Newspaper Clips
April 13-14, 2014

April 13

Times of India ND 14.04.2014 P-8

Taking mini ideas TO THE SKY

Tech students from across the country converge in capital for finals of aero-modelling contest to promote aircraft manufacturing in India

Amin Ali | TNN

Photos: Sanjay Sekhri

This project was like giving wings to their dreams. An aero modeling contest by a global major in aircraft manufacturing in association with IIT Delhi required engineering students from across the country to demonstrate their aero-modeling skills. After the zonal competitions ended at other IITs, the finalists reached Delhi with their machines.

After sleepless nights, constant reworking of formulae and endless flying hours, the mini planes were ready for flight.

Gaurav, an aeronautical engineering student and Chetan pursuing mechanical engineering in Nagpur felt creating their 1m x 1m machine was nothing less than building an entire aeroplane from scratch. "First we browsed through all the technology needed to build an actual aircraft and then looked for lightest, cheapest and easily repairable material to build our model," said Gaurav.

It was important to get the material right as well. Every test had the possibility of a crash. The teams were permitted only one model and they had to immediately repair their existing model to be eligible for the next trial.

That's why Rishi and Pratyush, pursuing engineering in Bhopal, had opted for high-density thermocol to sustain even the worst of crashes. It also helped them to get the weight to power ratio of their planes right.

The teams in the contest also hope their models will be put to better use in the future. Pavan, Tabrez and Vignesh from Bangalore hoped their equipment would aid the authorities in surveillance; Zimbabwean student Junaid and Namibian Michael, pursuing engineering in India, felt their planes could be fitted with cameras and used to keep tabs on wildlife and poachers, much like it's done in Africa.

Pratyush Kumar of Boeing India was quite impressed with the talent on display. "This contest is aimed at getting India ready for aerospace manufacturing," he said.

While students had their ideas about the future of aero modelling in India, one participant said, "We would want our teachers to start tracking us through our creations."

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

BSNL to start technical varsity, offer engineering and management courses

By PTI | 13 Apr, 2014, 03.28PM IST

Post a Comment

NEW DELHI: State-run telecom major BSNL has started work on establishing a technical university that will offer engineering and management courses.

The PSU expects to approach All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as well as University Grants Commission (UGC) for formal approval within next eight months.

"BSNL has sufficient infrastructure to meet AICTE guidelines for engineering and management education. We also have sufficient supporting staff to meet norms as laid down by UGC. Our staff is working on it. We should be able to send it for formal approval in 6-8 months," BSNL Director (Consumer Mobility) Anupam Shrivastava told a news agency.

He said it should not be difficult for BSNL to get the necessary approvals as some steps were taken by the Human Resource Development Ministry in 2008 to boost educational system.

The PSU expects to approach AICTE as well as UGC for formal approval within next eight months.

ET SPECIAL: Save precious time tracking your investments

"Due to the initiatives of HRD Ministry, institutions running short-term courses such as Defence Institute of Advance Technology have been converted into formal and autonomous education institutions. We should also have no issues in getting approval," Shrivastava said.

The Public Enterprise Selection Board has selected Shrivastava for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of the company, succeeding the present CMD R K Upadhyay.

BSNL has formed a committee under its Senior General Manager G C Manna to work on the detailed project report.

Shrivastava said at present he cannot share the exact number of seats that BSNL's technical institute will have but said the company's campus will have a capacity to train 1,500 to 3,000 students at one time.

"We have a centre in Ghaziabad which is aided by United Nations but is under-utilised. It has a capacity to train between 2,500-3,000 students. Similarly, we have a centre in Jabalpur. There are other 16 centres which have a minimum capacity of 1,000 students," Shrivastava said.

He added that BSNL will add formal courses on cyber security at the centre to contribute in government's target of creating 5 lakh professionals skilled in this domain by 2018.

"Cyber security is an emerging concern. We have the infrastructure to train people. Today, we have a crunch of cyber security experts. This initiative will not only help us but also other organisations with skilled workforce. It will be a dynamic course and its format will decided after due deliberations," Shrivastava said.

BSNL's plan to set-up a technical training institute is part of its asset utilisation plan and help it in reducing losses.

Our second category of service is Asia Pacific expansion. Here, we partner our clients who are seeking to spread out across countries and business services in the Asia Pacific region. The purpose of expansion could be getting strategic funding, launch of new ventures, acquisition of new businesses or any other reason.

The companies are required to take steps to sustain themselves in today's competitive business environment. We offer advisory services to such companies and help them restructure their business plans through project planning, resource identification and cutting down costs. If required, we also help bring in a quality interim management on board during the turnaround period.

We facilitate decision-making on critical investments through in-depth research. We believe in very lean processes and have taken utmost care to hire competent and efficient professionals to represent us. Our 18-employee company registered a turnover Rs 14 crore, or around $2.3 million, in 2013-14.

We are hoping that our overseas operations will help us achieve our target of $5 million in the next two years. In five years, we hope to breach the $10 million mark, something none of our Indian peers have managed yet.

(As told to Amit Shanbaug)

Printed from
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Timetable app created for new IIT students

Runa Mukherjee Parikh,TNN | Apr 10, 2014, 12.39 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: Soon, the incoming batches of young IITians will neither have to worry about remembering their timetable nor have to run around hunting for their classrooms. All they will have to do is to remember their roll numbers.

Two second-year students of IIT Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn)- Shashank Pareta and Abhishek Verma -have created an application for smartphones called 'NexClass' that will not only inform the students of their next class but also guide them with a map to reach the specific classroom. All that a student has to do is to install the app in his phone and type his roll number in it. The app instantly notes the hour of the day and shows when and where the next class is, along with the name of the course. Upon swiping to the next screen, a map showing directions from the user's real-time location to their classroom pops up.

"When we joined IIT-Gn, we had a hard time remembering the names of the courses, the names of the teachers, and their faces. It is not a small campus and there is a large faculty. It was not an easy task to locate our classrooms either. So we decided to design an app to solve this issue for our juniors who will join IIT-Gn in 2014," said Pareta, a student of mechanical engineering.

The students decided to add this feature to help the new students remember faculty names and faces.

"The best part about the app is that it works off-line as well. So once it has been installed on a phone, the user does not even require an internet connection to use the app," said Verma, a student of chemical engineering.

The duo read online material on software programming and application design to create the app, which is only 5mb in size.

Apart from the first year students, the app will also recognize the roll numbers of second, third and fourth year BTech students and those pursuing MTech, MSc and PhD programmes. "We will make this app available to all students on the campus so that they can catch up with their routine for every new session," Pareta said.

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April 14

'I like Delhi's Cosmpolitan Culture'

By Dr RK Shevgaonkar

Published: 13th Apr 2014 06:00:00 AM

http://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/I-like-Delhis-Cosmpolitan-Culture/2014/04/13/article2163213.ece Photos

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I was born and raised in Gwalior and I studied at IIT Kanpur. From there I went to Bangalore and then to the US. I have also lived in Pune, but the longest that I've stayed in a city is in Bombay, for about 24 years.

I am relatively new to Delhi, having lived here for just two-and-a-half years. However, there are a number of things I have grown to like about the city in this short period. To begin with—its excellent and wide roads which is something you do not see in most cities. Secondly, there are lots of open spaces, gardens and plenty of greenery here that is slowly disappearing in other cities. The Delhi airport is excellent and its services match international standards. You also get to see a lot of historical monuments. Every corner of the city is steeped in history. Delhi is also a big centre of education with a large number of premier institutions, academic and R&D institutions being located here. The Delhi Metro is a commendable feat that connects the entire national capital region and is comparable to any international metro rail network. In my opinion, even more admirable is DMRC's style of working—the way the network (elevated and underground) was constructed without causing much hassle to the city's traffic or people.

Delhi is also quite culturally active. There are lots of music and art festivals taking place in Delhi round the year, which I enjoy attending. The city's museums, handicraft exhibitions—something or the other is always happening here. Another thing I like about Delhi is its cosmopolitan culture. People from different regions of India and parts of the world are here all year round. They bring their own culture and ethos to the city. Unlike Mumbai, one also gets to experience and enjoy different seasons in Delhi. I enjoy and look forward to Delhi winter.

However, there are a few jarring things about Delhi as well that an outsider notices from day one. Lack of safety for women being the most obvious one. Eve teasing, ogling at women is so common here. If you've lived in the city you probably get used to it, but it is extremely uncomfortable for someone new to the city.

Another thing is the traffic indiscipline. Over-speeding, rash driving, jumping red lights makes driving here a nightmare. Also, the people of the city are quite short-tempered. They get angry really fast and even minor issues get blown into brawls and incidents of road rage.

Unmetered autos are another menace. I have lived in Mumbai and Pune where no auto will go without meter. But here hardly any auto will go by meter.

Every conversation in Delhi is power generated. Everyone wants to show off how well connected they are. Another thing that I never saw in Mumbai or Pune and is typical of Delhi is its extravagant weddings. But I do realise that as director of IIT Delhi, who lives in a posh neighbourhood and travels by car, there may be many worlds here that I may not be aware of that the common people may experience. I have just shared my observations and experiences of this wondrous city.

Shevgaonkar is Director, IIT-Delhi

(As told to Supriya Sharma)

CoEP partners with IIT-Bombay and VNIT on an R&D project costing Rs39.39 crore

Monday, 14 April 2014 - 7:32am IST | Place: Pune | Agency: DNA
http://www.dnaindia.com/pune/report-coep-partners-with-iit-bombay-and-vnit-on-an-rd-project-costing-rs3939-crore-1978095

Pune: Soon, the expensive healthcare devices which are out of common man's reach will be available at low costs as the city's premier institute, College of Engineering Pune (CoEP) is partnering with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) on research and development (R&D) project.
The cost of the project is estimated at Rs39.39 crore to develop low-cost health care equipment, which will have innovative features.
An estimated amount of $40 billion is spent on healthcare every year. Over 50 per cent is spent in hospitals and 30 per cent on pharmaceuticals.
"Medical devices represent nearly 20 per cent of the total healthcare spending, growing at over 15 per cent annually," said BB Ahuja, professor of Production Engineering and deputy director of CoEP.
He added that majority of the devices are imported and are costly. It thus becomes difficult for patients who are from the economically weaker section of society to afford them.
"Healthcare could be improved with modern technological inputs. Medical devices including variety of implants is an important area that requires inputs from medical as well as technological institutions," said a sanction order by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission Government of Maharashtra.
Ahuja said that after going through an extensive exercise and discussions with medical and engineering professionals, it was felt that it is appropriate to set up a dedicated facility to carry out this project.
"As per the proposal submitted by IIT Bombay, there will be bio-medical engineering and Technology Centre Incubation at IIT Bombay and two sub-centres at VNIT, Nagpur and COEP," he said.
He added that the the project is for five years and it will be monitored by the commission. Of the sanctioned funds, Rs2.5 crore has been allocated to CoEP, Rs2.6 crore for VNIT and the rest for IIT-B.

CoEP already posses expertise in biomedical technology as the college have provided nine units of implants to Sancheti hospital. The CoEP will augment its existing infrastructure and will be hiring fresh research fellows to specifically work on this project.

Ahuja said that since the project is in the nascent stage, it would be difficult to say by how much the cost will go down

Statesman ND, 14.04.2014, P-2

IIT-D DISPLAY STUDENTS' RESEARCH WORK

New Delhi, 13 April: Innovative projects by engineering students of IIT-D on a wide range of fields including healthcare, energy conservation and online social networking were put on display at the fourth annual research showcase of the state-run institute.

Projects on display covered an entire spectrum of research in computer science and electronics domain, showcasing technologies in the field of energy monitoring, healthcare, information access, data mining, security etc. The two-day event, which concluded yesterday, also saw tech-savvy students interacting with industry leaders and top scholars from across the country. PTI

Amar Ujala ND 14/04/2014

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आईआईटी दिल्ली में वार्षिक शोकेस का आयोजन

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी दिल्ली के चौथे वार्षिक शोकेस में छात्रों ने अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाई। इस दौरान इंजीनियरिंग के छात्रों ने अपने नए और खोज परक प्रोजेक्ट का प्रदर्शन किया। छात्रों ने स्वास्थ्य से लेकर ऊर्जा संरक्षण, ऑनलाइन सोशल नेटवर्किंग पर प्रोजेक्ट पेश किए। इस तकनीकी शोकेस में कंप्यूटर साइंस, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, एनर्जी मॉनिटरिंग जैसे क्षेत्रों में विकसित की गई तकनीकों दिखाई गईं। इस दो दिवसीय शोकेस आयोजन में छात्रों को उद्योग और तकनीक से जुड़े विशेषज्ञों से तकनीकी गुर भी सीखने का भी मिला।

Dainik Bhaskar ND 14.04.2014 P-2

आईआईटी छात्रों के शोध कार्य को डिसप्ले पर लगाया

नई दिल्ली। स्वास्थ्य, ऊर्जा संरक्षण और ऑनलाइन सोशल नेटवर्किंग पर आईआईटी दिल्ली के इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों की नवोन्मेषी परियोजनाएं संस्थान के चौथे सालाना 'रिसर्च शाकेस' में डिसप्ले पर लगाई गईं। इसमें शामिल की गई परियोजनाओं में कंप्यूटर विज्ञान और इलेक्ट्रानिक्स, ऊर्जा निगरानी, स्वास्थ्य, सूचना पहुंच, डेटा माइनिंग, सुरक्षा आदि क्षेत्र की प्रौद्योगिकयां हैं। शनिवार को संपन्न हुए दो दिवसीय कार्यक्रम में छात्रों ने उद्योग जगत के लोगों और देश भर से आए विद्वानों से भी बात की।

Panjab Kesari ND 14/04/2014

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आईआईटी छात्रों का शोध कार्य डिसप्ले पर

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): स्वास्थ्य, ऊर्जा संरक्षण और ऑनलाइन सोशल नेटवर्किंग पर आईआईटी दिल्ली के इंजीनयरिंग छात्रों की नवोन्मेषी परियोजनाएं संस्थान के चौथे सालाना 'रिसर्च शोकेस' में डिसप्ले पर लगाई गई इसमें शामिल की गई परियोजनाओं में कंप्यूटर विज्ञान और इलैक्ट्रानिक्स, ऊर्जा निगरानी, स्वास्थ्य, सूचना पहुंच, डेटा माइनिंग, सुरक्षा आदि क्षेत्र की प्रौद्योगिकियां थी।

कल संपन्न हुए दो दिवसीय कार्यक्रम में छात्रों ने उद्योग जगत के लोगों और देशभर से आए विद्वानों से भी बात की।

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

Print Close Window

Helping the visually impaired with sensor tech

Sudhir Chowdhary Posted online: Monday, Apr 14, 2014 at 0000 hrs

From research laboratories to the marketplace—the journey for most innovations from India's leading technical and research institutes like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science, among others, is long and a difficult one. The creative minds behind these products operate on a shoe-string budget and survival is dependent on the loan given by the institutes as seed money or personal finances from friends and family. The net result: a lot of the developed technology ends up inside another product which is then sold to the end-customer.

An academia-industry initiative from IIT Delhi seems to be defying the trend. The institute's Assistive Technologies Group (Assistech) has developed an innovative and affordable navigation aid for the visually impaired. The device, called SmartCane, helps users detect all obstacles above the knee-level. Utilising modern sensor technology, this device detects obstructions up to a distance of three metres and is compatible with the standard folding white cane currently usec by millions of visually impaired people across the globe.

According to the World Health Organisation, 285 million people are estimated to be visually impaired worldwide, with 90% residing in developing countries. India is home for 12 million people with blindness, the largest for any country in the world. Affordability is a key barrier to adoption of technology-based solutions as the few devices that are available, the average price point is in the range of R65,000 to R85,000. In contrast, SmartCane costs only R3,000.

SmartCane was developed in Assistech (a lab which is part of IIT-Delhi that focuses on developing affordable technology for the visually impaired) by Rohan Paul, a Rhodes scholar from Oxford and an IIT alumnus, who chose to develop and launch it in India—letting go of many other opportunities in the west to take the product from concept to reality. "While it is commonplace for prototypes to be developed, very few of those prototypes eventually become products. What makes SmartCane even more special is that it is affordable and can be used by the people at the bottom of the pyramid," he says.

According to Paul, blindness is not just a medical condition but possesses the larger dimensions of social exclusion, stigma and neglect. "Blind people are often taken by surprise by over-hanging branches, protruding air-conditioners and parked vehicles while navigating through unfamiliar terrain. SmartCane warns the user of such objects in their path through a unique system of vibratory patterns, designed to detect potential obstacles even at head height."

Talking about the product, Paul says that SmartCane started from an idea that emerged from a meeting between technologists and persons with blindness. "Prototypes were refined based on extensive user testing but we were still unable to take the product to market. The academia-NGO-industry partnership was central to making SmartCane a usable solution. We realised that attaining a product is not the complete solution. The end-user must be supported with information, training for adoption, delivery, repair and on-going support."

The SmartCane device is an electronic travel aid used in conjunction with a normal white cane that assists a visually impaired person in mobility and navigation. It (SmartCane) uses ultrasonic waves to detect presence of obstacles. These are sound waves which are not audible to human beings. The device has an ultrasonic sensor which can transmit as well as receive the ultrasonic waves. In the presence of obstacles these waves get reflected and the waves thus reflected from obstacles are detected by the sensor of the device. If the obstacles from which waves are reflected lie within certain direction and distance range, warning is issued to the user in the form of vibrations similar to a cell phone.

It is necessary for the user to grip the device in a way that the sensor is directed forward in the

direction of upcoming obstacles. The SmartCane device is fitted onto top fold of white cane and acts as a natural extension to the white cane. It can be detached from white cane as and when it is necessary and can be re-attached using a simple latching mechanism.

IIT Delhi has played a central role in developing this product. Assistech is working on many interesting affordable technologies—including a refreshable braille cell, tactile graphics, and the braille tutor to name a few. Deependra Manocha, director of Saksham and Delhi-President of National Association of Blind, has provided research and marketing support through a network of organisations that are supporting it. Saksham Trust has enabled partnerships with a large number of welfare organisations for delivering the device, information and training to users across the county.

Phoenix Medical Systems is the industrial partner of SmartCane, providing R&D and executing the manufacturing process. The Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation, donated almost £450,000 to IIT Delhi under the R&D for Affordable Healthcare in India initiative to further develop SmartCane. “The SmartCane that we see today serves the cane mobility needs of a blind person with minimal adaptation and learning. The design considers not just the technical functionality but also needs around flexible usage, real life utility, upkeep/maintenance, aesthetics, social acceptability and capacity for real time sensory feedback,” says Paul.

Diana Tay, business development manager for technology transfer at the Wellcome Trust said, “The SmartCane is a mobility aid device that will have a positive impact on the day-to-day activities of the visually impaired in India and possibly further afield. The cross-disciplinary team approach behind the SmartCane has enabled the successful delivery of this technology to the marketplace.”

While the standard white cane is considered a boon for the blind, it can only help a person navigate through obstacles on the ground and within a range of 1 metre. Blind people often bump into hanging branches, protruding ACs and parked vehicles thereby feeling unsafe and under-confident about navigation through unknown terrains. Every time they have to detect an object in their path they need to make a physical contact through their cane—be it a human being or a stray animal—which at times results in misappropriate and embarrassing situations and too often results in the loss of dignity and confidence.

SmartCane allows the visually impaired to detect objects in their immediate environment without physical contact and this has huge implications not only on their well-being but also their dignity by allowing them to be more independently mobile. Across the trials conducted, the device has been successful in helping the visually impaired not bang into protrusions and has in turn helped them navigate most situations securely with ease and confidence.

“The SmartCane device is very beneficial. It protects me from a lot of upper body injuries which I earlier used to encounter on a daily basis while using the regular white cane,” says Satguru Rathi from New Delhi. Another user, Indirani Sankari from Mumbai, says, “It feels great to be able to move around alone. I no more need to hold anyone’s hand for my mobility. I can just be myself. Family and friends now have the confidence in me that I can travel independently without getting hurt or injured.”

Without any doubt, this is one innovation from our research labs that is well-suited to assist visually impaired find their own way.

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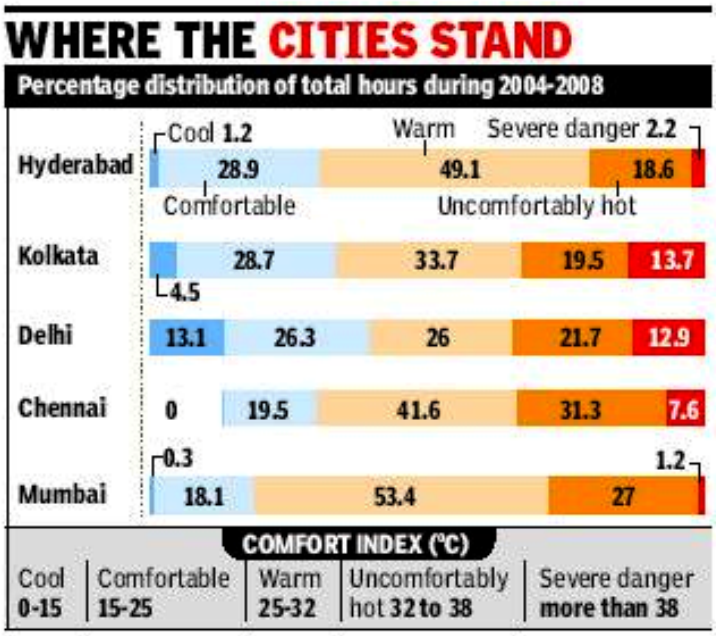
IIT finds city's comfort zone

Four-Year Study Calculates Hours Of Comfortable Weather

Jayashree Nandi | TNN

New Delhi: Extreme summers and winters in Delhi are clearly uncomfortable. But Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has calculated the percentage of hours when most Delhiites may be finding the weather to be "comfortable". In a recent study, IIT's Centre for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) has ranked five cities on the basis of "comfortable hours". Hyderabad has the highest comfortable hours, followed by Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai in the descending order.

The idea of which temperature range is comfortable is based on a comfort index defined by Saskatchewan weather station in Canada that considers 15 to 25 degrees comfortable while 25 to 32 degrees warm. The index, according to IIT scientists, is suited for Indian cities too. Comfort index means hours that fall under temperature, humidity and wind speed conditions that is optimum for people to carry out light to moderate physical activities without being affected by the weather. The CAS team assessed temperature and other weather data for the five cities from 2004 to 2008 and then graded them under five categories — cool, comfortable, warm, uncomfortably hot and severe danger.



The analysis found that 70% of the time all the five cities were uncomfortable. For instance, Hyderabad — which ranks highest as per the comfort index — had only 28.9% of the time in the comfortable category but 18.6% of the time in the uncomfortably hot category. Delhi had a whopping 12.9% of time in the severe danger category and about 26.3% of time in the comfortable category. Mumbai surprisingly has only 0.3% of the time in the severe danger category. It concludes that less than 30% of the time in these cities is comfortable for outdoor activities or indoor time without cooling needs.

"There is too much seasonal variation. The ranking of cities according to comfortable hours does not imply which city is most comfortable. The idea was to analyse how much time annually can be spent without the use of energy for heating or cooling. Also from the tourism point of view, we wanted to see which is the ideal time to visit these cities," said Manju Mohan, the lead author of the study.

Another part of the study is to develop a method of assessing comfortable hours despite the seasonal variation. That looks at each month to check for the time that is not extremely hot or cold. For instance, "uncomfortable hours" have not been factored in the current ranking. If the ranking is done as per uncomfortable hours then Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai will rank higher than Mumbai.

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आईआईटी स्टूडेंट्स का होगा अपना 'सीनेट'

By: Inextlive | Inextlive Editorial Team

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http://inextlive.jagran.com/iit-bhu-will-start-students-senate-21157

-IIT BHU ने की है नेक्स्ट सेशन से अपने स्टूडेंट्स को डेमोक्रेटिक प्लेटफॉर्म देने की तैयारी

-स्टूडेंट्स सीनेट के मसौदे को फाइनल टच दिये जाने का चल रहा है काम, online होगा इलेक्शन

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VARANASI: बीएचयू के स्टूडेंट्स को भले ही उनका प्लेटफॉर्म न मिल पाया हो लेकिन आईआईटी बीएचयू के स्टूडेंट्स को उनका मंच देने की तैयारियां शुरू हो गयी हैं. जी हां, आईआईटी बीएचयू एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने अपने स्टूडेंट्स को डेमोक्रेटिक प्लेटफॉर्म देने की पहल की है. सूत्रों से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार प्लेटफॉर्म के गठन को अंतिम रूप देने का काम चल रहा है. आईआईटी बीएचयू के स्टूडेंट्स का प्लेटफॉर्म 'स्टूडेंट्स सीनेट' के नाम से होगा.

प्रमुख की पोस्ट वाइस प्रेसिडेंट

स्टूडेंट्स सीनेट के प्रमुख की पोस्ट वाइस प्रेसिडेंट की होगी. हालांकि इस पोस्ट को प्रेसिडेंट या फिर सेक्रेटरी का नाम भी दिया जा सकता है. इस पोस्ट के लिए इलेक्शन होंगे. इलेक्शन में चुना गया स्टूडेंट ही वाइस प्रेसिडेंट की पोस्ट पर काबिज होगा. वाइस प्रेसिडेंट के अलावा सीनेट में स्पोर्ट्स, कल्चर, हॉस्टल आदि के लिए भी पदाधिकारी चुने जायेंगे. खास बात यह है कि स्टूडेंट्स सीनेट के लिए होने वाला इलेक्शन ऑनलाइन होगा. पूरी पारदर्शिता के साथ होने वाले इलेक्शन में स्टूडेंट्स को एक जगह कंप्यूटर पर अपना रोल नंबर फीड कराना हेागा और सीनेट के लिए इलेक्शन में खड़े सभी कैंडीडेट्स का नाम उसके कंप्यूटर स्क्रीन पर आ जायेगा. अब स्टूडेंट को सिर्फ अपने मनपसंद कैंडीडेट के नाम के आगे टिक करना होगा और उसका वोट काउंट हो जायेगा.

अपनी बात रखने का मिलेगा मौका

सूत्रों की मानें तो आईआईटी बीएचयू के इलेक्शन में खर्च पर कंट्रोल रखने के लिए कुछ इस तरह की तैयारी की गयी है. स्टूडेंट्स को अपनी बात रखने के लिए आईआईटी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की ओर से व्यवस्था उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी. इसके अलावा कैंडीडेट्स को एक बार क्वालिफाइंग स्पीच देने का भी अवसर प्रदान किया जायेगा. आईआईटी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की कोशिश है कि स्टूडेंट्स को अपनी बात कहने का पूरा मौका मिले. जिससे कि उनके साथ किसी भी तरह का अन्याय न हो पाए.

HT Chandigarh

No new tech colleges in 2014-15, says UGC

HT Correspondent
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SAS NAGAR: University Grants Commission (UGC), Delhi, has banned the opening of new engineering colleges. Not only this, even the existing colleges would be unable to add new courses or increase the number of seats for the year 2014-15.

The circular issued recently has come as a shock for the country's education fraternity. In many states, affiliate institutions, including Punjab Technical University (PTU) in Punjab, have started the approval process already. In Punjab, more than 30 colleges have applied for more intake and three or four new colleges are coming up. The new decision has put brakes on the entire approval process.

Dr Anshu Kataria, chairman of Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh, said that a year's moratorium was good but had come at a wrong time.

"Many educationists have created infrastructure already to start new courses or add seats, so for this year, the approval should be given and moratorium imposed for the next year," she said.

JS Bajaj, chairman of Bajaj Engineering College, Ludhiana, said it had taken the institution more than two year to complete the infrastructure of its upcoming engineering college near Mullanpur but the UGC circular had come as a shocker. If the UGC doesn't withdraw the circular, we'll move court," he said.

HT Lucknow

Person's average age for receiving Nobel may exceed life expectancy

LONDON: Candidates for a Nobel prize often have to wait more than 20 years to receive the coveted award, and the average waiting times are continuing to increase exponentially, a study suggests.

By the end of this century the predicted average age among prize-winners for receiving the award could even exceed their life expectancy, researchers said.

Given that the Nobel prize cannot be awarded posthumously, this lag threatens to undermine science's most venerable institution, they said.

According to Santo Fortunato of Aalto University in Finland and colleagues, such nail-biting delays are becoming the norm, to the point that aspiring laureates may themselves have expired by the time the medal is due to be presented.

Before 1940, Nobel prizes were awarded more than 20 years after the original discovery for only about 11%, 15% and 24% of physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine prizes, respectively, researchers said.

But by 1985, delays of this order were featuring in 60%, 52% and 45% of the awards in these respective fields, they said.

Financial Express, ND 14/04/2014 P-12

THE ASIAN LENS

Creating a new vision for Asia

Institutions of learning across Asia can and must lead the resurgence, reacquainting young people in the continent with their abounding traditions and customs

RAJENDRA S PAWAR

It is true that Asia, despite its ancient roots and rich legacy, has remained a quieter cousin of the West. The 19th and 20th centuries—a period when many Asian nations were colonised or otherwise subjugated by the West—have prevented Asia from taking centre stage.

Once a cradle of art, culture and learning, and home to the famous spice route, Asia and its nations accounted for a large part of global wealth and population. Everything changed, however, with the rise of Europe and North America, and as the balance of power gradually shifted Westwards.

The emergence of the West—based on its economic dominance and influence—has led to the creation of a powerful western lens, which has become the sole way of viewing the world. Asia, and in particular its young people, have become accustomed to this lens, even looking at themselves through this western perspective.

Therefore, instead of feeling a sense of pride in the resplendent heritage, ethos and histories of their nations, the youth of the continent are turning towards the West, blindly embracing its values and philosophies. The ubiquitous Western Lens has prejudiced many a young mind, preventing the creation of a strong Asian identity. Whether it is the issue of marriage, family ties, care for the elderly or focus on learning, Gen Next is now increasingly veering towards the western thought process, setting aside the ethics and ideals it has grown up with.

ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM

There is clearly a need for an alternative lens, or should one say lenses, which can remove existing distortions and provide youngsters in Asia with a distinct and precise notion of themselves and the countries they were born in.

Such lenses, blending the positives of western and Eastern thought, can sensitise the coming Asian generation about the richness and diversity of the continent. Such lenses are critical in helping youth build a better understanding of their past. They are needed to establish a robust foundation on which Gen Next can build an aspirational future.

After all, Asia's tomorrow is in the hands of this young population. It is imperative, therefore, that this segment of society appreciates and values that it has inherited and revels in its 'Asian-ness'.

Young people need to know that Asian-ness is indeed in and gaining resonance in the world order. From North America to Europe, an Asian wave is visible which is washing ashore practices like yoga and ayurveda. Asian cuisines are increasing in popularity as is the simple, spiritual, oriental lifestyle. Today, many American universities offer programmes that give rich insights into Asia's history, economy and the road ahead, building greater awareness about a land that is as old as the hills and the fountain of civilisation.

The same role can be played by Asian universities. Institutions of learning across Asia can and must lead the resurgence, reacquainting young people in the continent with their abounding traditions and customs. Asian schools of higher education can emerge as beacons, providing students with a vision of an 'Asian 21st century'.

Indian universities have remained low-key as the crucial area of research, a prerequisite for nurturing studies like these, has largely remained neglected. Clearly, there is a need to revisit the Indian higher education sphere. We need to begin the groundwork for building more ground-breaking universities.

Indian universities should play a proactive role in encouraging research and disseminate knowledge about challenges, achievements and roles of Asian societies in the globalised world. I hope that, going forward, this neutral Asian Lens will help study Asia through Asian eyes, enabling the people of this continent to play their rightful role in the building of a just and successful 21st century society.

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE REMAINED LOW-KEY AS THE CRUCIAL AREA OF RESEARCH, A PREREQUISITE FOR NURTURING STUDIES LIKE THESE, HAS LARGELY REMAINED NEGLECTED. CLEARLY, THERE IS A NEED TO REVISIT THE INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SPHERE. WE NEED TO BEGIN THE GROUNDWORK FOR BUILDING MORE AND MORE GROUND-BREAKING UNIVERSITIES

Asian Lens will regenerate the concept of an Asian space that promotes the exchange of ideas and learning, laying the foundation for a platform that provides rich cultural, intellectual and scientific pickings for future generations of Asians and one from which even non-Asians can profit.

The author is chairman, NIIT Ltd, and founder, NIIT University

Times of India, ND 14/04/2014 P-13

New pastures: Nasa to grow lettuce in space

Washington: Astronauts will now turn into cosmic gardeners and grow lettuce in space as Nasa is all set to send the largest-ever plant growth chamber to the International Space Station (ISS).

The US space agency will launch the Vegetable Production System (Veggie) aboard SpaceX's Dragon capsule on Monday.

"Veggie will provide a new resource for US astronauts and researchers as we begin to develop the capabilities of growing fresh produce and other large plants on the space station," said Gioia Massa, NASA payload scientist for Veggie. "Determining food safety is one of our primary goals for this validation test," Masa said.

The plant growth chamber will grow lettuce inside prototype Veggie flight pillows that will help the plants withstand zero gravity, the Verge reported.

Red, blue and green light emitting diodes (LEDs) will help sustain the vegetables and the plant chamber itself can grow to 11.5 inches wide and 14.5 inches deep, the US space agency said.

This will be "the largest plant growth chamber for space to date", according to Massa.

The project was originally scheduled to launch late last year, but forced delays meant ensuring all safety precautions were taken, the report said.

It is now hoped that the plant growth chamber will eventually be used to grow a wider variety of vegetables and even be used for recreational gardening, the report said. The chamber may even be used for more ambitious projects, like providing food for the average person back on Earth.

Mark Stevenson/Stocktrek Images

COSMIC FARM?

After extensive testing on 'weightless' horticulture, Nasa is confident that the lack of gravity will not impede growth.

However, space-borne microbes that may develop during growth are a cause of concern. Therefore, the lettuce will undergo extensive testing before astronauts chow down.

In case the programme is a success, it could be easily scaled up to provide a lasting supplement to the International Space Station's food supply. AGENCIES

Deccan Herald ND 14/04/2014 P-6

Understanding exam 'anxieties' of students

TESTING TIMES

Understanding anxieties reassures students that no problem they face is utterly unsolvable, writes Mohan Das

Most students are given to believe that there is only one exam anxiety and advised how to manage it. The truth is there are various kinds of exam anxieties. Understanding anxieties raises awareness and reassure students that no problem they face is utterly unsolvable.

Exam season is also anxiety season. Therefore exam anxiety comes not without warning. Normally manageable, for some students it can become serious. Anxiety among school children and adolescents is parents' high educational expectations and pressure for academic achievement.

All our exams and tests are completely foreknown. Yet, most students (and parents) begin to take action when they sense things are going beyond their control, when there is little time left before exams begin. Life, after all, is fraught with anxious moments beyond our control and exams are a good way to prepare children to face reality although nobody should come to conclusions and brand students based on their exam scores alone. Exams also help keep students focussed.

Generally, people believe exam anxiety is singular and there are no exam anxieties. It so happens that there are two kinds of exam anxieties: public-exam anxiety and entrance-test anxiety; and in some instances they have an inverse relation. Public-exam anxiety also has stages.

Stages of exam anxiety

Like any disorder exam anxiety comes in stages beginning with pre-exam/preparation anxiety followed by performance anxiety (during exams) and finally post-exam anxiety (awaiting results). A good performance in a public exam can lead to freedom from further anxieties.

Performance anxiety dogs under-prepared students and they can suffer from serious post-exam anxiety as well when they ought to be relaxing! If a student is poorly prepared it is best for them to delay taking exams aiming for supplementary exams instead. Post-public exam anxiety can reach a minimum among those who have performed well; they are practically ensured of good results. But post-entrance exam anxiety can reach a maximum among students despite a good public-exam performance because their hopes and ambitions almost entirely rest on entrance test results.

Entrance-exam anxiety is generally milder than public-exam anxiety because a failure there does not leave the student in a crunch as failure in a public exam. A failure in a public exam can be a terrifying thing, almost as tragic as a promising child's future cut short. After all, armed with even a poor public exam score a student can go on to change their course of study and even succeed better than they would have otherwise.

Anxiety of falling behind

The anxiety of success is good, natural anxiety. It sharpens the brain and prepares the student for a tougher-than-expected situation. But the anxiety of falling behind brings with it not only diffidence but a sense of guilt of having wasted resources – time, money, energy and opportunity. Anxiety in itself is not bad. How we respond to it makes all the difference.

Predictability and preparedness

Unpredictability limits anxiety. Students seem to show less entrance-exam anxiety than public-exam anxiety. But the same students exult more after their positive entrance-exam results than they exult after positive public-exam results. Why does this happen? The answer is in predictability: Because public-exam papers are more predictable (the topics, topic "weightage", topic questions, etc can all be envisaged) a student who has performed well can predict their results pretty accurately. Therefore, predictability minimises post-exam anxiety and, ergo, exultation after public-exam results is also proportionately less. On the other hand, the unpredictability of entrance-exam performance, particularly exams such as IIT-JEE, can keep even the best in suspense despite a high-level of preparedness and a confident performance. Entrance exams also have limited admittance so even a good performance does not guarantee admission to a good college/university. Naturally, positive results there bring greater joy. But, interestingly, it is precisely this predictability of public exams that can heighten pre-public exam anxiety than pre-entrance exam anxiety. Why?

Public exams and entrance exams

First, some differences. Normally, a student takes only one public exam but more than one entrance exam. Some entrance tests are national and they have their own syllabus which differs from different local/regional exam syllabi. Public exams are not optional like entrance exams.

The aim of public exams is not to sieve students but to ensure maximum passes but entrance exams are meant to sieve students into different courses. Therefore, in public exams, no student has any excuse for a poor performance, and has only himself/herself to blame.

Public-exam anxiety is greater because it is also, for some entrance tests, a qualifying exam: students who score less than a set percentage cannot even take the entrance test. Another reason for greater pre-public exam anxiety than pre-entrance exam anxiety is because of fear of underperformance despite a highly predictable format of the question paper. Preparation anxiety is maximum among students less well-prepared, students who are prone to last-minute cramming and guessing.

Managing exam anxiety

Of all anxieties, exam anxieties are easiest to prevent and manage. First, remember that you are more important than your exams. So do not empower exams by letting a poor performance mean the end of your world. Do not try to avoid or overcome anxiety rather confront it and deflate it. Countering anxiety is more important than overcoming it. If you have not prepared well then set a tight schedule for the remaining time. Do not give more to time to a subject in which you think you are weak; rather give equal time to all important subjects. Avoid staying with one subject too long. Recollection and writing your recollection are very cathartic ways to manage pre-exam anxiety. What you write stays in memory much longer than what you read. Seeing a correct answer immensely helps in calming your senses and helps re-focus your energies. Take enough leisure.

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INNOVATION CORNER

New research and development for a better world

LARGE DAMS

The evidence is conclusive: large dams in a vast majority of cases are not economically viable. Instead of obtaining hoped-for riches, emerging economies risk drowning their fragile economies in debt owing to ill-advised construction of large dams. After a decade-long lull, the construction of large dams has accelerated. Emerging economies of Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Pakistan, among others, are rushing to build mega-dams on an unprecedented scale. Yet since 2000, when the World Commission on Dams published its findings, no systematic, global and independent research has been carried out on the outcomes of large dams. New research from Said Business School, Oxford, has now produced an authoritative investigation of whether large dams work or not, based on the most extensive dataset of its kind. The study is based on data from 245 large dams in 65 countries. The findings show the construction costs of large dams are on average +90% higher than their budgets at the time of approval, in real terms. This result is before accounting for negative impacts on human society and environment, and without including the effects of inflation and debt servicing; including these items, costs and cost overruns are much higher. The study also found that the magnitude of cost overruns has not declined over time. The Oxford study shows that dam projects are particularly ineffective in resolving urgent energy crises and especially vulnerable to currency volatility, hyperinflation, political tensions, swings in water availability and electricity prices, a combination of which constitute the typical dam disaster, which is a typical dam project.

WASTEWATER IRRIGATION

Researchers have identified that the use of wastewater to irrigate vegetable crops, which is common across developing countries, may significantly contribute to deadly health risks such as rotavirus, a major cause of diarrhoeal diseases. The research, published in the journal *Risk Analysis*, focused on the Beijing region, found that the risk posed to children eating vegetables grown with wastewater far exceeded the World Health Organisation (WHO) acceptable level. Diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death globally. More than 99% of deaths due to diarrhoeal disease occur in developing countries and 90% of these are among children under five. There can be lots of microorganisms that cause disease in wastewater. They can be transferred from infected people, travel through the sewage system, and then be eaten from the vegetables — a dangerous cycle. University of Melbourne researcher Andrew Hamilton from the Melbourne School of Land and Environment said, "This research shows that the use of wastewater in irrigation is a global critical health issue for the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Vaccination programmes for rotavirus are being rolled out globally, but at this stage, they are far from reaching all children in developing countries. When vaccinations cannot be relied upon to stop the spread of rotavirus and other diarrhoeal diseases, research like this is very important to identify other contributing causes."

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e-paper

REINVENTING MATHS

Those enrolling for India's first meta university degree can look forward to monetary support for internships and new resources as it gets a Rs 1.25 crore grant. Aaditi Isaac reports

Those enrolling for India's first meta university degree can look forward to monetary support to travel for internships, a mobile maths programme for government schoolchildren, mathematical tools for the visually-impaired and more this year as partnering institutions just received Rs 1.255 crore from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The grant-in-aid for the Master of mathematics education (MME) programme has been equally divided between the partners running it jointly — University of Delhi (DU) and Jamia Millia Islamia.

DU intends to use the funds for information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, maths exploration workshops, a multi-media lab and students' innovation projects, among other activities, shares Jyoti Sharma, assistant professor, MME, Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), which manages the programme at the university.

"We will establish a mathematics plaza at CIC where mathematical games, hands-on activities will be held, mathematical models would be showcased and a historical trajectory of mathematics would be highlighted. We will have a special section of mathematical tools for the visually-impaired. The aim is to make CIC a centre of excellence and a resource hub of mathematics for students, teachers, and mathematicians who can learn and add on to the ideas," she says.

There are plans to make maths education mobile for class I to XII students so that those who do not have access to the discipline can still develop an interest and study it. "Once a week, mobile vans will go to municipality or government schools or schools which do not have proper infrastructure. Students would reach out to the community and empower schoolchildren," she adds.

Meta university programme students would be able to go for summer internships as well. According to Sharma, this is the first time that students would intern with institutes (such as IIT Bombay, IIM Calcutta, etc) to understand how education planning and execution takes place. "We will facilitate students' internships and see to it that they don't pay from their pockets for transport, travel and stay," says Sharma.

The authorities also plan to train teachers to help improve maths education in schools. "We have observed that teachers don't keep pace with the latest changes in pedagogy, etc. To keep them updated and help them introduce innovations in the classroom, teacher training would be conducted," she aads.

A high-level committee was set up at the UGC to take stock of the Master of mathematics education programme started in 2012-13 under the meta university concept.

"The committee saw that it is a viable solution to reach out to more students and the commission has given Rs 1.2555 crore as funding to strengthen the programme. It also invited proposals from universities all over India to try out the meta university concept," says M M Chaturvedi, director, CIC.

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> FACT SHEET

- **Programme:** Master of mathematics education
- **Eligibility:** Graduates from any background with at least two full-fledged papers in maths at the UG level
- **Application deadline:** April 18
  Selection through test, followed by an interview
- **Entrance test:** June 15
- **Provisional admissions:** July 8-10
- **Seats:** 20

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Emissions increased despite green measures: UN panel

Vishwa Mohan | TNN

New Delhi: Nearly two weeks after predicting a bleak future for the world due to global warming, a UN panel on Sunday came out with yet another alarming report, telling the global community that emissions of climate-damaging greenhouse gases (GHGs) have increased substantially despite reduction measures by different countries. In its report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said the emissions grew more rapidly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades. It, however, emphasized that the world has tools to fight climate change and the time has come when countries must implement the measures more effectively.

Highlighting that existing efforts were not enough, the panel urged nations to take measures to lower global GHG emissions by 40-70% from the 2010 level by mid-century if the world wanted to limit the increase in global mean temperature to a manageable 2 degrees.

Pitching for a low-carbon future by increasing use of renewable energy and substantially cutting down consumption of fossil fuels, the IPCC also set another target,

URGENT ACTION

saying the emissions must be cut down to "near-zero by the end of this century", saying "ambitious mitigation may even require removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere".

The report – Mitigation of Climate Change – carries a number of recommendations for policy makers which can be implemented so that the level of emissions is reduced. Though the IPCC did not get into country-specific recommendations, it enlisted a number of measures which can be taken up by developing countries like India, China and Brazil.

Navroz Dubash, one of the Indian authors of the IPCC report, told TOI that the recommendations regarding reduction of subsidy for fossil fuels (diesel and petrol), specifically in the transport sector, and the use of energy-efficient products are a couple of suggestions which can be adopted by India. Dubash and other Indian authors — including Eswaran Somanathan, Shreekant Gupta and Joyashree Roy — also highlighted that there are many co-benefits of these measures which India can adopt even if New Delhi may not agree to certain other suggestions which developed countries are pushing for.

They also pitched for substantial use of renewable energy and said these efforts had "co-benefits" as cutting down fossil fuel consumption would save money, besides lowering emissions.

Asked about high cost of existing clean technology, Somanathan said if you would use it more, the cost would eventually come down and renewable energy would become more affordable. The IPCC report came out with sector-wise recommendations for cutting down GHGs emissions. It said stabilizing greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere requires emissions reductions from energy production and use, transport, building, industry, land use, forestry, agriculture and human settlements.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

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Doctors for humanities

Upreet Dhaliwal, professor of ophthalmology, University College of Medical Sciences, talks to Rahat Bano on the institute's Medical Humanities Group (MHG) and its new journal, both billed as the first of their kind in India

What made the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) start a Medical Humanities Group (MHG)?


Upreet Dhaliwal

I would like to start by saying that many of our medical students become outstanding physicians and compassionate human beings, which is a tribute to their flexibility, strength and will. However, increasing incidents of violence against doctors in the country had us worried. A group of educators at UCMS, Delhi, examined the diverse challenges faced by the current generation of doctors. We began to explore the means to prepare doctors that society needed.

Training a doctor in diagnostic and technical skills may no longer be enough. Many believe that humanistic skills must be ingrained actively in equal measure. We need doctors who are able to respond sensitively to their patients' emotional as well as physical needs. To this end, we started this group at UCMS, envisaging it as a catalyst for change.

What is MHG's scope?

Students join medicine early in life, usually at the expense of a basic training in the humanities, resulting in one-sided intellectual growth. The medical humanities' role in medical education is uncharted territory in India. At UCMS, MHG has exposed the medical fraternity to art, dance, theatre, theatre of the oppressed, and films, hoping to awaken empathy, appreciation, critical thinking and self-awareness, which are important attributes for a doctor. By engaging in discussions on books, movies or patient narratives, we may hone communication skills, judgment, professionalism, and reflective practice.

The group meets informally during the lunch hour where brainstorming takes place over the format of the next activity. While most activities take place on campus, we have also organised a workshop-cum-exhibition, in collaboration with 'Blind with Camera' at Alliance Française, for the University of Delhi's (DU's) students with visual impairment.

To bridge the gap between the medical and the humanities streams, our students participated in a collaborative workshop on medical humanities with DU's Cluster Innovation Centre. Since the student population changes every year, we have about 10 core members, while the rest join in whenever able.

Tell us about RHiME.

RHiME, or Research and Humanities in Medical Education, is the flagship journal of MHG of UCMS. The patron is the principal, professor O P Kalra; several faculty and student members of MHG are on its editorial board.

The journal represents all those who want to engage in professional and public discussion on the important role of medical humanities. RHiME aims to encourage contributions from, and discussion between, teachers and students, doctors and patients, the sick and their carers, as well as between health policy-makers and policy-users.

The RHiME website went live on April 1, the day MHG was launched five years ago.

> WE NEED DOCTORS WHO CAN RESPOND SENSITIVELY TO THEIR PATIENTS' EMOTIONAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL NEEDS. WE STARTED THE GROUP TO USHER IN THIS CHANGE

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Emissions increased despite green measures: UN panel

Vishwa Mohan | TNN

New Delhi: Nearly two weeks after predicting a bleak future for the world due to global warming, a UN panel on Sunday came out with yet another alarming report, telling the global community that emissions of climate-damaging greenhouse gases (GHGs) have increased substantially despite reduction measures by different countries. In its report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said the emissions grew more rapidly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades. It, however, emphasized that the world has tools to fight climate change and the time has come when countries must implement the measures more effectively.

Highlighting that existing efforts were not enough, the panel urged nations to take measures to lower global GHG emissions by 40-70% from the 2010 level by mid-century if the world wanted to limit the increase in global mean temperature to a manageable 2 degrees.

Pitching for a low-carbon future by increasing use of renewable energy and substantially cutting down consumption of fossil fuels, the IPCC also set another target,

URGENT ACTION

saying the emissions must be cut down to "near-zero by the end of this century", saying "ambitious mitigation may even require removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere".

The report – Mitigation of Climate Change – carries a number of recommendations for policy makers which can be implemented so that the level of emissions is reduced. Though the IPCC did not get into country-specific recommendations, it enlisted a number of measures which can be taken up by developing countries like India, China and Brazil.

Navroz Dubash, one of the Indian authors of the IPCC report, told TOI that the recommendations regarding reduction of subsidy for fossil fuels (diesel and petrol), specifically in the transport sector, and the use of energy-efficient products are a couple of suggestions which can be adopted by India. Dubash and other Indian authors — including Eswaran Somanathan, Shreekant Gupta and Joyashree Roy — also highlighted that there are many co-benefits of these measures which India can adopt even if New Delhi may not agree to certain other suggestions which developed countries are pushing for.

They also pitched for substantial use of renewable energy and said these efforts had "co-benefits" as cutting down fossil fuel consumption would save money, besides lowering emissions.

Asked about high cost of existing clean technology, Somanathan said if you would use it more, the cost would eventually come down and renewable energy would become more affordable. The IPCC report came out with sector-wise recommendations for cutting down GHGs emissions. It said stabilizing greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere requires emissions reductions from energy production and use, transport, building, industry, land use, forestry, agriculture and human settlements.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

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Cong promises 100-km metro, IIT, IIM for Pune

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PUNE: The city unit of the Congress released its election manifesto on Sunday, with several mega promises such as construction of a 100-km metro rail network, development of 12 lakes, an IIT and IIM in the city and an international stadium to be named after master blaster Sachin Tendulkar. The party has also repeated promises it made before the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, such as low-cost housing and 24x7 water supply.

Congress leaders told reporters that the manifesto aims to provide facilities to the masses as well as the classes. Pune is witnessing rapid urbanisation and is expanding because of the inclusion of fringe villages in the city limits. "Infrastructure development of the city will, therefore, be a key priority area. The party aims to strike a balance between protecting the environment and development," party candidate Vishwajeet Kadam said.

One of the promises made in the manifesto is introducing a free bus service in the core city areas and a special bus service for women. The buses will have CCTV cameras and 500 additional buses will be procured. Other plans include speeding up work on the international airport and the Pune-Nashik railway route.

The manifesto says that all garbage generated in the city will be processed and the city will also get an e-waste depot. While one crore trees will be planted, the Pune railway station will get environment-friendly features to turn it into a 'green railway station'.

When asked if the projects listed in the manifesto are feasible, city unit chief Abhay Chhajed said the party had drafted the manifesto keeping in mind the long-term needs of the city. The Congress leaders dodged questions about whether promises from the previous manifesto had been fulfilled.

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Foreign universities open India centres

Some global higher education brands are opening research centres in India to capture a portion of the growing market of executive education

By Prashant K. Nanda

A file picture of the entrance to the Harvard Business School, Boston, which has a research centre in Mumbai. More foreign institutions are likely to open centres in India this year. Photo: Bloomberg

New Delhi: Although foreign universities are yet to open independent campuses in India because of regulatory hurdles, some global higher education brands are opening research centres to capture a portion of the growing market of executive education and other research partnership opportunities.

The University of Chicago had opened a centre in Delhi on 29 March. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, popularly known Virginia Tech, is opening its centre in May. Harvard Business School has an Indian research centre in Mumbai, and Deakin University, a well-known name from Australia, has a centre in New Delhi.

A couple of foreign institutions are likely to open centres this year as well, an official from the human resource development ministry said on condition of anonymity.

While experts say India is a huge market to be ignored by anybody, including the education sector, universities said brain drain is no more the key focus and to capture the education potential of the market, they cannot operate by just flying in and flying out.

"Virginia Tech believes that India's growing population and expanding industrial sector is well positioned for high-quality research and graduate education in the areas of science and technology through a model of collaborative research, education and engagement," **Guru Ghosh**, associate vice-president of international affairs at Virginia Tech, said in an email.

The centre that opens in May will largely be an engineering research centre, Ghosh said. It will bring the best minds from Virginia Tech and from around India to work in a modern, cutting-edge research environment outside Chennai, he said.

Gary Tubb, faculty director at Chicago University's Delhi centre, said that a centre in India will enhance their engagement in the country. "We expect this to happen over a wide range of activities," Tubb said. "Our faculty members will do projects in collaboration with Indian colleges, research institutes, business entities and government offices." The university will provide some short duration certificate programmes as well.

"India is becoming increasingly important for education and economy," Tubb said. "There is a two-way opportunity here, to learn and to teach."

The higher education landscape in India has changed, according to **Ravneet Pahwa**, country director India, Deakin University. "Brain drain is no more the way forward. It's about value addition, research and teaching collaborations," she said. "Any top global institutions looking for serious partnership cannot operate by flying in and flying out. You need a centre and constant engagement."

Sam Pitroda, former head of the Knowledge Commission and adviser to Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** on public information infrastructure and innovations, said: "They have a need to go global and India is a huge market. It is no more just about staying in America and knowing about America. It is also knowing about India, China, etc."

The trend signifies two points, the potential of the education market and the need to understand the Indian economy which is increasingly becoming global, said **Debashis Chatterjee**, director at Indian Institute of Management at Kozhikode.

The Indian education market is likely to be worth `5.9 trillion in 2014-15 as against `3.33 trillion in the 2011-12 financial year, according to rating agency India Ratings.

For now, executive education is the way forward for overseas institutions.

Harvard Business School offers customized executive education.

For example, from the end of April, the school is offering an executive education programme called *Building a Global Enterprise in India*.

Ghosh said Virginia Tech will "offer customized executive courses for Indian companies as well as open admission, short-courses in Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai in the areas of energy, data analytics, information technology and other areas of science, technology, health,