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IIT loses ₹20L in fraud, cops suspect insider

Dwipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: IIT Delhi has registered an FIR with the Vasant Vihar police alleging that Rs 975,000 has been fraudulently withdrawn from its account with Canara Bank at the Safdarjung Development Area. At least three other cheques, too, have been encashed in a similar manner, with the loss to the institute pegged at over Rs 20 lakh, cops said. They suspect an insider’s hand behind the racket.

Deputy registrar (accounts) M K Gulati has said in the complaint that IIT’s accounts officer informed the institute on October 19 that a cheque (No.158185) dated August 8 for Rs 975,000 had been debited on September 21 from the account though no such cheque was actually issued by the authorities. The matter was immediately taken up with the Canara Bank extension branch at IIT Delhi.

“The bank provided us with the ‘instrument dropped’ detail that showed the cheque was said to be issued by IIT Delhi in favour of ‘Shri Mambas Singh’ for Rs 975,000. It was originally prepared in the name of M/s Watchers & Keepers for Rs 179,163 for November 4. But the counterfoil shows that the same was cancelled,” the FIR said.

All the cheques were deposited with Bank of India, BRIA (Bulandshahar Road Industrial Area) branch, Ghaziabad, and the whole amount, encashed through cancelled cheques, is still lying in the account.

Cops said the fictitious account in the name of Mamta Singh was opened on fake documents. “We believe that an insider is involved with the incident,” said the investigating officer.

A minute checking of the cheque reveals many discrepancies, said cops. “The date of issue in the cheque by the institute is in the format dd/mm/yyyy whereas on the cheque in question, it is dd.mm.yyyy. The cheque issued by IIT are computer-printed while the fraud cheque appears to be typed. Thirdly, IIT crosses a cheque diagonally across its left corner with a red stamp saying ‘A/C payee only’. But the cheque in question is crossed horizontally with the phrase ‘Payee account’. Next, the last five numbers in the cheque issued by the institute do not match with the same in the fraud cheque,” said an officer.

In the FIR, IIT said it has requested the BRIA branch to cooperate with Canara Bank to immediately revert the transaction and ensure that the amount is credited back to the IIT account and freeze the fictitious account.
चेक से आईआईटी दिल्ली को 34.40 लाख का चुनौती दिल्ली पुलिस के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि आईआईटी महादेवपुर में चेक संख्या 5710488 28 अगस्त 2009 को एक नाम हैर फेर ने लिया था। पुलिस की दस्तावेज से पता चली गई कि एक बैंक ने इस चेक से 34.40 लाख का पैसा ग्राहक को दी। किस चेक की मिली हैर-फेर की?

किस चेक में कितनी हेर-फेर की?
आईएसएम टू आईआईटी का प्रस्ताव पास

वनबाद | वरिष्ठ संचालक

इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ माइंस को आईआईटी बनाने के लिए शुरु अभियान अब जोर पड़ रहा है। मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ ड्युमन रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (एमएचआरडी) भारत सरकार ने बोर्ड मीटिंग (एडवाइजरी काउंसिल) में आईएसएम टू आईआईटी का प्रस्ताव पास कर दिया है। अब अगले प्रक्रिया के तहत ड्राफ्टिंग प्रोफेजर तैयार किया जाएगा। संदेश रखना है कि लोकसभा में यह जिला शीतकालीन सज्जा या उसके बाद लाया जाए। दिल्ली में मिशन आईएसएम टू आईआईटी में लगे नेशनल लॉ विभागितियों में अध्ययन के द्वारा नवीनता नवीन वर्मा ने बताया कि केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री नीतिन्द्र सिंह बंदल्लो के संसद संसद के दौरान दोरों मिली और वनबाद के नज़दीक मिली है।

आইआইटी बनने के

नज़दीक: प्रो. वहुगुणा

मिशन आईएसएम टू आईआईटी के लिए लड़ाई लड़ रहे प्रो. पीपी बहुगुणा ने कहा कि अब आईएसएम आईआईटी बनने के नज़दीक है। छात्र, शिक्षक व जनवादवासियों को सहभाग मिल रहा है। बड़ी संख्या में राजनीतिज्ञों से भी मदद मिली है।

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Montek for hiring foreign faculty at varsities

New Delhi: The Planning Commission on Friday argued that laws should be changed to allow universities to hire foreign faculty.

It advocated for an international flavour in varsities that could happen only if the government lifts restriction on hiring international faculty. “Unless this is changed, it will be difficult to make it to the top grade,” deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, said.

He argued that under existing rules, Indian varsities are not allowed to recruit foreign faculty and the challenge before planners, policymakers and educationists — both in public and private sectors — is to build world-class universities that could be counted among the Top 200.

“In the next 20 years, we must see a significant number of educational institutions in that category,” he said, adding that the 12th Five Year Plan aims to make primary education more widespread and higher education more research-based. TNN
York university looks to team up with Indian institutions

G. ChandraShekhar
Mumbai, Nov. 11

A high-powered delegation comprising three deans from Toronto's York University representing the Faculty of Science and Engineering (Dr Janusz Kozinski), the Faculty of Health Sciences (Dr Harvey Skinner) and the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (Dr Martin Singer) is currently touring India to explore collaboration opportunities with educational institutions here.

The team has already had meetings with several colleges, aspiring private universities and research institutions in different parts of the country including Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore, primarily to promote faculty and student exchange programmes.

York University is Canada's third largest university and one of the world's leading inter-disciplinary teaching and research universities with 54,000 students in ten different faculties offering as many as 5,000 courses. The operating budget for 2010 was $890 million.

BRAINSTORMING WORKSHOP
The visit of three Deans to India follows a high level workshop — Canada-India Frontiers 2011 — held in Toronto on October 11-12 where over 100 researchers, engineers, technologists and scientists from both countries brainstormed ways and means to collaborate in diverse areas such as life sciences, space exploration, energy and advanced materials.

High level officials and specialists from India's Defence Research and Development Organisation, Indian Space Research Organisation, Indian Institute of Technology and several Indian universities participated, with Dr Vijay Saraswat, scientific advisor to Indian Defence Minister and Dr W. Selvamurthy, chief controller DRDO, as the key academic speakers.

ENERGY SECTOR
In an exclusive chat with Business Line last week during his visit to Mumbai, Dr Kozinski, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering who spearheaded the Canada-India workshop, said research advances made by his faculty have immediate application and use for India, a country where enormous possibilities exist for collaboration in the energy sector, space and materials sciences.

DEFENCE TO BIO-WAR
Of immense importance to India is a technology developed by Dr Kozinski himself, called e-WARN (Early Warning and Advance Response Network) which has the capability to detect, quantify and initiate an effective response to chemical and biological warfare.

It is learnt that e-WARN technology is under consideration at the highest level in the government.
Debajyoti Ghosh

Bangalore, Nov 11: The ₹1,100-crore Manipal Education is looking at expanding its corporate education and training portfolio beyond banking to newer sectors like healthcare, construction, transportation, media and entertainment amid plans to widen its international presence with a university campus in Sri Lanka.

The company whose investors include IT czars Narayana Murthy and Azim Premji, expects its revenue from corporate training and education to contribute a fourth of overall revenue in the next four to five years from 15% at present. For Manipal Education, 60% of its revenue comes from outside India, while 40% is generated within the country.

"In India corporate education and training is a huge market. We are looking at technical areas like diagnostics and healthcare management. Construction is another sector we see large potential right from basic construction work to supervisory and managerial jobs," said Anand Sudarshan, managing director and CEO, Manipal Education.

In all these verticals, Manipal will have corporate tie ups offering diplomas, certificate courses and short-term programmes.

The group currently offers a banking and finance course for probationary officers at the ICICI Bank and Bank of Baroda, with two more banks in the pipeline.

The company also runs short-term and certificate programmes for entry-level retail sector. It has tie ups with retail majors like Shoppers Stop and Reliance Retail. Manipal hopes to partner with at least 40-50 companies in the next five years for customised education and training formats. The group's corporate education arm includes companies such as Meritrac, a testing and assessment company, IndiaSkills, a joint venture initiative with City and Guild, UK for skills certification and U21 Global, an online business school.

While the Indian industry requires more than 15 million skilled workers per year, the country's forlorn education system has been said to have fallen short when it comes to creating employable graduates.

Sensing large market potential, job training institutes have rushed to fill the employability gap, giving rise to a huge corporate training market in the country which is pegged at over ₹2,000 crore, excluding the IT training programmes. According to Kaizen Education Report, 2010, the corporate training market in India is growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22% over the last four years.

As part of the education group's overseas expansion, last year in November, the company announced plans to setup a $180 million multi-disciplinary international university in Antigua, Dubia, Nepal and Malaysia through Manipal Universal Learning (MUL), an education and training company. While MUL only provides training services in India, itowns and operates educational institutions abroad, which are allowed to have profit-based models.

In February 2010 MUL managed to rope in ₹200 crore from PremjiInvest, while Catamaran also invested ₹200 Crore in December: "We are not looking at raising any more funds at present. We are also not exploring IPO any time soon," said Sudarshan.
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NOBEL LAUREATE HAR GOBIND KHORANA DIES

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WASHINGTON: Har Gobind Khorana, a Nobel laureate most Indians grow up claiming as their own, died on Wednesday in Concord, Massachusetts. He was 89. He died of natural causes, said the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he was professor emeritus biology and chemistry. He joined MIT in 1970. Two years before, Khorana won the Nobel, in 1968, sharing it with two others, for unravelling the nucleotide sequence of RNA and deciphering the genetic code.

He was then with the University of Wisconsin. Born in 1922 in a part of Punjab that went to Pakistan after partition, Khorana was a US citizen, having lived outside the subcontinent most of his life. But that didn't stop Indians from counting him among the handful of Indians — Indians of Indian descent or Indians living abroad — to have won the Nobel. Rabindranath Tagore was the first to win it from India. CV Raman and Amartya Sen were the other two Indians. Mother Teresa was a foreign born Indian.

Khorana's Nobel was somehow the most cherished for Indians, perhaps because it was the first for someone from India after Independence. "Gobind was a brilliant, path-breaking scientist, a wise and considerate colleague, and a dear friend to many of us at MIT," said Chris Kaiser, head of the Department of Biology, in an email announcing the news.
Plan panel sets tone for reform in education

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The government is considering state funding of research at private institutions and allowing Indian universities to recruit foreign nationals as permanent faculty. Planning Commission deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said on Friday.

While currently, government research funding is confined to state-run institutes, "we are trying to change things," Ahluwalia said.

"The challenge before planners, policymakers and educators, both in the public and private sector, is to produce world-class Indian universities that could be counted in the Top 200 rating list. In the next 20 years, we must see a significant number of educational institutions in that category," he said.

Ahluwalia said that he personally opposes allowing for-profit academic institutes but this would not happen unless the government removes the restriction on employment of international faculty, he said. The government only allows foreign faculty to be appointed on a contractual basis at present.

According to an Ernst and Young report, there is high imbalance and disparity in Indian higher education. At least, 48% universities and 69% colleges have inadequate infrastructure and almost half of the positions for professors, readers and lecturers were vacant, the report reveals.

Overall, the national enrollment average is 13.8% of those who are eligible to pursue higher education. There is a marked disparity in higher education across states, according to the report, while in Uttar Pradesh, the figure is only 8.3% in Assam.

Rajiv Saxena, vice chancellor of Banasthali Vidyapith University in Rajasthan, said that though private sector is a big contributor to higher education, it needs a conducive policy environment from the government. "Funding and few regulations can be a great help," he said.

For higher education, the 12th Plan document was expansion, equality of access and excellence, Ahluwalia said, adding that the target was to raise the gross enrollment ratio from the current level of 25% to 30% over the next 15 years. "Expansion of higher education has to be balanced with equality of access, especially for those living in areas where educational institutes did not exist," he said.