Deccan Herald ND 18/04/2015 P-6

Smriti's process to select IIT directors questioned

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A senior professor of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has questioned the process adopted by Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Irani for the selection of the directors of the premier technical institutes.

"The current selection process reduces the prestige and respect of the director. It is clear to all stakeholders that the selection as a director was partly a lottery, and partly a result of connections," Dheeraj Sanghi, former dean Academics and a professor of Computer Science at IIT Kanpur, has said in his blog.

"Indeed, connections are extremely important, since we know that the members (of the search-cum-selection committee) are not super humans, and

Opposition MPs slam HRD minister

A group of Opposition MPs has accused Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani of interfering with the functioning of the Indian Institutes of Technology and various universities and sought President Pranab Mukherjee's intervention, *DHNS* reports from New Delhi.

make up their mind about someone being good or bad for a job in 10 minutes (or even 30 minutes) only because they knew the candidate earlier," he added.

Interview

This comes days after Irani conducted a fresh interview of all 36 candidates who had applied for the post of director of IIT-Patna, Ropar and Bhubaneswar, scrapping a list of 13 persons shortlisted by a joint search-cum-selection committee. The Union Minister, who heads the committee, set aside the suggestions of the members of the panel and went ahead with her decision to conduct the interview of all the candidates afresh even as nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar resigned as member of the committee in protest and did not join her to interview candidates.

Indian Express ND
18/04/2015   P-9

MPs: Prevent lasting damage to IITs

NEW DELHI: Four Rajya Sabha MPs issued a statement urging the President and Prime Minister to intervene and prevent "lasting damage to IITs and universities of eminence". "The autonomy and self regulatory mechanisms of institutions of higher education are being systematically eroded and damaged. Whether it is the attacks on persons of integrity and proven competence that head prestigious institutions such as IIT's or central universities or distinguished personalities that are involved in election processes, no one is being spared," reads the statement signed by K C Tyagi, D P Tripathi, D Raja and Rajeev Shukla.   ENS

Rajasthan Patrika ND 18/04/2015   P-12

'संघ-ईरानी आईआईटी से कर रहे खिलवाड़'

- कांग्रेस नेता शुक्ला समेत कई ने लिखा पत्र
- राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी से हस्तक्षेप की मांग
- पत्र में उच्च शिक्षा में बदलाव को लेकर सवाल

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मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी और राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ पर उच्च शिक्षा खासतौर पर आईआईटी से खिलवाड़ करने का आरोप लगाते हुए विपक्ष के सांसदों ने राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी को पत्र लिख राष्ट्रपति से हस्तक्षेप की मांग की है।

कांग्रेस नेता राजीव शुक्ला, डीपी त्रिपाठी, सीपीआई नेता डी राजा और जदयू नेता केसी त्यागी के हस्ताक्षर से भेजे गए इस पत्र में लिखा है कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और मंत्री का काम उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के लिए बृहद स्तर पर नीति बनाना और वित्त पोषण सुनिश्चित करना होता है, न कि उनके काम में हस्तक्षेप करना या उनको चलाने वाली

8 माह के विवाद

- डीयू से 4 साल के ग्रेजुएट प्रोग्राम को वापस लिया। डीयू के कुलपति का इस्तीफा।
- केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में जर्मन भाषा की जगह संस्कृत को लाना।
- क्रिसमस के दिन शिक्षा संस्थानों को कार्य करने का आदेश देना।
- आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक शेवगांवकर ने इस्तीफा दिया।
- वैज्ञानिक अनिल काकोदकर का आईआईटी-मुंबई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर के अध्यक्ष पद से इस्तीफा।

प्रक्रिया को नष्ट करना। पत्र में लिखा है कि राष्ट्रपति अपने विवेक से आईआईटी और उत्कृष्ट विवि को नुकसान से बचाएं।

Business Standard ND 18/04/2015 P-4

Now, Smriti Irani faces fire from four Rajya Sabha members

KAVITA CHOWDHURY
New Delhi, 17 April

Eleven months into her tenure as human resource development minister, Smriti Irani has come under attack from several quarters, the latest volley coming from Parliamentarians from the Rajya Sabha who have accused her of "systematic destruction of higher education" and undue interference in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and central universities.

Four members of Parliament — K C Tyagi of the Janata Dal (United); D Raja from the Communist Party of India; Congress' Rajeev Shukla; and D P Tripathi from the Nationalist Congress Party — have written to President Pranab Mukherjee urging him to "intervene decisively and prevent the lasting damage to great educational institutions..."

The four MPs cited as 'grave concern' the recent occurrences where "autonomy and self regulatory mechanism of institutions of higher education are being systematically eroded..." The letter also highlights instances of "RSS interference" in matters of higher education. Making an obvious reference to scientist Anil Kakodkar quitting the IIT-Bombay board (Kakodkar withdrew his resignation later) in disagreement with the ministry over the selection of a director for IIT-Ropar and IIT-Delhi director Raghunath K S Shevgaonkar resigning with two years of his tenure remaining, the MPs stated it was of "national interest" that prompted them to raise the issue.

The HRD ministry has been mired in a number of controversies, including scrapping the four-year undergraduate programme of the Delhi University, run-ins with IIT directors, and some controversial appointments, among others.

For full reports, visit www.business-standard.com

Financial Express ND 18/04/2015 P-2

Irani on education policy: 'One size fits all' not correct

Express News Service

New Delhi, April 17: Union HRD minister Smriti Irani has said the country's new education policy would be decided by its "2.75 lakh village education councils" and that the view of each council would be mapped by her ministry.

Speaking on Thursday at the latest edition of Express Adda — the full transcript will be published next week — Irani also said that while a few academic experts, bureaucrats and politicians decided for the nation "what to study" in the previous UPA government, the new policy under NDA would consult people with "rooted experience in the education field".

Underlining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of policies having a "people connect", Irani said that for a country that is "complex and has such diverse cultures needs, one size fits for all programmes was not correct".

"We have devised 32 themes for education...and put it up on HRD website," Irani said, adding that her ministry had streamlined the process by bringing the school and higher education departments together.

"Education begins from school, but I found out that both the departments worked separately. I made both the departments sit down together and said 'let us not compartmentalise education... so that people have this comprehensive and cohesive look at education'," she said.

Responding to a question by former Delhi University vice chancellor Prof Deepak Pental about the steps taken by her ministry to maintain global standards in Indian universities, Irani said she preferred that Indian higher education not be judged solely on the global rankings system.

"Everyone is free to aspire for better global rankings, but we also need some kind of measuring tool for ourselves because we know our democracy and its needs better. We are devising a national ranking system in conjunction with all our vice chancellors of central universities, IITs and IIM directors among others," she said.

Pental had recently come out in support of current VC Dinesh Singh, who was served a showcause notice by the HRD ministry over the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) at DU, saying the government's move would lead to the "autonomy" of the varsity being "compromised".

Responding to another question, Irani tried to clear the air on the controversy surrounding the Gujarat government's decision to adopt history books written by right-wing ideologue Dinanath Batra.

"One needs to understand that every state government has the constitutional right to formulate educational and academic structures within the state. Are you to deny the state the right to a particular formulation because you don't believe that particular ideology?" she asked.

Asked if the issue concerned her as a parent, she said, "Nobody is reading it (Batra's book) in my house. My children read books prescribed by the Delhi government because they are in a Delhi school."

Irani went on to criticise the media, accusing it of blowing things out of proportion.

Singling out two reports published by *The Indian Express*, she said, "There was this brouhaha on good governance day that all schools will be open on Christmas day.. when you look at the reality what happens? There is a online essay competition which is done and voluntary students are told if you want to participate you can."

Irani also referred to another report about India's former atomic energy chief Anil Kakodkar having decided to quitting the IIT Bombay board due to a disagreement with the HRD ministry over the selection process for directors.

"I had videographic evidence that Kakodkar had done group conversations with all the IIT nominees who were to be selected for the next round. Can you imagine that a Cabinet minister of government of India had to carry videographic evidence to prove that there was a wrong report printed," she said.

"The rule in my family is if it is in *The Indian Express* just ignore it. It might be cooked up. I am sorry I am saying this because lot of these were printed by presumably sources and somehow those sources couldn't pinpoint the exact thing which happened," Irani said.

Incidentally, the first report that the minister referred to was accompanied by an image of the original circular issued on December 9, 2014 "decided to observe December 25, which is the birth anniversary of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and also Shri Madan Mohan Malaviya, as Good Governance Day".

In the report on Kakodkar, the newspaper had contacted Irani to obtain her response, which was published as part of the report.

Kakodkar later told this paper and reporters from other newspapers that he was not happy with the selection process.

Irani, meanwhile, also spoke about the initiatives being lined up by her ministry, including an online platform for central universities to start 80 degree, diploma and certificate courses.

"We are mapping close to 500 examination centres across the country. Upon its completion, students can avail the certificates for just Rs 500," Irani said.

She added that from this academic year, the government would start the PM's flagship programme aimed at roping in foreign university faculty to teach Indian students.

"We are inviting 1000 professors from across the world in conjunction with central universities, IIMs and IITs for better quality of education and the Indian government will bear the complete expenses," said Irani.

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Indian Express ND 18/04/2015   P-1

Education policy: 'A few decided in UPA, we will map all'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

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RAVI KANOJIA

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Underlining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of policies

From the FRONT PAGE

Irani: 'one size fits all is not correct'

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Rashtrya Sahara ND 18/04/2015 P-3

आईआईटी के छात्रों ने खोजा वायु प्रदूषण घटाने का तरीका

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। एक ऐसे समय में जब विश्व नेता वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफा, ऊर्जा संकट और घटते संसाधन से निबटने के लिए चर्चा कर रहे हैं, आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों के एक समूह ने पारिस्थिकी के तीनों मुद्दों का एकल समाधान निकालने का प्रयास किया है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों की इस परियोजना में एक समस्या के कारण को अन्य दो के हल की कुंजी में बदला जाता है। इसे शनिवार को यहां इंस्टीट्यूट में आयोजित 11वें आईआईटी ओपन हाउस में प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा। वायुमंडल में कार्बन डाई आक्साइड के स्तर में इजाफा वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफे का एक प्रमुख कारण है। इसने इस गैस के उत्पादन में कमी लाने और इस पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने की जरूरत बढ़ा दी है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के ऐसोसिएट प्रोफेसर अनिल वर्मा के नेतृत्व में एक अनुसंधान समूह ने हवा में प्रदूषणकारी गैस की ना सिर्फ मात्रा कम करने बल्कि उसे अनेक मूल्यवान उत्पादों में बदलने की भी कोशिश की है। वर्मा कहते हैं, हम कार्बन डाई आक्साइड के विद्युत-रासायनिक रूपांतरण में लगे हैं और पाया है कि कार्बन डायक्साइड का उपयोग मीथेन और अन्य मूल्यवान उत्पादों के उत्पादन में किया जा सकता है। मीथेन में कार्बन डाई आक्साइड का

> ■ इसे शनिवार को यहां इंस्टीट्यूट में आयोजित 11वें आईआईटी ओपन हाउस में प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा

रूपांतरण सौर या पवन ऊर्जा जैसे अक्षय ऊर्जा का उपयोग कर किया जा रहा है।

वर्मा बताते हैं कि पारंपरिक रूप से रूपांतरण के दौरान गैस किसी घोलक में घोली जाती है। उनकी टीम ने दूसरा रास्ता अपनाया है। उन्होंने सीधे संयंत्र में गैस का उपयोग किया है जहां उसे मीथेन और फार्मिक अम्ल जैसे कुछ अन्य उत्पादों में बदला जाता है। अपनी टीम के साथ तकरीबन सात साल तक इस परियोजना पर काम करने वाले वर्मा ने बताया, हमने प्रयोगशाला में इस तरह का एक संयंत्र तैयार किया है और कार्बन डाई आक्साइड को मीथेन और कुछ अन्य मूल्य संवर्धित उत्पादों में रूपांतरित किया है। यह प्रक्रिया समय और धन दोनों की बचत कराती है।

वर्मा ने बताया कि इस दिलचस्प रासायनिक प्रतिक्रिया में जहां सौर या पवन ऊर्जा का उपयोग रूपांतरण के लिए होता है, यह ऊर्जा प्रतिक्रिया के दौरान एक उत्पाद के रूप में बनी मीथेन गैस में भंडारित भी होती है। इस तरह, परिवहन के लिए ईंधन के रूप में इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली मीथेन गैस, ऊर्जा के भंडार का भी काम करती है जिसका उपयोग बाद में कोयला एवं पेट्रोलियम जैसे ऊर्जा के गैर-नवीकरणीय संसाधनों की जगह किया जा सकता है। वर्मा कहते हैं, इस तरह कार्बन डाई आक्साइड का रूपांतरण वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफे के प्रभाव में कमी लाएगा।

Jansatta ND 18/04/2015   P-3

ऊर्जा संकट पर आइआइटी दिल्ली की नई पहल

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 17 अप्रैल। आइआइटी दिल्ली के छात्रों के एक समूह ने वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफा, ऊर्जा संकट और घटते संसाधन जैसे तीनों मुद्दों का एकल समाधान निकालने का प्रयास किया है। छात्रों की इस परियोजना में एक समस्या के कारण को अन्य दो के हल की कुंजी में बदला जाता है। इसे शनिवार को यहां इंस्टीट्यूट में आयोजित 11वें आइआइटी ओपन हाऊस में प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा। वायुमंडल में कार्बन डायक्साइड के स्तर में इजाफा वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफे का एक प्रमुख कारण है। इसने इस गैस के उत्पादन में कमी लाने और इस पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने की जरूरत बढ़ा दी है।

आइआइटी दिल्ली के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के ऐसोसिएट प्रोफेसर अनिल वर्मा के नेतृत्व में एक अनुसंधान समूह ने हवा में प्रदूषणकारी गैस की न सिर्फ मात्रा कम करने, बल्कि उसे अनेक मूल्यवान उत्पादों में बदलने की भी कोशिश की है। वर्मा कहते हैं कि हम कार्बन डायक्साइड के विद्युत-रासायनिक रूपांतरण में लगे हैं और पाया है कि कार्बन डायक्साइड का उपयोग मीथेन और अन्य मूल्यवान उत्पादों के उत्पादन में किया जा सकता है। मीथेन में कार्बन डायक्साइड का रूपांतरण सौर या पवन ऊर्जा जैसे अक्षय ऊर्जा का उपयोग कर किया जा रहा है। वर्मा बताते हैं कि पारंपरिक रूप से रूपांतरण के दौरान गैस किसी घोलक में घोली जाती है।

Amar Ujala ND 18/04/2015 P-7

कॉर्बन डाइऑक्साइड से ईंधन बनाने की तैयारी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

▶ आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर व छात्रों की टीम कर रही काम

नई दिल्ली। वैश्विक स्तर पर ग्लोबल वार्मिंग व ऊर्जा क्राइसिस को लेकर लगातार चिंता जाहिर की जा रही है। ऐसे में आईआईटी के प्रोफेसरों व छात्रों की टीम ने इसका समाधान निकालने का प्रयास शुरू किया है। इसके लिए टीम ने वायु प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए कदम बढ़ाया है। टीम हवा में उपलब्ध सीओ-2 (कॉर्बन डाइऑक्साइड) को परिवर्तित करके फ्यूल बनाने की ओर अग्रसर है। टीम बीते सात सालों से इस प्रोजेक्ट पर काम कर रही है। जिससे कि प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का प्रयोग करके कॉर्बन डाइऑक्साइड केस्तर को कम किया जाए।

आईआईटी की इस टीम का मानना है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर ग्लोबल वार्मिंग व कम होती जा रही एनर्जी काफी बड़ी समस्या बन रही है। कॉर्बन डाइऑक्साइड तो ग्लोबल वार्मिंग को बढ़ाने के प्रमुख कारणों में हैं। आईआईटी के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट ने इसके लिए एक नई तकनीक तैयार की है। जिससे सौर ऊर्जा की सहायता से कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड को मीथेन गैस, पेट्रोकेमिकल उत्पादों में परिवर्तित किया जा रहा है। इसकेमाध्यम से कोशिश यह हो रही है कि सौर ऊर्जा और वायु ऊर्जा का इस्तेमाल करकेवायु में मौजूद प्रदूषित कणों को कम किया जा सके और फिर मूल्यवान उत्पादों में बदला जा सके। आईआईटी दिल्ली में शनिवार को इस प्रोजेक्ट को छात्र व अन्य लोग देख सकेंगे। शनिवार को आईआईटी में ओपन हाउस आयोजित हो रहा है, जिसमें छात्रों व प्रोफेसरों केप्रोजेक्ट को प्रदर्शित किया जा रहा है।

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कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड से बनेगा फ्यूल, घटेगा पॉल्यूशन

आईआईटी दिल्ली की रिसर्च टीम कर रही है इस प्रोजेक्ट पर काम, अच्छी होगी एयर क्वॉलिटी

■ नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

एयर पॉल्यूशन को रोकने के लिए अब एक नई पहल की जा रही है। इसमें हवा में मौजूद कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड को कन्वर्ट करके इससे फ्यूल बनाया जा रहा है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर और स्टूडेंट्स की टीम इस पर 7 सालों से काम कर रही है। नेचुरल रिसोर्सेज को इस्तेमाल करके हवा में मौजूद कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड के लेवल को खत्म किया जा रहा है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ

कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड गैस पॉल्यूशन और ग्लोबल वॉर्मिंग के मुख्य कारणों में है

केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग के असोसिएट प्रोफेसर अनिल वर्मा बताते हैं कि कोल प्लांट से हवा में 12 से 13 पर्सेंट कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड पहुंचता है। हमने एक रिएक्टर डिवेलप किया है, जिससे सोलर इनर्जी की मदद से CO2 गैस को मीथेन, पेट्रोल और पेट्रोकेमिकल प्रॉडक्ट्स में बदला जा रहा है।

प्रोफेसर अनिल कहते हैं कि हमने नए तकनीक से कोशिश की है कि सोलर और विंड एनर्जी को यूज करके हवा में मौजूद प्रदूषित कणों को कम करके वैल्यूएबल प्रॉडक्ट्स में बदला जा सके। उन्होंने कहा है कि ग्लोबल वॉर्मिंग और एनर्जी की कम मात्रा दुनियाभर में बड़ी समस्या है। CO2

ओपन हाउस एग्जिबिशन

कहां - आईआईटी, दिल्ली

क्या - प्रोजेक्ट और रिसर्च एग्जिबिशन

नजदीकी मेट्रो स्टेशन- हौज खास

एंट्री - फ्री

ग्लोबल वॉर्मिंग के मुख्य कारणों में से एक है। वहीं नई तकनीक से हवा में CO2 गैस तो कम होगी ही, साथ में रिएक्टर की बदौलत इसे हाइड्रोजन गैस और मिथेनॉल में भी कन्वर्ट किया जा सकता है।

इस प्रोजेक्ट पर काफी रिसर्च वर्क करना बेहद जरूरी है। इसमें एमटेक और बीटेक स्टूडेंट्स भी शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा पीएचडी के 2 स्टूडेंट्स भी प्रोजेक्ट पर प्रोफेसर अनिल के साथ काम कर रहे हैं। केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग डिपार्टमेंट के हेड एस. बासू, पीएचडी कर रहे लीला मनोहर और सूर्या सिंह भी शामिल हैं। शनिवार को इंस्टिट्यूट के 11वें ओपन हाउस एग्जिबिशन में जाकर इस प्रोजेक्ट को देख सकते हैं। साथ ही सैकड़ों ऐसे पब्लिक फ्रेंडली प्रोजेक्ट्स और रिसर्च आईआईटी के स्टूडेंट्स ने तैयार किए हैं। इसमें दिल्ली की सभी यूनिवर्सिटी और कॉलेज जा सकते हैं। इसमें एंट्री फ्री है।

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छात्रों ने निकाला कार्बन डाईआक्साइड घटाने का तरीका

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। एक ऐसे समय में जब विश्व के नेता वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफा, उर्जा संकट और घटते संसाधन से निबटने के लिए चर्चा कर रहे हैं, आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों के एक समूह ने पारिस्थिकी के तीनों मुद्दों का एकल समाधान निकालने का प्रयास किया है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों की इस परियोजना में एक समस्या के कारण को अन्य दो के हल की कुंजी में बदला जाता है। इसे शनिवार को यहां इंस्टीट्यूट में आयोजित 11वें आईआईटी ओपन हाउस में प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा।

वायुमंडल में कार्बन डाईआक्साइड के स्तर में इजाफा वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफे का एक प्रमुख कारण है। इसने इस गैस के उत्पादन में कमी लाने और इस पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने की जरूरत बढ़ा दी है।

अनुसंधान

● इस गैस के उत्सर्जन से बढ़ रहा वायुमंडल का तापमान

● इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों ने किया गैस की मात्रा घटाने पर शोध

आईआईटी दिल्ली के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के ऐसोसिएट प्रोफेसर अनिल वर्मा के नेतृत्व में एक अनुसंधान समूह ने हवा में प्रदूषणकारी गैस की न सिर्फ मात्रा कम करने, बल्कि उसे अनेक मूल्यवान उत्पादों में बदलने की भी कोशिश की है।

वर्मा कहते हैं कि हम कार्बन डाईआक्साइड के विद्युत-रासायनिक रूपांतरण में लगे हैं और पाया है कि कार्बन डाईआक्साइड का उपयोग मीथेन और

अन्य मूल्यवान उत्पादों के उत्पादन में किया जा सकता है। मीथेन में कार्बन डाईआक्साइड का रूपांतरण सौर या पवन उर्जा जैसे अक्षय ऊर्जा का उपयोग कर किया जा रहा है। वर्मा बताते हैं कि पारंपरिक रूप से रूपांतरण के दौरान गैस किसी घोलक में घोली जाती है। उनकी टीम ने दूसरा रास्ता अपनाया है। उन्होंने सीधे संयंत्र में गैस का उपयोग किया है जहां उसे मीथेन और फार्मिक अम्ल जैसे कुछ अन्य उत्पादों में बदला जाता है।

अपनी टीम के साथ तकरीबन सात साल तक इस परियोजना पर काम करने वाले वर्मा ने बताया कि हमने प्रयोगशाला में इस तरह का एक संयंत्र तैयार किया है और कार्बन डाईआक्साइड को मीथेन और कुछ अन्य मूल्य संवर्धित उत्पादों में रूपांतरित किया है। वर्मा ने बताया कि इस

दिलचस्प रासायनिक प्रतिक्रिया में जहां सौर या पवन ऊर्जा का उपयोग रूपांतरण के लिए होता है, यह ऊर्जा प्रतिक्रिया के दौरान एक उत्पाद के रूप में बनी मीथेन गैस में भंडारित भी होती है। इस तरह, परिवहन के लिए ईंधन के रूप में इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली मीथेन गैस, ऊर्जा के भंडार का भी काम करती है। जिसका उपयोग बाद में कोयला एवं पेट्रोलियम जैसे ऊर्जा के गैर-नवीकरणीय संसाधनों की जगह किया जा सकता है। वर्मा कहते हैं कि इस तरह कार्बन डाईआक्साइड का रूपांतरण वैश्विक तापमान में इजाफे के प्रभाव में कमी लाएगा। उत्पाद के रूप में बनी मीथेन गैस का उपयोग सीधे परिवहन के लिए किया जा सकेगा। साथ ही प्रक्रिया में उपयुक्त सौर या पवन ऊर्जा का भंडारण ईंधन में होगा जिसे मौजूदा बुनियादी ढांचे

का उपयोग कर आसानी से लाया और ले जाया जा सकेगा और जरूरत पड़ने पर इस्तेमाल किया जा सकेगा। बहरहाल, वह इस प्रक्रिया को पेश करने अनेक चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा करते हैं जिसमें उत्प्रेरक की समस्या शामिल है। वह बताते हैं कि प्रतिक्रिया को तेज करने वाला उत्प्रेरक प्रतिक्रिया समाप्त होने से पहले खत्म हो जाता है। इसे हल करने की जरूरत है।

केंद्र ने दिल्ली के पर्यावरण प्राधिकरण का किया पुनर्गठन

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। केंद्र ने दिल्ली की विभिन्न परियोजनाओं में पर्यावरण संबंधी मंजूरी के वास्ते तीन साल के लिए यहां के राज्य स्तरीय पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन प्राधिकरण (एसईआईएए) का पुनर्गठन किया है।

At IIT Delhi Open House, Ebooks for the Visually Challenged and Nanotechnology to Clean Sewers

http://gadgets.ndtv.com/others/features/at-iit-delhi-open-house-ebooks-for-the-visually-challenged-and-nanotechnology-to-clean-sewers-682526
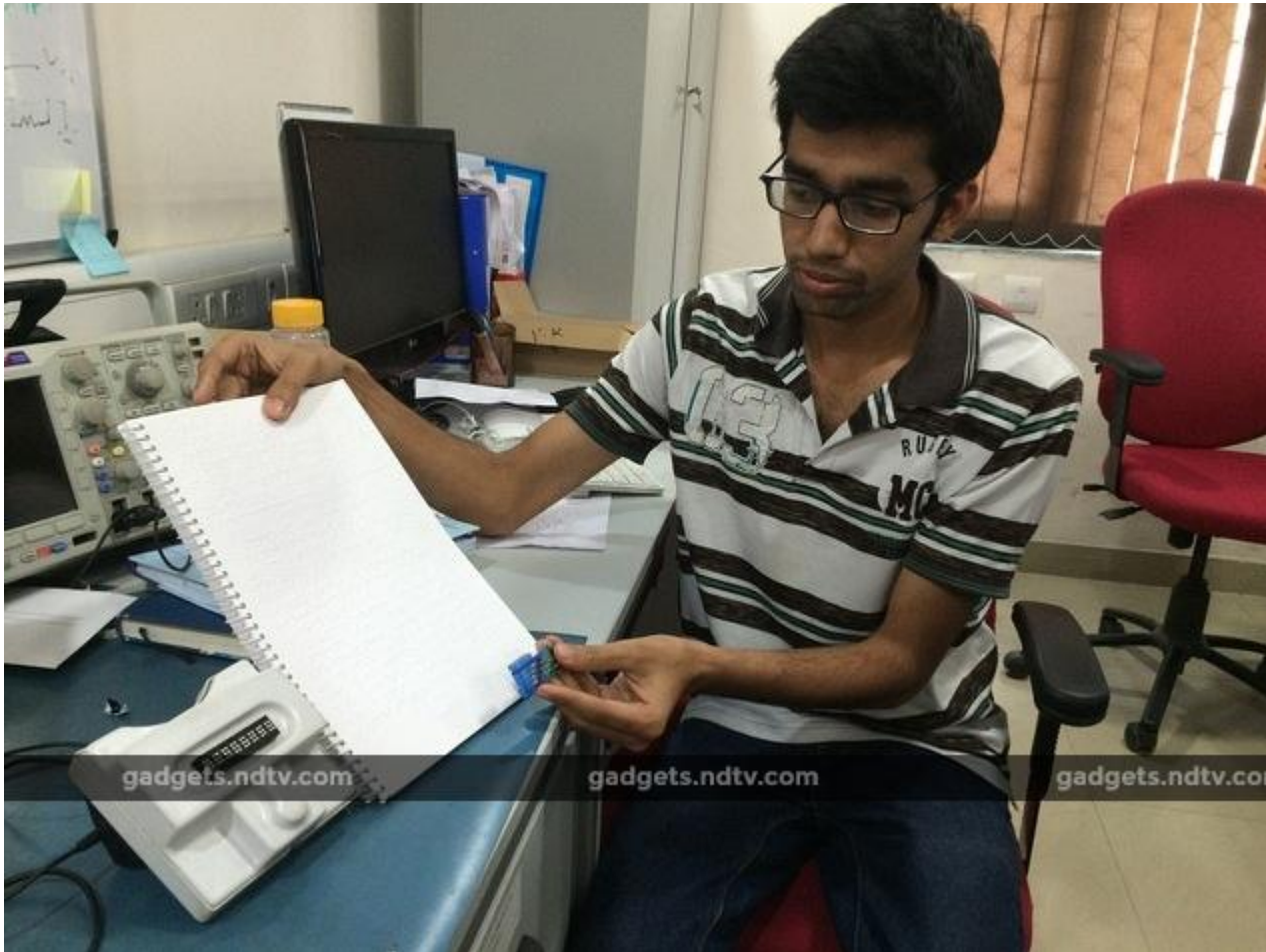

A display that could be used to create an affordable ebook reader for the visually challenged; a system to print cheap braille books; and nanomaterials that can clean up industrial effluents - these were just some of the projects we saw at IIT Delhi. IIT Delhi is going to hold its annual Open House on April 18 - this Saturday - and it's the place to be if you want to check out projects that try to solve problems such as treating industrial waste and helping the visually challenged use public transport.

IIT has been holding these open house events for years now, and some of the projects eventually make it beyond the prototype stage and become real products. One example is the Zerodor waterless urinal, that was shown at last year's Open House and is now ready to hit the market. There is also a culture shift going on - in the past, most projects were outlined by the professors, and picked up by students. Professors at IIT Delhi say they're trying to change things to ensure that more students get involved in research projects.

"We have a new IPR policy. These projects used to be the intellectual property of the institute but now the IP is with the students," says Professor Suneet Tuli, the dean research at IIT Delhi. He said they're trying to change the top-down structure (research projects initiated by faculty members) so that students can showcase their talent and help solve real-world problems.

We went to the campus and got a peek at some of the projects that are going to be shown and found that the best ideas are all trying to create affordable solutions. Among the projects is a braille display that will cost a tenth of similar devices in the market - a recurring theme that shows that researchers are trying to solve problems with the masses in mind. Here are some of the best of those projects.

Refreshable Braille Display

Almost 50 percent of the physically challenged people in India are visually challenged, according to Professor M Balakrishnan from IIT Delhi's department of computer science and engineering. He is in charge of several projects to assist the visually challenged including the affordable braille display. "These devices will help a lot of people," he said, referring to the large number of visually challenged people in India.

The Refreshable Braille Display aims to help visually challenged people read digital files. It supports popular formats such as pdf and txt and displays text line-by-line. Ankit Kumar Parsurampuria - a mechanical engineer who graduated from IIT - is among those who worked on this device. Parsurampuria says, "A 40-cell standard braille display costs Rs 2-3 lakh. It's very expensive. We created shape memory alloys and our own actuators to make this device."

The display doesn't look anything like the screens in most modern gadgets. It's a series of blunt pins that move up or down based on the characters to be formed. It's similar to the braille smartphone that was designed a few years ago. Parsurampuria says they're targeting a tenth of the cost of devices available in the market. "The market cost is around Rs. 4,000 per cell. We are targeting Rs. 400 per cell."

Tactile Graphics

Another interesting project for the visually challenged is called Tactile Graphics. This aims to reduce the cost of printing graphics for the visually challenged. Researchers told NDTV Gadgets that the existing technology used abroad involves using swell paper and the printing process costs around Rs. 200 per sheet. Microcapsules of alchohol are embedded in the sheet and when heated these capsules explode, creating a raised surface on the paper that makes the graphics readable for the visually challenged.

While this technology produces high-quality graphics, it is expensive and isn't ideal if the graphics need more height variation. Tactile Graphics uses a process called embossing and thermoforming to cut printing costs to around Rs. 20 per sheet. The process involves using a 3D printer to print the mould, which is then pasted on a printout of the graphics. A plastic sheet is placed on it and it's put inside a forming machine, which heats the sheet and the result is a low-cost print of Tactile Graphics for the visually challenged.

The technology doesn't produce as high-quality sheets as those printed using swell paper, but it is better for dots of variable heights and is a lot cheaper. Rs. 20 per sheet is a price that keeps books affordable even if the quality not as good as sheets printed using swell paper and that's the biggest advantage of this project.

On Board

While the display is not yet ready for the market, On Board is a technology that has been deployed in 24 BEST buses in Mumbai. The technology allows visually challenged people to find out which buses are near them and hail the bus route number they need to board. The trials began on February 2 on two bus routes in Mumbai and researchers say the initiative is going well so far. Professor Balakrishnan says 20 people have used the device around 20 times a month each for unsupervised boardings, which he says is a great sign for the project. "There

have been some suggestions for improvement in the device, which we will implement in upcoming iterations," he said.

On Board is a radio frequency based device that needs a unit in the bus and a receiver in the person's hand. Pressing a button on the receiver makes it speak the route numbers that are in a 40-metre radius and pressing the select button hails the bus route number that the person needs. The driver is alerted by the unit in the bus and the visually challenged person can then proceed to board. You can see a visually challenged person boarding BEST bus route 121 unsupervised in the video above.

Nanotech

PhD research scholars from the chemistry department Arabinda Baruah and Bharat Kumar Chaubey showed us a project that uses nanomaterials to treat industrial effluents. Their laboratory apparatus showed liquid mixed with toxic metal ions and dye being fed into a tube that had a layer of adsorbent placed between two layers of glass wool. The researchers used starch and other readily available chemicals to create the nanomaterials used in the adsorbent. The toxic liquid passed through the adsorbents and the output was collected in a beaker. The result was transparent, purified water with no trace of the dye.

The setup removes up to 90 percent of the toxic metal ions from polluted waste water. Baruah says the project is still in its prototype stage. "We've applied for a patent for this project. We could either design a coating for the pipes that carry industrial waste or a filter that waste passes through," he says. The device can be cleaned reused up to 10 times, and its low cost make it easy to replace.

The IIT Delhi Open House 2015 is open to the public for free from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday.

IIT gets director in 10 minutes

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150418/jsp/bihar/story_15160.jsp#.VTH2cEalhWU

IIT-Patna, running without a dedicated head for almost a year, got a director in just 10 minutes.

Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya of IIT-Bombay would be the director of the premier institution in Patna. He is one of the three directors selected recently for equal number of IITs.

Going by the "quick" selection process, an IIT-Kanpur professor has wondered whether the suitability of an IIT director can be decided in just 10 minutes.

Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi's question is based on a claim that interviews of 36 candidates for three IIT director positions were taken in six hours.

Last month, panels headed by HRD minister Smriti Irani had completed all the interviews for the post of directors of IIT-Patna, IIT-Bhubaneswar and IIT-Ropar in six hours on a Sunday, according to ministry officials.

Sanghi, a professor of computer science, said the pace at which the interviews were conducted raised questions.

"In 10 minutes, the selection panel can choose somebody if they know him from the past," Sanghi told **The Telegraph** over phone. "If the panel members do not know a person, that person has little chance no matter how competent he is."

Late Thursday night, it was learnt that Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya of IIT-Bombay had been appointed director of IIT-Patna. Prof. Sarit Kumar Das of IIT-Madras will be the director of IIT-Ropar and Prof. R.V. Raja Kumar of IIT-Kharagpur that of IIT Bhubaneswar.

Neither Sanghi nor anyone else has cast any aspersions on the three professors or questioned their competence.

Smriti declined to take questions from this newspaper. "I am not giving you an interview," the minister said.

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, the IIT-Kanpur chairman and a member of one of the selection panels, declined comment. "Now, the selection is over. I do not want to make any comment. Let us not try to make a new controversy," he said.

Sanghi spoke to this newspaper before the final choices were known.

Sanghi said the process of selecting an academic leader of an institution should aim at assessing a candidate's leadership qualities to take the institution to international levels in teaching, research, industry linkage, etc.

The process in American universities is more rigorous, with the board shortlisting three or four candidates after studying their bio-data and references. The candidates then have to spend a day or two with the board's trustees and other stakeholders and present their vision for the institution.

Sanghi said he had had to go through a similar process before he was selected director of a private institution in Rajasthan in 2008.

He drew a contrast between the rapid selection of directors in six hours and the long-drawn selection of students for BTech courses through a series of tests. A student has to clear the Class XII board exam with 75 per cent marks or has to be in the top 20 percentile in the board.

The board exam pattern varies among boards. Under the Central Board of Secondary Education, students have to take five papers of three hours' duration each. The JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced entrance tests are of three and six hours' duration, respectively.

When the HRD minister held the interviews for IIT director last month, a candidate was given five minutes to make a short presentation and another five to take questions, according to Sanghi.

Five minutes was too short a time for a candidate to make a presentation on his vision for an institution, Sanghi said. Ideally, the candidate and members of the search panel should visit an institution to understand its requirements, he added.

"The requirement of one institution will vary from that of another. The selection panel members have a general impression about the functioning of institutions. That is not enough," he said.

Sanghi wrote about the issue in his blog, *dsangh.blogspot.in*, recently. He was equally critical about the procedure followed by the UPA regime, when interviews were a little longer than 10 minutes.

The IIT directors' selection got drawn into a controversy after IIT-Bombay chairman Anil Kakodkar, who was on all three selection panels, skipped the March 22 interviews.

In January and February, the members of the three panels - minus Smriti - had selected 13 candidates for a final interview. The final interview was held on February 16 by the full panel but no candidate was found suitable. So, the minister decided to invite all the candidates for a fresh interview on March 22.

Apparently unhappy that the first interview had been scrapped, Kakodkar resigned as IIT-Bombay chairman. But the HRD ministry requested him to stay on till his tenure gets over in May this year.

Sanghi said the IIMs had a better system of director selection - the governing board selects three names and sends them to the HRD ministry, which picks one and forwards it to the appointments committee of the cabinet for approval.

But in the case of the IITs, the search panel is set up under the chairpersonship of the HRD minister. It includes the IIT chairperson, a representative of the IIT council and two other experts.

The IIT-Patna was established on August 6, 2008. For the first year, IIT-Guwahati was the mentor institution of IIT-Patna and so IIT-Guwahati director Gautam Barua was the in-charge director of the institution. In July 2009, Anil Kumar Bhowmick, a professor at IIT-Kharagpur was appointed the first full-term director of IIT-Patna. His term expired on July 18, 2014. After Bhowmick's retirement, IIT-Kharagpur director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti was given the additional charge of IIT-Patna.

Deccan Herald ND 18/04/2015 P-6

HRD ministry rejects UGC report on university status

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has rejected a University Grants Commission (UGC) report giving clean chit to 34 of 41 deemed universities that were blacklisted by a committee set up in 2009, in a breather to the varsities.

The ministry has said the report was submitted by the UGC without taking cognisance of any criteria, and that until the statutory rules are framed, no review of the deemed-to-be-universities should be carried out. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the ministry said the relevant provisions under the UGC Act, Guidelines and Regulations have not been taken into cognisance for inspection and formulation of the reports.

"It is technically and legally untenable for the ministry to take an informed decision on the basis of such flimsy reports," it said. The Tandon Committee, set up in 2009, had blacklisted 44 deemed universities for failing to meet a set of standards and parameters for being fit to enjoy the deemed-university status.

The aggrieved varsities had moved the Supreme Court for relief. The UGC had subsequently set up a committee to examine the varsities, and 34 of them were given clean chit.

The ministry said it is in favour of framing statutory rules for criteria for the inspection of institutions seeking deemed-university status, and would need three months' time to do so. The Supreme Court had earlier also rapped the UGC for going into "slumber" over conducting physical verification of infrastructure and faculty strength of deemed universities.

Deccan Herald ND 18/04/2015   P-6

New heights
Super 30 boy selected by Tokyo University

PATNA: A generator operator's son and student of Super 30, Abhishek Gupta, has been selected by University of Tokyo for International Programme on Environmental Sciences.

Abhishek's father Dilip Gupta, who is a generator operator in Gurgaon (Haryana), could not pursue his studies beyond Class X. But he had always desired that his son Abhishek should study in one of the IITs.

Dream-come-true
"My father could not study beyond Class X. But it was his dream that I should study in one of the top engineering institute. His dream is going to come true, thanks to Anand Sir, who groomed me for the last one year for engineering entrance examinations," said Abhishek.

Abhishek, who completed his Class XII from Salwan

Super 30 founder Anand Kumar offers sweets to Abhishek in Patna. DH PHOTO

Public School, Gurgaon, joined mathematician Anand Kumar's institute in Patna last year after clearing the Super 30 entrance test.

In October 2014, five students from Super 30 had applied at the University of Tokyo. After going through their application forms, the university officials carried out interviews through skype, and on the basis of that, Abhishek was selected.

Elated over Abhishek's selection, Anand said, "The au-

thorities from University of Tokyo had last year visited Super 30 and invited me to Japan. Japan is a technological hub and it would be a big opportunity for the students to get global exposure."

Abhishek has been given four-year scholarship which covers admission fee (Japanese yen 2, 82,000), four years of tuition (JPY 535,800 per year), and a monthly allowance of JPY 126,000. In Indian currency, it will be around Rs 35.9 lakh for the four-year course.

Abhishek's selection has added another feather to Anand's cap.

His track record in helping poor students qualify for prestigious engineering colleges, particularly IITs, has caught the global attention. His amazing success story has been featured in Discovery as well as Japan's NHK channel.
DH News Service

President Pranab Mukherjee asks NIT students to adopt villages

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/president-pranab-mukherjee-asks-nit-students-to-adopt-villages/articleshow/46960470.cms

NEW DELHI: The call of President Pranab Mukherjee for adopting five villages around engineering colleges has enthused the students who are aiming to solve problems in the areas like electricity, water and sanitation using the knowledge earned by them during their course.

About 17 students selected from National Institute of Technology from across the country got a unique chance to spend a week as a part of first 'In Residence' programme for students during which they got to know the working of various central ministry.

The students were given a chance to interact with the officials of these ministries where they shared their vision to transform villages into model ones.

"President has asked the students of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) to adopt five villages and develop it, into a modern village," said Suresh Yadav, OSD to President

The programme is a part of overall effort made by the President to open Rashtrapati Bhavan to public. The students got to interact with MEA officials, HRD minister and others to get an insight into the functioning of the country, said Venu Rajamony, Press Secretary to the President.

The students appreciated the suggestion by the President to adopt five villages and are looking forward to develop a modern village with their skills.

"Every NIT is going to adopt five villages nearby. On the lines of Prime Minister's initiative according to which each MP has to adopt a village, President also asked us to adopt five villages," said Pooja Agrawal from NIT Raipur.

Agrawal said that she and her friends have planned to form communities of students from different disciplines.

"Since I am from civil engineering, I will be looking at the civil part. If someone is from architecture or mechanical, he will be looking to that", she said.

Admission time here, IIT Council yet to finalise policy, fix fees

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

Despite the fact that the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Mains) has already been conducted and results are expected next month, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are yet to formulate the final admission policy and fix the fees.

A senior administrative officer at the IIT-K pleading anonymity said that earlier the council for IITs used to meet before the admission time and finalised the admission policy and the fee for the next academic session but this time no meeting of the council could be held in past six months.

The last meeting was held on September 22, 2014 but no decision with regard to fee or accommodating the students of new IITs could be taken.

As per the announcement in the budget, the ISM Dhanbad was given the status of IIT and one new IIT has also been proposed at Bangalore during the current academic session. The admissions to these IITs would also be held.

But, it was not clear as with which IIT the students of the new IITs would be attached till they had their own building and faculty.

However, the IIT Council has not approved the creation of two new IITs as it could not meet since September last. Unless it gave its approval to the two new IITs, it would not be possible to fix the fee and the number of students for admission to these IITs.