.

While 58-year-old Sharma, a professor of Chemistry, is the youngest of the four, neuro-scientist Rabindranath has previous administrative experience as she was the first Director of National Brain Research Centre, Manesar.

One of the world's leading experts on animal behaviour, Gadagkar is a Professor at IISc Centre for Ecological Sciences. He is also current President of Indian National Science Academy.

Vijayaraghavan, who was heading Bangalore-based National Centre for Biological Sciences before becoming DBT Secretary, is the only Fellow of Royal Society among the four. On the other hand, Gadagkar is a foreign associate of US National Academy of Science.

No interview

A search committee comprising eminent scholars is likely to announce the next director's name in the council meeting, chaired by K Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission and former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

“In IISc, a director is selected several months in advance. There is no interview and no panel. A panel of eminent academicians chooses a candidate on consensus,” said a IISc professor, who is also on the verge of retirement.

Tradition

Even though Balaram crossed 64 years of age last month, he will retire on July 31 in accordance with an IISc tradition. The molecular biologist took over from Govardhan Mehta, who was the director between 1998 and 2005. Bharat Ratna C N R Rao too was IISc director for 10 years.

No woman has ever headed the prestigious institute, which is in existence for more than 100 years.

A deemed university since 1958, IISc is possibly India's finest research and education institute and highly regarded all over the world.

India Today Online New Delhi, March 26, 2014 | UPDATED 12:48 IST

## **IIT Kharagpur to begin short-term courses with international faculty**

Indian Institute of Technology ([IIT](#)) Kharagpur will now be offering short term courses for students of other colleges as well as for those having completed their education. Aspirants will have an opportunity to study at IIT Kharagpur from an international faculty.

While talking to PTI, IIT Kharagpur officials said that the International Summer and Winter Term (ISWT) will run each year during May-July.

By bringing together participants and faculty from India and abroad, the program will not only be academically stimulating but also offer an opportunity to make new friends and interact with about 30 international experts, they said.

These subjects are designed around current and multi-disciplinary themes of science, engineering, management and law, the officials said, adding, the duration of each course is of two weeks or ten working days with a judicious blend of lectures and tutorials per day.

They said participants can be even from the industry and research organizations.

Students registered for these courses will have the opportunity to obtain additional academic credits based on evaluation and grading process, they added.

IIT Kharagpur currently has 19 academic departments, eight multi-disciplinary centres/schools, and 13 schools of excellence in addition to laboratories and central research facilities. A few short term courses are available under the Quality Improvement Programme (QIP), however they are largely distance education courses.



## IIM-A inks tie-ups to innovate tech for poor

### OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, March 26

In a move that will evolve technologies for the betterment of the poor, the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has brought technology researchers from globally renowned institutions MIT, Berkeley and Harvard Universities, who will collaborate and work towards innovative technologies to make it useful for the bottom of the pyramid.

The project will involve institutions of higher education such as IIT-Gandhinagar, National Institute of Design (NID), Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) and Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad (MICA) in the initial stage.

The collaboration with the institutions in and around Ahmedabad would bring closer the interested group of researchers from design, technology, communications, business and entrepreneurship segments to work together.

Such an engagement with MIT, Harvard, and Berkeley would entail collaborative research, joint course offerings, co-incubation and testing of technologies.

"The aim is to use the technology for the interest

of the society. Having partners from institutions like MIT, Berkeley and Harvard would ensure that mix of people working together towards meaningful projects for society," Ashish Nanda, director, IIM-A told media.

"IIM-A would contribute human capital and all the soft resources required for the project," Nanda said.

Commenting on their role in the initiative, Temina Madon from UC Berkeley, said, "Our focus would be on innovation in technology that will be useful for the bottom of the pyramid."

Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) explained that the institute will have a role of evaluation, while the Harvard University would focus on entrepreneurship.

Earlier this week, IIM-A had organised a workshop with these US technology researchers with about 15 faculty members from IIM-A discussed in detail various aspects of collaboration on different interest areas.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has allocated \$150 million funding among total seven US-based universities to work towards evolution of innovative technologies in the developing world.

# Honey, I shrunk the mass spectrometer

IIT Madras team was able to create ions from any sample even at one volt

R. PRASAD

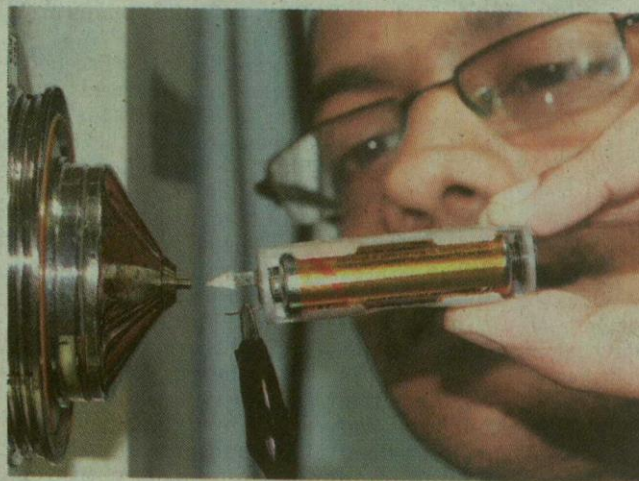
**M**ass spectrometers that are as small as a smart phone and require as little as one volt — a 3,000-time reduction in potential — to create an electric field which would turn a sample into ions for identification of composition may soon become a reality.

The feat of shrinking the ion source that requires very little voltage was achieved by a team led by Prof. T. Pradeep of the Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras. The results were published last week in the *Angewandte Chemie International* journal.

Conventionally, a solution of the sample is electrolysed at 3,000 volts to create charged droplets that become ions. The ions are, in turn, analysed to find the composition or chemical constituents in the case of a sample mixture.

The massive reduction in voltage requirement became possible by using carbon nanotube-impregnated paper to act as a substrate on which the sample was deposited. If the conventional method uses very high voltage to create a strong electric field, the sharp protrusions of the carbon nanotubes help in creating the high electric field by using very low voltage.

"One volt over a few nanometres creates an electric field equivalent to 10 million volts over a centimetre," Prof. Pradeep explained. "The whole idea was to keep the nanotubes separated from each other. Normally they get bundled."



**INNOVATIVE:** Rahul Narayanan of the Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras and the lead author of the paper performs an experiment using nanotube-coated paper. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Once nanotubes get bundled, they turn out to become large wire-like structures thereby increasing the voltage required to create an electric field. "Earlier experiments [by others] using carbon nanotubes failed as the nanotubes were bundled," he said. In fact, standard procedures are available to disperse the nanotubes.

Incidentally, the order in which Prof. Pradeep's experiment progressed was unusual. "I had been after this method for a long time. I knew ionisation is possible and can be detected using low voltage. But the answer came first," he recalled. "I understood that by using the nanotube dispersion technique I could get ions. So the ions came first, and I looked at why this happened." And he soon figured it out. "I realised that ions were observed as the nanotubes were separated,"

he said.

"All good science is commonsense," he noted. "When you look back, [the way] many science breakthroughs [happen] look simple... quite silly. But if you had told this [miniaturizing mass spectrometer] 20 years ago, people would not have believed you."

A few puzzles remain to be solved. The researchers are yet to decipher where the samples get charged — along the entire length of the nanotube or just at the tip. It is also not clear why molecules present in the air don't get ionised and create their own signals (technically called as noise).

Earlier, scientists succeeded in shrinking the size of the analyser and detectors to 1 cm<sup>3</sup> each. Now, by shrinking the size of the ion source, the possibility of simplifying mass spectrometry for analysing various substances

opens up.

"If you have a good vacuum system and controlled electronics, we can shrink a mass spectrometer to smart-phone size... we can simplify it. That's the importance of this discovery," he emphasised.

He foresees a day not too far away when gently rubbing the nanotube-coated paper on any object — an apple or a tablet — will be sufficient to collect samples for analysis in a lab. The nanotube-coated substrate can also be reused. In all, there is a real possibility of completely rewriting the way sample testing gets done.

"So what it means [is that] you can collect samples remotely and analyse them elsewhere for disease or pollution prevention or any such thing," he noted. "In a sense, we can make a mass spectrometer reach a wider audience." The mass spectrometer is a sophisticated instrument and has been out of bounds to the common man.

Producing a nanotube-coated substrate is also quite simple. Nanotubes can be grown separately and then coated on the substrate and, behold, it is ready for sample loading.

Since samples can be collected by gently rubbing the substrate on the material, there is a possibility of some tubes breaking and sticking to the surface of the material tested. Will such broken nanotubes cause any health hazard?

"We must ensure that the substrate is holding the nanotubes firmly, so no nanotubes stick to the sample tested," he noted.

# Govt says no to Gmail at work

By **Mail Today Bureau**  
in New Delhi

**THE Centre on Wednesday informed the Delhi High Court that it has proposed a national email policy for official communication under which five million new IDs would be created to carry out the work, without depending on foreign mail services like Gmail or Yahoo.**

Popular mail services and social networking sites like Gmail, Yahoo and Facebook will not be used for official communication of government employees to ensure secure access and usage of data, it submitted, adding that the access to social networking will be banned in gov-

ernment offices.

Earlier, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice B.D. Ahmed and Justice Sidharth Mridul had asked the Centre to form an email policy for the government officials in consonance with the Public Records Act to bar transfer of data to a server

## **Centre has proposed national email policy**

located outside India.

Former BJP idelogue K.N. Govindacharya, the petitioner, had contended that the use of email accounts whose servers were outside India and transfer of nation's offi-

cial data using them violated the Act.

The PIL had also sought prohibiting minors from using social media sites. The subject, however, did not come up for discussion in the court.

In its affidavit, the Centre also stated that it has proposed another policy—Policy on Acceptable Use of IT Resources of Government of India—that lays down the guidelines with respect to use of all IT resources. It, further, submitted that a similar practice is being followed in several Western countries.

The plea had also sought a direction to ensure safety of the data of 50 million Indian users.