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‘Dead’ IIT satellite comes alive

Srinivas Laxman | TNN

Bangalore: What was given up as dead, turned out to be alive! The one that sprang a recent surprise was India’s first IIT-made student satellite, Jugnu, a product of the students and staff of IIT-Kanpur. The three-kg student satellite was launched on October 12, 2011, along with SRMSat of SRM University in Chennai and VesselSat-1 of Luxembourg. The main satellite was the Indo-French Megha-Tropiques.

Speaking from Kanpur on Friday chief co-ordinator of Jugnu, NS Vyas, said mission life of satellite was one year. “We had stopped tracking it. But when we came to know from Nitte Amateur Satellite Tracking Centre in Bengaluru it was after all still alive we were thrilled,” he said.

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हायर एजुकेशन इंडस्ट्री है यहां

अमेरिकी युवा कर्ज लेकर पढ़ने व अपने पेयों पर चढ़ा होने में गर्म महसूस करते हैं

अमेरिका में लोग और मेडिकल -दो हालातों रखा मानते जाते हैं। वहां लोग के पेशेवरों से सारे आदतें लेते जाते हैं और मेडिकल डिप्लोमा जीतने के लिए खारिज करते हैं और अभी मेडिकल क्लियर निकालने के लिए अधिकार सावधान करते हैं। 

इस दस्तावेज के लिए विदेश, हाईवे और स्टीट्स को गाना सब्सेंडिंग सिस्टम में होता है। लेकिन भारत की ताकत अधिकतम है क्योंकि वह पेशेवर अन्य व्यक्तियों को लोगों के लिए मेडिकल करते हैं। 

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Govt's e-Pathsala scheme set to begin

New Delhi: The ambitious e-Pathshala programme of the government, seeking to create quality content across disciplines at the post-graduate level, is set to kick off with the University Grants Commission (UGC) asking universities throughout the country to contribute to the exercise.

The initiative, approved by the ministry of human resource development in 2011, proposes to develop e-content in 77 subjects across disciplines and the material will be made available to both teachers and students in the form of open online courses.
IIM-Calcutta to offer kayaking on campus

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KOLKATA: Before helming corporate giants, B-school students should learn a thing or two about teamwork and management by taking to the oars right away, the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM-C) feels, having decided to offer kayaking as an activity on campus.

Kayaks, relatively narrow boats propelled by rowing, were first used by Eskimos thousands of years ago and are of popular leisure utility today. India, however, is yet to embrace the sport, professionally or recreationally.

But the IIM-C, which has as many as seven lakes in its 135-acre campus, sees kayaking as not only a new sport for its students, but also a tool to enhance cohesiveness in groups of people. The campus has chosen the lake in front of the recently-constructed lake view hostels at the rear of the campus.

“We are constructing a jetty, a boat house with storage and changing rooms. In few months we should be able to offer kayaking facility to our students,” said Lt Col Alok Chandra, chief administrative officer of IIM-C.

“No institute in India has this facility. Since IIM-C has the luxury of seven lakes inside its campus, we thought of becoming the first,” lieutenant colonel Chandra said.
Activists demand more teeth for whistleblower bill

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A civil society group on Friday demanded key changes in the bill to protect whistleblowers, including widening its scope to bring all categories of public servants and private sector employees under its purview.

The National Campaign for People’s Right to Information, after day-long consultations with the families of some of the whistleblowers, asked the government to make the definition of victimisation clear in the bill.

The Whistleblowers Protection Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in December 2011 and is pending before the Rajya Sabha. The bill listed for introduction on Monday aims to provide protection to whistleblowers, both in the government and private sector.

A few case studies show why the ambit of the law should be widened.

Ashok Khemka, an IAS officer, has been transferred over 40 times during his service for exposing corruption. Even though he does not describe himself as a whistleblower, Khemka said the transfers were a routine affair.

A doctorate in computer science from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai and alumni of IIT-Kharagpur, Khemka said the best way to fight corruption was by remaining in the system.

In March, Ram Thakur and his nephew were returning on a bicycle from a court in Bihar when a group of six motorcyclists surrounded them and shot Thakur on the orders of the son of village pradhan Rajesh Kumar Sahani.

Thakur had used the Right to Information Act (RTI) to expose corruption in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by the village pradhan.

Anti-graft crusader Nandi Singh, hailing from Assam, was killed in an attack in September 2012. He had exposed corruption in the Public Distribution System (PDS) through the RTI.

His wife Saorthi Singh, who also sustained injuries in the attack, recalled how the family was troubled for seeking information on the PDS. Of the eight accused, only four were arrested and later released on bail.

In 2011, Mahabir Prasad filed an RTI to know why he and others were not receiving old age pension. This earned him the wrath of the village council head Dharampal Malik. A brawl ensued in which his daughter-in-law died.