VPSEC/R/P/24/00066

### भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति का सचिवालय SECRETARIAT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA नई दिल्ली — 110001 (भारत) NEW DELHI - 110001 (INDIA)

No.VPS-55/RTI-41/2024-2025

13th November, 2024

To.

**Dr. J.C. Mehta**, 108. Sector 23-A. Chandigarh – 160023.

Subject: Information under Right to Information Act, 2005.

Sir.

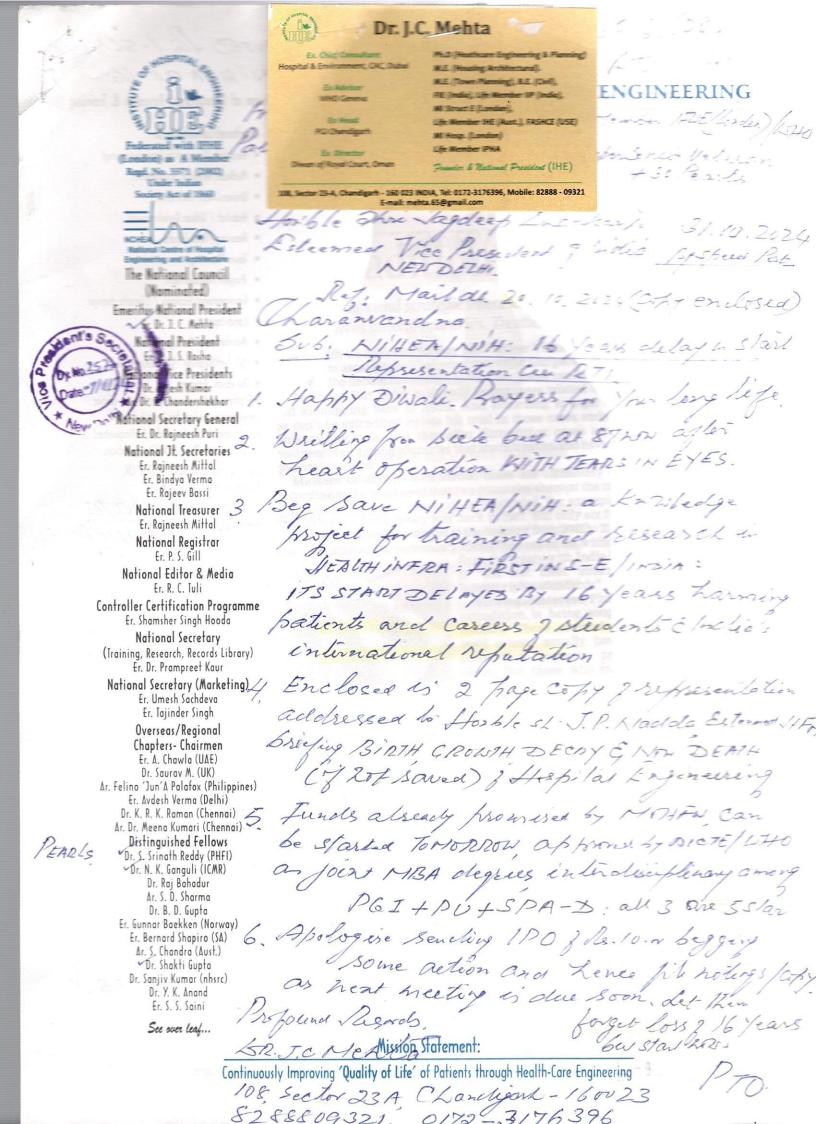
Please refer to your RTI application dated October 31, 2024, received to this secretariat on November 09, 2024, seeking information about NIHEA NIH.

- 2. It is to convey that this Secretariat does not hold any 'information', as defined under section 2(f) of the R.T.I. Act, 2005, relevant to your queries, and hence the information may be treated as 'NIL'.
- 3. The applicant may kindly note that as per Hon'ble CIC's Order No. CIC/SA/A/2016/001483 dated 01.08.2016, there is no obligation to transfer R11 applications received by this Secretariat from educated persons on issues unrelated to this office.
- 4. In case you are not satisfied with this reply, you may prefer the Lirst Appeal to Mr. Abhyuday Singh Shekhawat, Officer on Special Duty-First Appellate Authority. Vice-President's Secretariat, 108. Church Road, New Delhi-110001, within 30 days of receiving this reply.

Yours faithfully.

(Sarita (Mauhan) CPIO/Under Secretary Ph: 011-23094954

Email: chapeap accomic ex



These PEARIS HAVE CONTRABUTED Our Pearls: as Consultarts for DRR JNIHER Eater ) Gove. > Inclé a i.e. Division of Consultancy, Research Contd. Distinguished Fellows B. 3- 4 lakes / por In Series mrs Chartered Consultants as Dr. S. K. Aggarwal, Er. R. S. Khandpur, Hospitals (Concept to Commissioner) Dr. V. K. Kak. Medical/Hospital Equipments 5/6 sland Dr. S. P. Kaushik, Universities / Institutes Ar. R. L. Malhorta, Habitat / Urban Development Dr. A. K. Gupta, Housing /Real Estate Dr. T. K. Joshi, Town Planning Dr. P. Thareja, Project Management, SofiE news Dr. Satnam Singh, Environment/Ecology / Climate change 3.11-2024 Dr. J. K. Dass, Landscape Dr. S. K. Sharma, Maintenance Management Er. R. N. Malik ISO Certification /QM Management Dr. Shakti Gupta, Research, Training, HRD, Education IHE offers and seeks partnership on above Dr. Sharad Range, consultancy services for hospital and Dr. Inderjeet Walia educational Institutes under Distinguished Dr. T. N. Kapoor, fellows having Ph. D & Int'l reputation. When health infrastructure is developed, it not Dr. S. S. Bhatti, Our overseas associates in USA, UK, only improves the health service, it also creates Ar. Hussain Varawlia Australia, UAE. a complete employment environment. Doctors, Prof. Pradeep Amberkar, paramedics, labs, pharmacies, cleanliness, offices, travel and transport, food outlets and other such jobs Prof. Subir Saha, PROF NILLEA will be created. We have seen that if a big hospital Er. K. S. Gangadharan, nelies/forder first is built, then a whole city settles around it, which Ar. Warren Kerr (Aust.) becomes the centre of livelihood for the activities Prof. Denny Mc George (Aust.), related to the hospital. It becomes the centre of Ar. David Porgand (Aust.), great economic activity. Ar. Giorgio Raffa (Aust.), Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Ar. Macheal J. Hartifield (Aust.), To/ 21, 10,28 Er. Bruce Noseda (Aust.), Er. William Geerlings (Aust.), Healle infrastructione Concept to Councission. Er. Octo Muniz (Aust.), I Atospilals (for humans & Vel.) most important Prof. Debra Modie-Bain (Aust), Dr. R. P. Bajpai, Sector for India's Grown" Dr. Vijay Gupta, Ar. Renu Sehgal, NIHEA/HIH being Sahotaged' Ar. Gautam Shah, Prof. Kuldip Chander, lechial Directors, Ar. S. S. Sandhu, 2008 till date inspite Dr. C. R. Suri, Dr. Harpal Singh, Oletailed representations Dr. Vipin Kaushal, Dhis awaiting actions by Er. D. P. Bajaj Pologuse National Office Hospital Engineer (CIVII)
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh - 160012 (INDIA)
The color of ₹-mail : rajnishpuri@yahoo.com, mehta.65@gmail.com, gsrosha@rediffmail.com 1.11.2024

INSTITUTE OF HOSPILAL Engineria Industry Indeo first Eong NGO on Health or from Newson 7 1FHE (London) Desociating Litto Polioi. Major General M. S. Kondal (Mely) Surper If Aso. ble PMg/ndes Profes / Mail Espeed hit V2. Souble UP g Inclis 3. Souble Some Secretary g hele Byhrail Ofter Complianents: Wishing Checkings & prayers on Karvo Chaut. 1. Hoibl Pit. : 2015 Reminder including & peed Post. Your Vision of Willsit Bharat being babitaged - by Your own Skelle & Pinisters and 145 Secretaries Howhly p in Sealth infra being browdy actives by DGZ

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Louse Being on Sick fcholibed as-VP: Lure of foreign To act fast. Et after Leert Bengtion education a disease NEW DELHE Vice-President Negard 2 Jagdeep Dhankhar has equated Latorble V.P Beg personal Call to the rising trend of students pur-Soil et. J.D. Hodde to appoint mediclor suing foreign education to a and run 20/18 Ac as Joins deglies tits PEI+PU+SPA-D "disease", warning parents of its 3 Louble Some Exercitary: 10 serkinders to 3 Extreatises By Call to Hould hew 115 against illyale lies Make city Ai research hub, Union home secy tells UT Dep Rends PM LIKELY TO VISIT CITY ON NOV 26 lderun 6 20.10 2024 108 Sector 23 A Chardyah - 1600 23

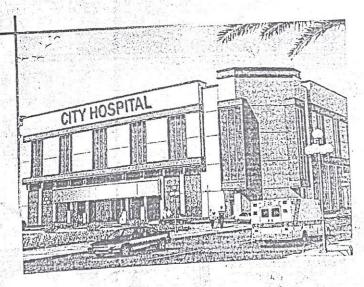
# DEPUR DE TENDING COMMITTEE DE EXPERIF

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# On Course Structures for:

- Master's in Health Facility Planning & Designing
- Master's in Healthcare Engineering Management

(Both under full time & Distance Education programmes)



First Edition, Feb. 2007

Lerble

ordered by Morston l. slav on 27.5, 2008

TOTAL DEFIANCE BY PGZ

Howhlo V.P. This is 20th Reminder LEX 24FM & Bresens SIFM

NIHEA/ NIH: Delay of 16 years in starting knowledge project in Health Infrastructure: Beg bring new NDA & INDIA to work together : PM MODI INITIATIVE & WISH

> INSTITUTE OF HOSPITAL ENGINEERING: INDIA ( Birth, Growth & Delay of 16 years in starting NIHEA/NIH: the way ahead as 100 days agenda of PM Modi 3 Govt)

After compliments. Doctors Day 1.7.2024 Greetings

Hoxible St. J.P. Nactola, Esteemed HETT.

1. 'Hospital Engineering' as interdisciplinary speciality was pioneered in PGI Chandigarh on 12.12.1969: first in SE Asia . Exceptional growth it's Model in PGI was recognised as BEST for developing countries in 1981 (WHO offset publication no 72 from Geneva in 4th vol out of 7 vols under Public Health Series ) can loan as evidence & copy supplied to PGI.

- Brain child / innovation of late PadmaBhushan Dr. M. S. Randhawa ICS, Dr. P. N. Chuutani, Er. P.L. Verma and Ar. M. N. Sharma (last 2 winner of French Awards equal NOBLE)
- In 1972 a national working group and in 2006 again a national experts committee appointed by MOHFW recommended start of 2 nos master level interdisciplinary programmes in Health Architecture & Engineering: first in SE Asia, developing and G20 countries: first as ON LINE in world (with potentiality to earn crores of Rs. & consultancy), applauded by WHO, IFHE (London) in its Digests of 2010 & 2011 with photos of PGI.
- 4. After holding 15 meetings / exchanges clarifying all aspects / myths assuring full support from 5 nos 5 star technical universities in meetings called by JS of MOHFW (all minutes with PGI & MOHFW and can be produced again) offering full helps to PGI but regretting lack of infrastructure & suitable faculty to start in their own Institutes/universities
- 5. PGI was firmly asked on 27.5.2008 to start being 5 star university of eminence assuring 100% financial support (Rs. 3/4 crores / yr now ) as autonomous centre of excellence but under all controls of PGI. Also because PGI had been already running similar programmes as MHA & MPH with exactly similar eligibility rather wider including Ayush, veterinary, allied health sciences thus experts suitable to design Vet. daires, Ayush
- 6. Even Approval of AICTE, COA was granted to PGI to start being most suitable with highly qualified medical faculty whose participation is MUST, vast Hospital buildings, research centres, specialist laboratories, 61 HEP services & infrastructure, crores worth of equipments, laundry, CSSD, boilers, medical gases, biggest workshop (5 times bigger than of AIIMS -D), Fire engg., Equipment manufacturers support for training & CSR. Also offer of UT and corporate hospitals in region was ensured including un-comparable senior visiting faculty from regional chapters of professional societies representing nearly ONE MILLION members of all. Also PGI has not appreciated that these P.hd / M.tech / MD or MS / M.Plan / M.Arch field experts including PGI retired doctors will be boon to PGI and guide to PGI own Hospital Engineering & Planning Department as they all love PGI Major General M. S. Kandal, Paton IHE after a year follow up collected their offers and all their written offer given to Director PGI. CAREERS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS AS ALREADY BEEN RUINED / HARMED since 2008 till date and this delay for world wide demand by Indian young professionals of various disciplines is growing into Minor Fiasco like that of NEET? ???? + loss int\*l reputation of PM Modi Govt.

### 8. MIS REPRESENTATIONS & ILLEGALITIES BY PGI

(a) PGI carried agendas to SFC directly in its meetings of 9.4.2021 &12.3.2024 without prior recommendations of Statutory Academic Committee : a legal & procedural need . Honble Secretaries as Chair of of these 2 SFC should have refused to consider the agenda as 2 predecessors had done earlier . Minutes are thus invalid & be rejected.

In any case minutes of both SFC meetings are illegal, factually WRONG, DISTORTIONS, IGNORANCE, LACK OF ATTAMVISHVAS and our 20 representations challenging with facts till today have not been presented to SFC though copied to MOHFW & SFC members. (c) IHE is official biggest Stake holder out of 3 in the office order of order of expert committee in 2006 and latter for Follow up Committee. 90% research & documentation has been done by IHE and repeatedly presented to PGI & MOHFW through 300-500 typed pages: all at our huge costs ( I worked alone and spent Rs. 40 lakhs but no regrets just for love & passion ) But action of ignoring stake holders is against PM Modi spirit ???? Even courtesy of inviting SPA-D has not been shown who visited PGI 3 times offering all helps: SPA -D oldest, GOI has international respect. Honble present Director walked out after 15 minutes after looking at 5 documents out of 40 on 11.9.2023 and his EX - DDA ignored presenting my 2 important notes to SFC .. my first ever meeting in their tenure ????

Only contribution of PGI administration in 16 years is to create hurdles.PGI attempt in SFC of 9.4.2021 after 13.5 years was to throw out its baby viz NIHEA / NIH after keeping it in boiling water and in SFC of 12.3.2024 .In SFC of 12.3.2024 , PGI repeated for nth time that NIHEA is not within mandate of CORE mandate of Institute. Hope PM Modi is not listening who from 2014 has been impressing break such petty barriers of rules which Infact already stands broken by starting Dental, Nursing courses whichwere earlier not in \*core\* mandate. JS in 2008 had assured he will arrange HE President approval and "PGI should advertise admissions inanticipation in letter of 27.5.2008". Infact Director & DDA in 2007 have admitted approval can be sought but till date have NOT APPLIED to MOH. PGI Act allows even Humanity courses can be allowed and all others covering health activities which are all covered under HEP In both SFC wrong tactics were followed by diverting unnecessarily to AIIMS + IIT Udaipur B. Tech model in SFC of 9.4.2021 and in SFC of 12.3.2024 to ask IIT Ropar and CCA Chandigarh to start. Obviously Honble Director had mo preliminary information that both are not currently qualified as they do not have faculty in Urban Planning, Urban Design and Advance construction management etc. Also PEC. Infact after realising complexities PEC and CCA had withdrawn their offer of 2016 in 2019 conveyed to PGI in mail of 2.2.2020 firmly advising PGI by our Patron Major General M. S. Kandal to start a new academic department. Wish Honble Dr. Vivek Lal had listened to me on 11.4.2023 ???. IIT -R Involves daily journey of 50 kms one side by faculty or 40 students? Etc Etc

10. BEG THE SIMPLEST & BEST SET UP IN COUNTRY UNDER NEP-20/ NRF AND RARE IN WORLD IS Joint degrees under one roof by 3 first class, internationally famous is PGI + PU + SPA-D to be facilitated by MOHFW & IHE Request very urgent !! meeting among all above heads of 3 by JS or/ and Director and decide scope of MOU.Infact Director could have done much earlier as Academic committee in 2014 had approved Honble Esteemed Shri J. P. Nadda, new HFM: it is welcome back from your first tenure as HFM. This knowledge project cannot be issue of any politics between new NDA and I.N.D.I.A. This project of Rs 3/4 crore per year is a GIFT From ExPM Dr. Manmohan Singh ji and present PM Shri Narendra Modi. LET US PROVE TO WORLD THAT BOTH RESPECT & CAN WORK TOGETHER Sir Leave to your wisdom to advise Dr. Vivek Lal on above lines.SFC is committed to enquote from minutes of SFC of 9.4.2021 "Members opined that Hospital Engineering is specialised field and such courses are needed to be started on priority to train manpower for creation & operation of health infrastructure in country" \*but no direction where to start ???? Yes self financing in every capital city of India and ON LINE by PGI + MOHFW for entire world\* Also 4/5 regional branches in India in HP, UP, Gujerat, Chennai, Kharagpur, Bangalore" representing different social, religious, metrological, geographical, + each states own research centre as was advised by Honble Member (Health) of NITI AAYOG

Honble Dr. Vivek Lal owes to his Legendary first generation teachers and now his commitment to patients as in press today on Doctors Day

Submitted pl

Dr. J. C. Mehta

Age 86 + years from sick bed and accident but willing to come to Delhi if given appointment or beg to call me in Chandigarh while on route to HP: I have tons of documents to show you: will be happy in presence of Honble Vivek Lal as it is he who has energy to start NIHEA: my death for 40 years



# अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् ALLINDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (भारत सरकार का एक सांधिक विकाय) (A STATUTURY BODY OF THE GOVE OF PADIA)

Dr. Vishwa Mohan Katoch,
Secretary to the Government of India
(Department of Health Hesearch)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

V. Ramalingaswami Buawan,
Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi -110029

Dr. Lee 4, Dr. Lee 117/06/2013

Dr. Lee 117/06

Setting of National Institute of Health under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India at PGIMER, Chandigarb.

Ref. no. 25011/12/2010-HR, dated January 17,2012

beautine of Health Clare Engineering and Archiveture under MColdeFiv. Covered tenture of Health Clare Engineering and Archiveture under MColdeFiv. Covered tenture to start the Master programme in (i) Health Facility Planning and Design of Health Care Engineering & Management, Proposal was proceed and placed to the Archive Engineering & Management, Proposal was proceed and placed to the Archive Engineering to the management Studies of All India Health Samples and Studies in its meeting is in on 30% April, 2013 at 11, DAM in the reventagen of AICTE, Chanderick Building, 10% floor, Sampath, New Delin # 110 out to accommodated the programmes subject to the following changes of the numerication.

MBA (Health Facility Planning & Designing)
 MBA (Healthcare Engineering & Minagement)

The board also suggested that in the first year of above programme, the sales of general MBA with some reference to the special nature of the above programmes should be covered. In the second year, the programmes should make the tenth to us on the above specialization.

Above decision is for your information. Kindly give your acceptance for pure a consequence action

Chanking you.

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Yours failing ...

(RAJENDER KLIMATO)
DIFFCIOT (Academic

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There was no need to 3 2. John BICTE an PGZ is S Slaves But slile MOHFW arranged

## Officer competency model draws from PM's Mann Ki Baat, speeches

AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE CAPACITY Building Commission (CBC), constituted by the government three years ago, has developed the Kannayogi Competency Model for civil servents, which is a framework of benevioural and functional competencies designed to aid their transition from a karmachan (employee) to a karmavozi (dedicated worker).

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme and his public



it is responding to the Prime Minister's call to build a bureaucracy in which the mindset transitions from feeling and acting like a karmachari or a public servant to behaving like a karmayogi where service is done without any expectation

## • Officer competency model draws from Mann Ki Baat

speeches and statements, the model aims to optimise deployment of officials to roles based on their competencies, which are also mapped to courses on the Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) portal.

"We looked at what the PM said. We go by the decisions of the government of the day and what the chief executive talks about. We didn't want to just go by mapping out something. We did a large language model (LLM) analysis of all his Mann Ki Baat episodes, speeches, tweets, etc.," R Balasubramaniam, Member (Human Resource).

CBC, said. The model draws inspiration from four resolutions that "every public official should embody", namely vikas (development). Sarva (pride), kartavya (duty Today, the PM's call has been to and ekta (unity), which were all distilled from Prime Minister Modi's speeches as recurred themes, he said. + Usion +

The model consists of 34 competencies, of which 13 are categorised as 'behavioural' and are further split between 'core' and 'leadership' competencies. These include self-awareness, personal effectiveness, creativity and innovation, and strategic leadership.

The remaining 21 competencies are categorised as 'functional', which include citizen centricity, policy architecture. digital fluency, financial management and data analytics.

With the role of governance evolving and black swan events increasing the model has been designed to ensure accountability among civil servants and to enhance performance, citizencentric and tech-enabled governance, and future readiness.

"The expectation of a civil servant today is no longer like in the past, where you just deliver on schemes and programmes. build a bureaucracy in which the mindset transition from feeling and acting like dermachanior a public see and a blanking is a karmayogi, where he does service without any expectation in return," Balasubramaniam told The Indian Express.

Soon, government employees will undergo a proctored asy sessment of their competency

based on which an algorithm will recommend them courses on iCOT. Completion of courses on iGOT, which are now mapped to competencies, will also be tracked by seniors.

"The moment I finish a course, my certificate gets downloaded and gets tagged to e-HRMS (Human Resource Management System). So I, as the boss of my division, can see all my employees, what competencies they have. I can encourage them to do (courses)." Balasubramaniam said.

Presently, government employees are mandated to complete a minimum of 50 hours of training on iGOT each year.

According Balasubramaniam, civil servants' competencies assessed through the model will determine the time, they will be able to use the iGOT portal to quickly acquire competencies at their job, which could involve a new programme

that requires upskilling. / The Karmayogi Competency Model was developed through primary and secondary research. extensive stakeholder engagement, findleding representatives from the public and private sec tors, academia, and experts in indian Knowledge Systems", and a process of global benchmarking against competency models developed /by Australia, Singapore, and South Korea.

At the moment, the model is for civil servants employed with the Central government and with some states like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Maditya Pradesh that have

The CBC was established in April 2021 and is uniquely staffed with representation from the private secret, the civil society, and the 145. Former McKinsey India head Adil Zainulbhai is its Chairperson civil society vecerar Balasubramaniam is Member (HR) and former CND of ONCO Alka Mirral is Member

एडवास न्यूरो साइस संदर्भ तीसरी बार बदली गई उद्घाटन की डेट

मशीनें-स्टाफ न होने की वजह से मार्च 2025 दी नई तारीख

मनोज अपरेजा | चंडीगढ

पीजीआई में बन रहे एडवांस न्यूरो सांइस सेंट्रर की बिल्डिंग बनकर तैयार है। फैकरूरी और पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ के अलावा इक्विपमेंट न होने की वजह से यह शुरू नहीं हो पा रहा है। इस वजह सं तीसरी बार उदघाटन की तारीख बदलनी पड़ी है। इसका उद्याटन सितंबर में होना, लेकिन अब इसकी तारीख मार्च 2025 कर दी गई है। इससे पहले पीजीआई प्रबंधन ने 31 अगस्त को इसे शुरू करने की बात कही थीं, लेकिन बिल्डिंग का काम पुरा नहीं हुआ था।

सेंटर तो तैयार है, लेकिन इसे चलाने के लिए मैनपावर नहीं है। करीब 124 फैकर्स्टी और पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ की भर्ती की जानी है. जिसका प्रस्ताव मिनिस्ट्री को भेजा हुआ है। वहां से सेंक्शन नहीं आई है। चुकि यह देश का पहला 300 बेडेड एडवांस न्यूग सहंस संटर बनाया



पीजीआई की यह सबसे ऊंची इमारत है...तीन मीजल अंडरप्राटंड और 7 मंजिलें ऊपर है यह इमारत। इस सेंटर की सबसे खास बात है कि हर फ्लंग पर तीन फायर जीन बनाए गए हैं। किसी आपन स्थिति में सेंटर में आग लगने पर करीब 2 घंटे तक आग एक जीन से दूसरे जोत में नहीं फैलेगी। इत जीन में खगे लिस्ट

NGO Humbeted PG1's all 6 motects delayer of = 1E 28 10. 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Spain counterpart Pedro Sanchez at the TASL complex in Vadodara on Monday. ANI

At the inauguration, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekafan said 200 engineers from Tata Group are already in Spain undergoing training. He declared that the first aircraft would roll out of the facility "exactly two years later" and urged the Prime Minister to block the date for inauguration.

The Tata Group is very provid of setting up this advanced facility. which will manufacture the naAbible V.P.

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शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली दिनांक 19 / 3/24

#### कार्यालय ज्ञापन

विषय :--. सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम , 2005 के अधीन आवेदन-पृत्र !

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INSTITUTE OF HOSPITAL ENCINEEDING ONLY ANNICO ON STEATH INFRA PATRON MAJOR GEN H.S. KANDAL (RETS) 18.10,2024 HarbloSL-J.P. Wadda Estermes Presiden BJP HFME - 20/12 MOHFA, NEW DELAN C'haranvandna : Saphy Biwale 1. Hear liest Congrats on Vietary " Nayona Zome assured a ofozardholdhold del. 2. From Sick BED after Leart Operation as 87 3. Frustrated your Landen Las not even cared 6 read out 20 sepresentations: last 1.7.2024 NIHEAJNIH AT Starles for 16 Years as PGIMER 1. Lallful disobectione by PGZ 2. Sahotage by DGZ administration by telling lies to SFC /GB 1 21. 4. 2021 and 12.3.24 3 Entere Lieber and Sho's Dho willeder Seeling le ludia stocked on delay 4. Polients Students cursing 5. Repenting as NRI seturne to Inher 2020 JOST POVICE 1 Ly Con't DGI Seen 2 MBA to Skall in Tra 2. Lity to SFC supporting of sediced experti-constinant 6. By approd as SiwaliCity CC+ Lto.
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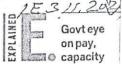
SHYAMLALYADAV NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

THE DEPARTMENT of Rural Development, which has taken over 250 consultants on contract, has set up a committee to suggest "measures for rationalisation" of emoluments being paid to them. The committee, chaired by Additional Secretary TK Anil Kumar is expected to submit its report in November, sources told The Indian Express.

It will "examine the present

emoluments being paid to consultants in different program divisions and suggest measures for rationalisation of such emoluments for the department", the sources said.

The committee was set up following a report submitted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) last year to the Department of Rural Development. An academician involved in the IIPA said, "We have suggested following certain SOPs (Standard Operating CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



THE GOVT wants to be sure rules are followed while paying top salaries to consultants from external agencies. At another level, the government is also keen to build human resource capacities within.

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Procedure) while hiring consultants and that the hiring should be in compliance with the GFR (General Financial Rule)."

T K Anil Kumar did not respond to queries sent by The Indian Express. Sources said the committee under him comprises eight other members - all are officials of the department or organisations under it.

The 250-plus consultants contracted by the department work under its various schemes such as MNREGA, Mission Antyodaya, National Social Assistance Program, National Infrastructure Development Agency, Rural National Rural Housing. Livelihood Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, and others. Many of these 250-plus come from external agencies including the Big Four consulting firms.

In January this year, The Indian Express had reported that at least 1,499 consultants from external agencies, including the Big Four (Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte and KPMG), have been taken on board by as many as 44 government departments. Cumulatively, an annual expenditure of Rs 302 crore is incurred on these consultants, data obtained by The Indian Express under the Right To Information Act had revealed.

An official from the Union Finance Ministry, which clears the budget for all departments said, "There is huge discrepancy in payments being made to consultants in various departments. At times, the highest paid consultant gets more than 10 times the lowest paid consultant. In certain departments, consultants earn more than a Secretary

rank officer." Besides, there is a section in the government which is of the view that training and up-skilling need to be encouraged within the government's rank and file, now that a Capacity Building Commission is in place.

Besides the 1.499 consultants, as many as 76 government departments have hired on contract 1,037 Young Professionals. 539 independent consultants. 354 domain experts, 1,481 retired government officers, and 20,376 other low-paid staff. The expenditure on these is, however, not available.

Last year on October 4, in the run-up to Budget 2024-25, The Indian Express had reported that the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry had written to all departments and ministries and sought information on people working on contract stating this was "required for meaningful discussion for allocation of Budget under the Professional/ Office expenses/ Salary head."

The top six departments which have most consultants from external agencies working with them are: Health and Family Welfare (203), Rural Development (166), Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (149) Ministry of Housing and Urban Administration (147), Women and Child Development (112 and Road Transport and Highway (99). Together, they account for 876 or 58 per cent of the total 1,499.

Independent consultants and domain experts appointed by ministries and departments could be paid in the range of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 4 lakh a month.