

## eNewspaper Clippings Aug 21-23, 2010

TOI, Aug 21

### **KMC defies VC order on semester**

*TIMES NEWS NETWORK*

New Delhi: A day after DU vicechancellor warned principals of 30 colleges to either implement semester system or face music, the staff council of Kirori Mal College openly defied his orders on Friday, deciding to follow the annual mode. "The council rejects vice-chancellor's order asking principals to prepare timetable on semester mode for undergraduate science courses," the resolution stated.

"Some of the science courses have not even been placed in the Academic Council. These subjects were approved under the VC's emergency powers. Any order of the VC cannot replace the expressed requirement of the [University Ordinance](#)," said secretary, staff council, R K Pandey. The principal is likely to place the staff council's resolution at the governing body's meeting.

But the [university](#) administration said that the colleges have to abide by the August 12 order and fix responsibility for implementation of the semester system. DU VC Deepak Pental said: "The [university](#) stands by its August 12 letter and the principals have to fix responsibility. Staff council cannot reject the guidelines of the [university](#) and this is a legal matter now. Strict action should be taken against erring teachers."

### **CVC clean chit to Ignou VC**

*Akshaya Mukul | TNN*

New Delhi: Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), while giving a clean chit to V N Rajasekharan Pillai, vice-chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open [University](#) (Ignou), on most of the 20 allegations, has also found serious cases of impropriety on many counts.

CVC, in its 75-page report, has said Ignou's decision to allow project partner Shri Angala Parmeshwari [Educational](#) Trust (SAPET) to invite application from [institutions](#) to become Ignou-Vertically Integrated Engineering Programme centre without taking approval of [AICTE](#) is "not in order".

CVC said "Ignou's decision to authorise SAPET — one of its trustees Murali Kumaran was legal adviser to Distance [Education](#) Council headed by Pillai — to identify study centres and charge fee from students and [institutions](#) without verifying the necessary infrastructure and its experience was not proper and as per the statute." CVC said the fact "no legal action" was taken by Ignou against SAPET "shows that undue favour was caused to the SAPET." CVC has asked HRD ministry to initiate action to fix the responsibility.

CVC has found fault with the manner in which Ignou entered into an agreement with a private firm for building Ignou brand at the cost of Rs 15.45 crore for three years. CVC said the rates quoted by single bidder was considered reasonable and it appears that reasonability of rates was not ascertained properly. CVC has also found other procedural lapses, and has advised the ministry to take action.

## **REBOOTING INDIA**

### **Reforming India's Universities**

*Kanti Bajpai*

If India is to build a stable liberal democracy, if we are to empower the vast mass of the Indian public, if we want to give

ourselves a more equitable and fair society, and if we want sustainable economic growth, then our [university](#) system desperately needs to be reformed. The UPA government has understood this. Its plan to massively expand the [university](#) system is recognition that the idea of a liberal, empowering, just and sustainable India depends on a vibrant, expanding higher [education](#) system.

Critics have argued that quantity will come at the cost of quality. This is correct, but as Kapil [Sibal](#), the minister for human resources development, has recognised, there is simply no alternative. Over the longer term, quality should improve. One way of dealing with the fall in standards is to bring in foreign talent. India's [university](#) system is depressingly Indian. You can walk the corridors of academe and not see a single foreign face amongst the faculty. Our [university](#) system does not embody universality. Like Indian industry in the 1960s and 1970s, it has shut out foreigners and has suffered as a result.

India's [universities](#) need to be made more 'universal' if they are to flourish. The latest ranking of world [universities](#) shows that India has a long way to go in higher [education](#). Its once proud [university](#) system, the best in Asia after the Second World War, has fallen on very bad times. It is not that Indian [university education](#) has languished altogether. The IITs (even though they have a lot to answer for), IIMs and a host of other [universities](#) such as Delhi and JNU have brought high quality higher [education](#) to India. Nevertheless, relative to the rest of the world, India has fallen behind. It has also fallen behind in terms of India's demographics. Our much-vaunted 'demographic dividend' and 'youth bulge' will turn into a social and political nightmare if we do not expand and improve [university education](#).

Bringing in foreign talent will help our [university](#) system. If we look around the world, we will see that no [university](#) system of any repute is insular, certainly not as insular as India's. Even China, with its authoritarian political system and its relative lack of English competence, has thousands of foreign faculty.

Historically, there is no major [university](#) system that has been self-sufficient. This is particularly true of the American [university](#) system which drew and continues to recruit massively from Europe and other continents. A [university](#) must be as [universal](#) as possible in terms of recruiting talent. Recruitment in India must be opened up not just to NRIs. It must be opened up to everyone – Asians, Africans, Arabs, Europeans, Latin and North Americans – that has the English language competence to teach in India.

The presence of foreign faculty will not only help bridge the gap in quality teachers. It will also have an impact on Indian colleagues. Good quality teachers from abroad will have a powerful demonstration effect. Indian [universities](#), like Indian schools, suffer from teacher absenteeism, from lack of professionalism in terms of classroom transactions, from a lackadaisical approach to supervision and from abysmal research. Foreign colleagues, just in the normal course of their functioning, will both embarrass and inspire Indian counterparts.

More than any amount of exhortation from the HRD ministry or vice-chancellors or articles in newspapers, it is this that will energise the Indian faculty. Of course, hiring foreigners will cost us money. It will also require adjustment in our horrible visa and residency rules. We could save money by hiring foreigners on a part-time basis, at least in the beginning; see the experience of the Indian School of Business. And surely it is not beyond our home ministry, mad as it is, to amend our approach to visas and residency. India's national interest requires that we find the money and construct an entry system for foreign teachers. Above all, it requires that we change our attitude to the presence of foreign faculty in our [universities](#).



**Aug 22**

## **Upper House OKs bill for Nalanda univ**

New Delhi: After a well-informed debate over three hours, erudite in parts, Rajya Sabha on Saturday passed the bill to establish the transnational [university](#) at Nalanda in Bihar with the hope that it will become "an icon of Asian renaissance",

much like the famous seat of learning in ancient India.

Junior external affairs Preneet Kaur, who introduced the bill in RS, said the Nalanda [University](#) would be established as a non-State, nonprofit, secular and self-governing international [institute](#) with a continental focus. With the support of 16 countries in east Asia, India aims to resurrect the ancient seat of Buddhist learning to attract students and faculty from South-East Asia. TNN

**[Aug 23](#)**

## **Deemed univs-like scam in teacher training institutes?**

*Akshaya Mukul | TNN*

New Delhi: It has the makings of another [educational](#) scam, almost like the one involving deemed [universities](#). The only difference is that it relates to teacher [education](#).

The indictment comes from a high-powered committee of the HRD ministry that went into the functioning of Northern Regional Centre of National Council for Teacher [Education](#) (NCTE) and found massive irregularities in granting recognition to teacher training [institutes](#) and even disregard for the parent organization.

Irregularities and corruption in NRC had its impact on teacher [education](#) in six states — Haryana, Himachal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and the UT of Chandigarh — all of whom fall under its jurisdiction. “A similar situation prevails in other regional committees of NCTE and soon their functioning will also be reviewed,” a source said.

The committee has recommended repatriation of the current regional director and action against errant officials. It has also said NRC be reconstituted and wide-ranging procedural changes be brought in. Even NCTE has been criticized for its failure to monitor the functioning of NRC.

The committee, headed by a joint secretary of the HRD ministry, said NRC delayed issuing deficiency letters to [institutions](#) seeking NCTE approval. NCTE regulation of 2009 states that deficiency letter be issued within 45 days whereas in case of 20 [institutions](#), such communication was sent after two-three months. NCR also delayed its communication to the state government seeking its clearance within a month. This also happened in case of 20 [institutions](#). In cases where deficiencies were pointed out, the review committee found that it was done without proper examination of fact on records. Even the NRC regional director has been blamed for failing to notice that deficiencies being pointed out were not correct. The NRC communicated deficiencies which were vague and did not specify the exact nature of deficiency, the report said, citing vague deficiencies like details in land document did not match with details in affidavit and so on.

In what indicates manipulation, the HRD committee also found that as per NCTE norms, applications seeking clearance were not processed chronologically and even the well-laid out system of preparing comprehensive agenda notes highlighting the proposal, comments of the visiting team, recommendation of state governments were not followed.

Almost like [UGC's](#) role in giving deemed [university](#) status to private [institutions](#), the committee found lack of consistency in decision-making. The panel pointed out that in one meeting of NRC, it decided to refuse recognition to one [institute](#) for lacking infrastructure but in the same meeting, another [institute](#) with similar deficiencies was issued notice.

### **House panel raps HRD ministry for not consulting state govts on edu bill**

HRD ministry's [Educational](#) Tribunals Bill, 2010, has been severely criticized by Parliament's standing committee for not carrying out enough consultation with state governments and private [universities](#). The committee, while justifying the setting up of national [educational](#) tribunal, has said if it serves the desired purpose then the creation is justified otherwise the ministry should keep in mind the wasteful expenditure. The panel advocated setting up of tribunals at the district level. The committee has said the term 'unfair practices' itself has not been defined properly. Besides, the so-called support by states during the meeting of Central Advisory Board of [Education](#) (CABE) was not “very convincing”. It observed that of the [education](#) ministers of 19 states who attended the CABE meeting, quite a few were representing school [education](#) department. TNN

**ET, Aug 21**

## **Just two Indian institutions**

### **In The World's Top 500 Universities**

INDIAN [Institute](#) of Science and Indian [Institute](#) of Technology, Kharagpur, are the only two [institutions](#) to make it to the list of the top 500 [universities](#), in Shanghai Jiao Tong [University's](#) 2010 edition of Academic Ranking of World [Universities](#) (ARWU). In sharp contrast, 22 [universities](#) from mainland China figured in that list. And in all, 34 [universities](#) from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan combined figure among the top 500, up from 16 last year. American [universities](#) continue to dominate the ranking — with eight in the top 10 and 54 in the top 100. What does that say about the state of Indian [universities](#), when some of the brightest brains produced by the Indian [education](#) system not only head Fortune 500 companies but also grace the faculty of many of the finest [universities](#)? Perhaps India would have ranked better if these distinguished individuals had chosen to remain in India and been compensated well for their services to improving quality of higher learning. Then again, perhaps not. Our [universities](#) are poorly managed and bureaucratically run. Research is hived off to specialist [institutions](#) that do not teach, linkages with industry are weak, and parallel entry from commercial practice to academics, almost non-existent. So while better remuneration would attract brighter people to pursue a career in academics, it will not, by itself, make Indian [universities](#) centres of excellence.

Harvard, Berkeley, Stanford, Massachusetts [Institute](#) of Technology and Cambridge enjoy top ranking for not just the quality of [education](#) and faculty but for research output and per-capita academic performance of the [university](#). What ARWU factors in is how many Nobel Prizes or Fields Medals (Nobel equivalents in maths) have gone to alumni and staff, how many papers have been published in Nature and Science, and the total number of papers indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Science Citation Index. Indian schools fare very poorly on all these counts. To emerge world class, Indian [universities](#) not only need to attract the best brains, retain them with good remuneration, but also recognise and reward merit. High-end research has to be integrated into the [university](#) system and their governance made open and democratic.

**Aug 22**

## **CAT entrance to begin from Oct 27**

*Mahima Puri NEW DELHI*

THE Common Admission Test (CAT) for the prestigious Indian [Institutes](#) of Management (IIMs) and some other top B-schools in the country will be held between October 27 and November 24, CAT authorities said today.

Forms for the test will be available until September 27, but aspirants can register themselves between August 30 and September 30, CAT convenor Prof Himanshu Rai ([IIM](#) Lucknow) said. "This year's computer-aided tests will be held in 78 test sites across 33 cities," he added.

The tests will be conducted on 20 different days in a span of 28-days. "Breaks have been kept in view of the festival season, and to cushion for corrections that need to be made during the test days," Prof Rai said. The results will be out by January 12, 2011. CAT 2009 was the first computer-aided test for the coveted [institutes](#), a shift from the regular pen and paper format. In 2009, the tests were conducted in 32 cities and at nearly double the number of test sites. CAT 2009 drew a lot of flak since it was interrupted by technical glitches that included virus attacks and systems crashes.

Although the registration process remains the same as last year, CAT aspirants can change their preferences of venue and date anytime during the registration period this year. "The entire system has been overhauled. We have taken care of all possible glitches," Prof Rai said.

# Students, experts discuss education bills to be passed in Parliament

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
VADODARA | AUGUST 21

AS A part of the nationwide agitation against the educational bills to be passed in the Parliament next week, the All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO), Vadodara, organised a talk with economist Rohit Shukla to discuss the issue.

Sources said the organisation has been mobilising support for the event on August 27, where students across the state would participate in a rally to protest implementation of Right to Education, recommendations of Yashpal Committee and centralisation of university proceedings.

“If taken on the face value, some of the projects like school students not being forced to write examination or privatisation of educational system or adopting western mode of education are very positive. But given functioning of the government bodies, who would take the accountability of education,” said Shukla, who is also the editor of education magazine — *Drishti*.

He added, “Before making such drastic changes, we need to be very careful if we need to save the future of education in India.”

<http://epaper.indianexpress.com/IE/IEH/2010/08/23/>,

## India 78th best country: *Newsweek*

**NEW YORK:** India ranks 78th on the 'World's Best Countries' list compiled by *Newsweek* magazine, which placed nations on the basis of health, education, economy and politics. China is ranked 59th while Bangladesh and Pakistan has been placed at 88th and 89th spots respectively. Japan, South Korea and Singapore are the only three Asian countries in the top 20. The top four positions go to Finland, Switzerland, Sweden and Australia.

<http://epaper.indianexpress.com/IE/IEH/2010/08/22/>

## No change in format of IIT-JEE exam

**KANPUR:** Joint Admission Board (JAB) members have announced that there would be no change in the format of the IIT Joint Entrance Exam (IIT-JEE) 2011 which will be held on April 10 next year. After an important meeting on Saturday held at IIT-K and attended by over 50 representatives of all 15 IITs, IT BHU and ISMU Dhanbad, the JAB members stated that the exam would test the comprehensive growth, reasoning, knowledge and analytical ability of the candidates. JAB members said that it would be ensured that there are no printing errors in the question papers. **ENS**

# More poor students securing admission in IITs, says director

**KAUTILYA SINGH**  
KANPUR | AUGUST 21

THE day all the formalities of IIT admission were completed, IIT-K director expressed his satisfaction at the rise in the number of poor students securing admission in the institution.

Of the 9075 students who secured admission in 15 IITs, IT BHU and ISMU Dhanbad this year, 35 per cent students belong to rural areas and the annual income of 17 per cent students' parents is less than Rs 1 lakh. Secondly, 40 per cent of the successful students did not attend any coaching for the exam, said IIT-K director Sanjay Govind Dhande.

IIT-K has been entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate IIT-JEE in 2011. "It is heartening to see the rise in the number of students coming from financially weak background and rural areas," said Dhande.

The annual family income of 35 per cent students is between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 3 lakh and of 31 per cent students is between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 6 lakh, said Dhande.

The parents of 16 per cent students who secured admission in IITs, IT BHU and ISMU Dhanbad this year are not even graduates. "The Joint Admission Board (JAB) members are encouraged to see that candidates coming from rural belts and finan-

candidates. In the state list, Andhra Pradesh has topped the chart with 2188 admissions, followed by Rajasthan (1930), Uttar Pradesh (1592), New Delhi (1318) and Maharashtra (925).

According to him, 58 per cent of successful students are from CBSE, 37 per cent from other boards and 5 per cent from ICSE board.

Dhande said: "As many as 200 students have been included in the preparatory courses in all the IITs, IT BHU and ISMU Dhanbad." He said the students of preparatory courses are generally

# Research Park at IIT-M to open in October

Special Correspondent Hindu, August 22

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The Hindu M.S. Ananth (right), Director of IIT Madras interacting with students at the ASES India Summit in Chennai on Sunday. Photo: R. Ragu

It has allocated 85 per cent of space for industrial houses

The Rs. 300-crore Research Park developed at the IIT-Madras as an institute-industry partnership to promote research and development (R&D) is likely to be opened in October, IIT-M Director M. S. Ananth said on Sunday.

Addressing the opening of the “ASES India Regional Summit 2010” (Asia Pacific Student Entrepreneurship Society) co-hosted by IIT-M and Financial Software Systems (FSS), Prof. Ananth said the Research Park, located on a 11.5 acre site, aimed to evolve a knowledge and innovation ecosystem through institute-industry synergy and “bringing unlike minds together. The park has allocated 85 per cent of space for industrial houses that engage in R&D with the IIT-M and the remaining portion for start-ups, he said.

Noting that industry-University interaction often provided a reality check on education, Prof. Ananth said the idea was to have a combination of faculty that was advanced in theoretical knowledge, industry expertise that could take an idea and convert it into a marketable proposition and students with the spirit to conquer the world.

Prof. Ananth wanted students to give serious thought to the concept of intellectual property, what ownership of knowledge was and the unfairness in one who articulated a discovery taking precedence over the actual inventor.

In a marketplace where one needed IPR protection to safeguard oneself from being exploited, Prof. Ananth stressed the importance of “being comfortable with the ethics of what you are doing.”

Nagaraj Mylandla, Managing Director, FSS, said a successful business was seldom an overnight phenomenon and involved hard work and perseverance.

Providing constant value-addition to customers is important and so is timely investment for growth.



Ashwin Mahalingam, advisory faculty for IIT-M's Cell for Technology Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship Support (C-TIDES), said the summit featured lectures as well as site visits, and provided a networking platform.

<http://epaper.dailypioneer.com/Thepioneer/Pioneer/2010/08/21>

## DUTA to take on V-C with series of strikes next week



**ABHISHEK ANSHU** ■  
NEW DELHI

The ongoing tussle between the Vice-Chancellor (VC) and Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) on the issue of implementation of semester system is all set to turn ugly with series of strikes and *dharnas* lined up for next week, causing disruption of classes in university.

DUTA has declared that it will observe a complete strike on August 23 and 24 followed by a *dharna* outside V-C's office on August 26, 27 and 30.

V-C Professor Deepak Pental said it was unfortunate that some sections of teachers are trying to indulge in such tactics. "This step by the teachers will hamper studies in the university and this is bad for education. Students will suffer due to the strike and *dharnas* and I am really concerned about this," he said.

He added that the semester system is like a national policy and had been implemented in accordance with directions from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The V-C said the time has come to fix the liability. "I am unable to understand why

Pental further said the Government was paying handsome salaries to the teachers and pouring in lots of money to improve the educational sector.

"The Government is doing everything possible to boost education and universities are improving as well. Teachers ... should also realise their responsibility. Students and study are our utmost priority and we should focus on that only," added the V-C.

Regarding initiating action against the teachers who are not adhering to the semester system, Pental said the university can take executive action and can even send legal notices. It is worth mentioning that the first semester examination in 13 undergraduate Science stream courses is scheduled to start from November 20. The V-C has recently said the way teachers are protesting against the semester system, it will affect the possibility of completion of courses in time.

On the other hand, DUTA has said that despite V-C's recent order, most of the teachers are teaching under the annual mode.

"The degree of those students who study such science

# India stands at 78th on Newsweek's best country list

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India ranks 78th on the World's Best Countries' list compiled by *Newsweek* magazine, which placed nations on the basis of health, education, economy and politics.

Among India's neighbours, China is ranked 59th, Sri Lanka is placed at 66th position, while Bangladesh and Pakistan has been placed at 88th and 89th spots respectively.

Japan, South Korea and Singapore are the only three Asian countries in the top 20.

The top four positions go to Finland, Switzerland, Sweden and Australia while the United States comes in at 11th with Germany at 12th and the United Kingdom at 14th.

"In *Newsweek's* first-ever Best Countries special issue, we set out to answer a question that is at once simple and incredibly complex—if you were born today, which coun-

COUNTRY	RANK
Finland	1
Switzerland	2
Sweden	3
Australia	4
United States	11
Germany	12
UK	14
China	59
Sri Lanka	66
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>78</b>
Bangladesh	88
Pakistan	89

try would provide you the very best opportunity to live a healthy, safe, reasonably prosperous and upwardly mobile life?" writes Rana Foorohar, deputy editor.

The rankings are based on performance in areas such as education, health, economic dynamism and quality of life.

India is described as a big country with 1.2 billion people

with a small per capita income of \$1,170 per capita.

In an article describing how the countries were ranked, Foorohar writes, "While remarkable individuals can be found in any nation on earth, certain countries give their citizens much greater opportunity to succeed than others at certain points in time."

"As wealth and power shift from West to East, and a new post-crisis world order continues to take shape, it's no longer clear that being born and raised in Omaha offers quite the edge that it once might have," she added.

India gets 2.5 for freedom of expression, political participation and electoral processes from Freedom House with 1 being the highest score. Pakistan scores low with 4.5.

In the quality of life section, the study quotes the World Bank statistics as 75 per cent of the population living on less than \$2 per day.

# IIT-JEE 2011 to be held on April 10

**STAFF REPORTER | NEW DELHI**

**T**he date for the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) 2011 was announced on Saturday. According to the schedule, the test will be held on April 10 by the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB).

The format of the examination remains unchanged and it will be conducted in two shifts. The morning test will begin from 7 am to 12 pm while timings for the evening test will be from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The IIT JAB met in Delhi on Saturday and decided to hold the exam in its existing pattern. Sanjay Govind Dhande, director of IIT Kanpur, said the meeting was attended by directors or repre-

sentatives from all 15 IITs.

Nearly four lakh students had appeared for the IIT-JEE this year for about 10,000 seats in IITs. The number of seats may increase next year.

A decision regarding the entrance exam form and its submission will be taken within the next 10 days by the JAB. Dhande said this year, the authorities would be very careful to avoid printing mistakes which had crept into last year's question paper.

Professor SK Choudhury of IIT Kanpur has been named IIT-JEE chairman while Prof SS Karla and Prof Rajesh Srivastava have been made vice-chairmen, according to Dhande. IIT-JEE 2010 was coordinated by IIT-Chennai.

# IIT alumni to promote knowledge-based growth in Punjab

## fe Bureau

**Chandigarh, Aug 22:** The alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology and Punjab Infotech have decided to join hands "to forge a sustainable partnership to leverage support and guidance for Punjab's transition from a resource based economy to knowledge-based economy".

Rakesh Verma, managing director, Punjab Infotech told *FE* that in this venture, "the Punjab Infotech and the state government will act as enablers to facilitate and strengthen linkages amongst the government organisations, academia, industry for this purpose". The move comes as a consequence of IITians movement to organise its think tank to contribute to the growth of IITs

Punjab Infotech & the state government will act as enablers to facilitate & strengthen linkages amongst the govt organisations, academia, industry for this purpose

— **Rakesh Verma,**  
MD, Punjab Infotech

as well as the socio-economic development of the country.

An alumnus of IIT-Delhi, Pradeep Gupta, chairman, Cyber Media India who was here in the city along with other IITians to promote the forthcoming global conference to be held in October in Noida, PanIIT2010 told here on Sunday that "since the

formation of PanIIT in 2002, which is an umbrella organisation of all IIT campuses in the country, the alumni have contributed to various nation-building activities". The activities undertaken by IITians include engaging into finding technological solutions to India's problems, encouraging entrepreneurship, and helping build global brands.

"We have been able to engage the IITians settled abroad as well in India in paying back to their country by initiating research and development, upgrading skills of faculty, sharing industry knowledge, encouraging entrepreneurship, and initiating projects that can address numerous problems of poverty, unemployment, and health in the country," Gupta added.

Brij Gulati, chairman of

Chandigarh chapter of IITD alumni association assured on behalf of local alumni members to support IIT Ropar in laying a strong foundation and evolving into an institution at par with the best in the world.