



IIT-Bombay was the second IIT to be established in India in 1958 with assistance from Unesco and the Soviet Union

BRIEFLY



Priests perform pooja at Banganga on Saturday
—Salman Ansari/DNA

350 Sena men detained for disrupting function

On Saturday, around 350 party workers of Shiv Sena were detained by Mumbai police in Mulund for disrupting a private function. The workers were protesting against Karnataka CM Sadanand Gauda. Gauda is in Mumbai for a private function. Sena workers protested regarding Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue. Sena has been vocal about inclusion of Belgaum in Maharashtra. Gauda was expected at the function but had not arrived during the Sena protest. Recently, the Shiv Sena protested against a Karnataka minister in Pune, too.

Bizman cheated of Rs8L by two employees

The Santacruz police have registered a case of cheating and theft against two employees of a businessman for allegedly stealing his cheque and siphoning of Rs8 lakh. The police have identified the accused as M Jery Stone and AR Shirom. The accused worked in a ladies cosmetics shop which belongs to the victim. A few months ago, the shop had to be shut down due to the losses. The employees, however, were not removed, the police added. The sleuths added that the accused stole a cheque belonging to the complainant's partner transferred it to the Manipur. It was drawn from there. When the complainant realised this on Tuesday, he approached the police IT Powai camp.

Commuter helps nab youth carrying knife

A commuter helped the railway police nab a drunk 22-year-old boy carrying a knife at Borivli railway station on Friday. The youth was identified as Makbul Khan, 22, and is a resident of Goregaon (East). During interrogation, Khan revealed that he had bought the knife to cut the vegetables and fruits at home. The commuter, Preety Shah, alighted from the second class ladies compartment of a Borivli local at Borivli. She noticed a drunk Khan, suspected foul play and informed the police personnel patrolling the platform. The cops asked him to wait and but he ran on the railway tracks to evade the arrest. The two cops chased and nabbed Khan who tried to manhandle the cops.

Hinduja Hosp celebrates diamond jubilee

On Saturday, Municipal Commissioner Subodh Kumar inaugurated a two-day medical camp, to mark the commencement of the diamond jubilee celebrations of Hinduja Hospital, a not-for-profit institution. Over 200 elderly citizens participated in the camp. A photo exhibition on the sidelines provided a glimpse of the 60 year journey of the institution. The renowned tertiary care multi specialty hospital, began its journey as a small OPD clinic on December 10, 1951.

MSRTC to ply AC Volvos to Udaipur and Goa

From December 15, air-conditioned semi-sleeper Volvo buses will ply between Udaipur and Panaji. The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation's (MSRTC) will start the service to meet the rush of passengers travelling to the destinations for Christmas and New Years' eve. Buses will run on these routes along with other inter-state routes from other major cities in the state. These include services from Pune to Surat and Ahmadabad, and Nagpur to Hyderabad. In January, the MSRTC will kickstart AC semi-sleeper Volvo services from Mumbai to Konkan, especially to Kankavli in Sindhudurg, too.

No placements please! These IITians want to be bizmen

Pallavi Smart

While most students at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) are being lured by fat pay packages at the ongoing placements, there are a few who are holding on to their dream of being entrepreneurs.

Among the pathbreakers who have opted out of the placement procedure is Akshay Gupta, a chemical engineering student.

Gupta and Yograj Patel, who is in the fourth year of his dual degree programme in mechani-

cal engineering, are working on setting up a practical knowledge-based school in his hometown, Indore.

"I decided to opt out of the placement procedure because it was clashing with my visits for basic groundwork to different parts of the country where such innovative schools exist," said Gupta.

Another mechanical engineering student too opted out of the placement procedure to work on Avanti Fellows, an NGO he had started with his friend. Avanti Fellows focuses on pro-

viding underprivileged students guidance and support to crack competitive examinations.

"I want to work here for at least two years and then pursue higher education to help Avanti Fellows grow," said the student, who did not want to be named.

Then there are other students who want to be entrepreneurs, but have enrolled for placements "just to be safe".

An IITian, who has started his e-commerce business venture, said: "While I have applied for job through placements, I am

also working hard for my venture to be a success."

While IIT-B is mulling over allowing extension of a year to wannabe entrepreneurs in the placement procedure, the resolution is yet inconclusive.

"If the venture is not a success within the time frame, the student can enrol for placements," said an official from IIT-B. "Should the venture only be technical? How do we monitor success? These are a few issues on which the authorities need to decide on before implementation."



Push for entrepreneurship

IIT-B's E-Cell is working hard toward encouraging entrepreneurship among students. In the ongoing annual festival, Eureka 2011, the E-Cell is conducting "start-up pathshalas" for wannabe entrepreneurs, in association with Talent Nurture Academy, which guides budding entrepreneurs

Faulty screws led to Bhandup rail mishap: Probe

Akshay Deshmane

Preliminary findings of the inquiry conducted by the Commissioner for Rail safety (CRS), Central Circle, into the November 21 railway accident at Bhandup have revealed that almost all screws came off the door panel of the train. It caused the panel to detach from the frame of the rake and eventually hit the windows and door of the Udayan Express, which was moving closely but in the opposite direction. Two passengers lost their limbs in the accident.

A senior official from the Central Railway (CR), on the condition of anonymity, said, "Contrary to reports which stated that the maintenance personnel had forgotten to place the screws in the door panel, investigations conducted by the CRS have revealed that more than 20 of the total 23 screws which are supposed to hold together the frame, were torn due to reasons which are not clear yet."

It is unclear if there was any defect in the screws or negligence on part of the maintenance personnel that led to the unusual accident which has raised questions about the quality of safety on CR.

A day after the incident, the CR administration had declared that it will "secure" the high tension compartments from

Train tragedy

On November 21, at around 8.45 am, between Nahur and Mulund railway stations, the door flap of the compartment of a CST-bound Ambernath fast train, came loose and hit the S-10 compartment of the Mumbai-Bangalore Udayan Express. The flap hit 35-year-old Chandrabai, who suffered a severe hand injury, and four-year-old Sharun Dev Appa, injuring his palm. Another victim suffered scratches and was given first aid

within by attaching chains or latches. However, in the light of this new information, it seems the CR will have more work on its hands once the entire report of investigations is tabled to check how these accidents can be prevented in the future.

"We are expecting the CR to give us the detailed report of investigations in the next ten days or fortnight," the official quoted earlier said.

A 35-year-old commuter, Chandrabai Hadkamal, who was sitting at the door in a compartment of the Udayan Express, and a four-year-old boy, Sharanu Kumbhar who had rested his hand on the window, were hit by the door panel. Farukh Sheikh (30) also received minor injuries on his hand. Chandrabai lost her right arm and Sharanu lost his left hand.



ONCE IN A BLUE MOON
A partial lunar eclipse is seen beyond a masjid's minaret during the last total lunar eclipse of the year on Saturday
—Salman Ansari/DNA

Dev Anand given a tearful farewell

On Saturday, Dev Anand, who ruled the hearts of millions for over six decades, was bid a tearful adieu as his mortal remains were consigned to flames amid the tunes of some of his memorable songs *Abhi Na Jao Chhod kar* and *Gata Rahe Mera Dil*. The funeral ceremony was joined in by many people, including his family and close friends like Lord Meghnad Desai and Sahara chief Subroto Roy, as his last rites were held according to Hindu tradition at the Putney Vale

Crematorium in London. His body kept in a casket, decked with flowers, was taken to the crematorium in a motorcade as his admirers paid him rich tributes. His wife Kalpana Kartik could not attend as she had high blood pressure and remained behind in the Washington Mayfair hotel where the actor breathed his last.

Besides his son Sunil and daughter Devina, his sister Sheila Kapoor, were also present. So were the acting High Commis-

sioner of India Rakesh Prasad, his close friend Kartar Lalvani, Lord Karan Billimoria, and Baroness Shreela Flather.

Dev Anand died on December 3 at the age of 88 with his son by his side. His ashes will be flown back to Mumbai. A memorial service will be held at the Mehboob studio in Mumbai on December 15.

True to his full-of-life image, his final journey saw some of his remarkable songs being sung as a tribute. Agencies

450 Buddhist monks march for peace



The pad yatra of the Buddhist monks was flagged off from Colaba. (Inset) His Holiness, the Gyalwang Drukpa

DNA Correspondent

A strong contingent of 450 monks and nuns, led by His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa (spiritual head of the 1000-year-old Drukpa Lineage) embarked on a pad yatra from Mumbai to Sanchi via Ajanta Ellora spreading the message of peace, harmony and respect for the environment.

The pad yatra, which was flagged off from Colaba, will pass through Ajanta and Ellora between December 24 and January 2, before ending in Bhopal on January 6. Thousands of people, including 450 monks and nuns, followers and supporters are taking part in the yatra, with various

national and international celebrities and Drukpa followers.

This is the fifth yatra by His Holiness, who since 2006, has taken students on foot journeys through Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Ladakh, Manali, Sikkim and Darjeeling. On each of the yatras, the yatris picked up more than one ton of non-biodegradable waste and educated people in remote areas about the importance of keeping environment clean. The yatra, which aims to bridge spirituality and materialism through promoting a life in harmony with nature, will cover other destinations like Kanheri Caves, Elephanta Caves, Kondana Caves, Karjat, Rajmarchi, Karla Bhaja

and Aurangabad.

Talking about this quest and spiritual adventure Gyalwang Drukpa said, "This yatra symbolises the journey from self to selflessness. It is an effort to raise awareness about the environment, and ensure that there is education on sustainability."

Gyalwang Drukpa, the Indian-born spiritual teacher and philanthropist, is an active proponent of universal peace and harmony, and a United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Award recipient and Green Hero of India. He founded the school in Ladakh which featured in *3 Idiots*, and is popularly known as "Ranchho's School".

Letters to the editor

Freaky fire



The City Edit "Luck, not all the time" (DNA, December 10) should serve as an eye-opener to the entire society. Though we fear fire, many of us do not exercise caution or take adequate precautionary measures, thereby ignoring and overlooking the danger we are exposed to. It is only when accidents of the nature of the one at the AMRI hospital at Kolkata take place that we tend to act and that too, with ill-equipped tools and instruments. Certainly, fire is probably the most potent, ever-present danger in any

locality, particularly one that is overcrowded. Many of the high-rise buildings, malls, hospitals, multiplexes, etc do not fall in the safe zone. Many of the fire extinguishers are not in working conditions while fire safety equipments are not regularly checked. Lack of proper ventilation and no free passage to escape in times of emergency are very common in most of the commercial units. Hospitals are more vulnerable to casualties because of the immobility of the patients. It is time that the authorities should not allow occupation of any property or building unless it is safe and all the fire-safety norms are complied with. Any negligence in this regard should be taken to task. Fire Department should be given full and final authority to ensure that all the existing establishments are fire-safety and if not corrective measures need to be taken expeditiously. No human being is fire-proof and therefore it is essential that all precautions are taken to prevent being a prey to the vagaries of fire. Luck is also permitted to

take rest and cannot be expected to always be with us!
—Prem K Menon, Parel

This refers to the front page report, 'Act is in place, action awaited' (DNA, December 10). The very basic thing is that in every building, the meter room is right there at the entrance of the building. Ideally, it should be behind the building because in case of fire in the meter room due to short circuit or any other reason, residents of the building cannot escape. How many societies take care to see that the fire fighting equipment, even the basic thing like sprinklers are in working condition? You install the equipment and forget about it. Many high rise buildings are supposed to have fire escape chutes, where one can slide down from a floor earmarked as escape route. Tell me whether even a single high rise has such chutes. If anybody has seen them then DNA should report it. One floor is left vacant and even that floor is used as storage space by the residents themselves forgetting that it is

a refuge area in case of fire. In India, rules should not be hindrance. No city in India has helicopters to fight fires. Human life is cheap in India.
—Deendayal M Lulla, via email

India is no stranger to lives lost in accidental fire. People, during the last one decade, have died in fires that broke out in community halls, marriage halls, fairs and cinema halls. But fire in hospitals has been relatively rare. Given the ease with which punitive action for non-adherence to rules and regulations can be warded off by greasing the right palms, the hospital's owners ignored the warning by civic officials about the mess in its basement and asked to clean up. Every time such tragic accidents take place, they expose the pathetic state of our systems and response. The nightmare in Kolkata or elsewhere also raises questions about the preventive measures available in the hospital, the training and work culture of its employees and the response by the Fire Brigade to the crisis.
—J Akshobya, Mysore

Enforce tamper-free number plates.



Apropos to the news item that the Apex Court has directed the state Governments to ensure tamper-free, high security number plates of the vehicles for the national security, I have always been wondering why there has been no respect shown to the Indian Standards already formulated by the Institute which specifies; All the number plates should be in English, the size and font of the letters should be what is specified, no other such things as the political party's flags or any other writings allowed on the number plates. Still there are violations of these standards by having the number plates written in Hindi, Marathi or any other local languages as well as even some number plates in Arabic languages which is a total violation. Will the authorities insist on the

enforcing this law take a suitable action?
—Kumar Bahram Bhatia, via email

Helmets for policemen



I would like to put in your notice about the undisciplined manner of our police staff. Helmets are compulsory for citizens only and if we are found without one, authorities slap fines on us. However, most of the police jawans drive motorbikes without helmets. If police will break the law openly then how they expect law and order from common man? DNA should start a drive against those police

people by printing their photograph in newspaper and sending a copy to the higher authorities.
—Deepak Datt Kakra, Bhandup

How real is Tem Anna?

Apropos 'Singhvi sets up showdown with Hazare' (DNA, December 10), even if his panel had included all the suggestions of the septuagenarian's team in the final draft, still there would still be dissatisfaction because their single-point agenda has all along been to oppose anything coming from the government. As for the sixteen notes of dissent, it needs to be pointed out that they were all for different clauses in the draft and not on the whole draft. When there are thirty members, there are bound to be divergences of opinion on drafting such a major document. In any case, the draft has reached the parliament and is slated for discussion on December 19. Until then any criticism and attendant agitation are totally redundant.
—Dr V Subramanyan, Mumbai