Newspaper Clips
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Letting off steam, surveying the sea and carrying wardrobes

The winners of the Open House I2Tech 2011, an annual feature of IIT-Delhi, came up with some useful innovations

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Last Saturday was a very long day for Manik Gaurav Vig and his team as they patiently answered questions from curious onlookers on the portable wardrobe they designed at the Open House I2Tech 2011, an exhibition featuring innovations by students at IIT-Delhi. Then it was time to celebrate when the project bagged the third prize. "It came as a pleasant surprise. Considering that the first two awards were presented to MTech students, it comes as a big encouragement to us undergrad second-year students," says Vig.

The first prize winners (creators of an underwater surveillance system) have a different story to share. For them, the recognition is not just about what they have done but more about what they can do to improvise their project. Their project aims at developing a remote reconfigurable acoustic surveillance platform using low power DSP (digital signal processor) hardware with built in self-test. "Our project was conceptualised approximately five years back and it took four years to formalise the hardware. Now our mission is to develop the operating system for our device so that it can deliver the best results, says Lieutenant Commander Mrinal Sinha, who is on deputation from the Indian Navy to do an MTech at the institute.

The project awarded the second prize looked at producing steam through a single axis line focusing solar concentrator. Ashish Kumar Choudhary, the brains behind the conception and implementation of the project says, "It's all about producing steam for purposes like cooking, heating, washing with the help of solar energy. Once I am through with the final product it'll be a huge help for humankind."

The Open House held last Saturday, saw a number of schools students, technology enthusiasts and engineering students participating. On display were the best research projects in the 50-year history of the institute, which is also celebrating its Golden Jubilee. The awards were selected from these projects.

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Innovations at IIT

Students who bagged the prizes at Open House I2Tech 2011 talk about their projects:

Winners
Name of the Project: Remote reconfigurable acoustic surveillance platform using low power DSP (digital signal processor) hardware with built-in self test
Project Details: The project is a device that can be placed under the seabed to understand undersea activity. Once the operating system is worked out, the device will be able to catch the sound signals, amplify the sound and pass it on to the base station. So, the base station will be able to keep an eye on the Indian coastline from a distance, without actually patrolling the sea because the device will do it for them.
The winners say: "Science comes naturally to us so we understand what is happening. Everything around you needs to be understood in the context of what you see and why it happens. Try finding answers through a logical path and you will also be able to come out with something path-breaking."

First runner-up
Name of the project: Design of linear fresnel mirror solar collector
Project Details: The project is about designing a linear mirror-based solar collector that can help generate steam. Steam is generated through concentrating sunlight at a specific point called target. As the temperature rises water gets heated up and the steam thus generated can be used for a number of purposes. This production of steam is cheaper and more environment-friendly than the other methods and processes. This can help to reduce greenhouse gases and global warming.
The winners say: We all face problems in our daily life and take cues from there. So start out with identifying problems in your life and find out the ways in which you can address them. Once that is done, hard work and patience will help you find a way to eliminate or minimise the problem.

Second runner-up
Name of the project: Portable wardrobe
Project Details: This is a portable wardrobe consisting of three shelves each of base area 40x40 sq. cm and height 40 cm. It folds itself into two suitcase-like boxes each of base area 40x40 sq. cm and 10 cm height. The entire structure is made of mild steel and weighs around 10 kg.
The winners say: "As a kid, I used to play with a 'Do it yourself-technical kit'. Back then it got me interested in engineering with a penchant for mechanics. Today as a student of mechanical engineering I am proud to have screwed things up in the past. You can try it too!"

A moment of pride: The IIT-D students with their creation

आईआईटी में शिक्षकों की किल्लत

वर्तमान में खाली हैं शिक्षकों के कुल 118 पद

● वरुण आर्य

नई दिल्ली। राजधानी के स्कूल, कालेज और विश्वविद्यालयों में शिक्षकों की कमी सर्व विदित है, लेकिन खुद को देश के शीर्ष तकनीकी संस्थानों में शुमार करने वाले भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी-दिल्ली) भी शिक्षकों की भारी कमी से जूझ रहा है। इसका अंदाजा इससे लगाया जा सकता है कि मौजूदा दौर में भी इस संस्थान में शिक्षकों के 100 से अधिक पद लंबे समय से रिक्त पड़े हैं। इस संबंध में आईआईटी प्रशासन का यही कहना है कि शिक्षकों की कमी को लेकर वह पूरी तरह गंभीर है और जल्द ही इस कमी को पूरा किया जाएगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली तकनीकी शिक्षा क्षेत्र में रैंकिंग के पैमाने पर बाकी सभी तकनीकी संस्थानों पर भारी पड़ती है। भारतीय सर्वेक्षणों के मुताबिक इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में आईआईटी दिल्ली लगातार एक या दूसरे पायदान पर बना रहता है। तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालयों की ग्लोबल रैंकिंग में यह 52वें पायदान पर है तो ग्लोबल स्तर पर ओवरऑल यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग में

● संस्थान में शिक्षकों के पदों की कुल संख्या 578, सिर्फ 460 शिक्षक कार्यरत

● निदेशक ने भी शिक्षकों की कमी स्वीकारी, जल्द ही पूरी करने का आश्वासन

यह 202वें स्थान पर है। आईआईटी सूत्रों के मुताबिक, हालिया वर्षों में आईआईटी दिल्ली लगभग सभी रैंकिंग में पहले के मुकाबले पिछड़ा है। इसका प्रमुख कारण शिक्षकों की कमी को भी माना जाता है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक प्रो. सुरेंद्र प्रसाद के मुताबिक, उनके संस्थान में शिक्षकों के कुल 578 पद हैं। फिलहाल, इनमें से 460 पदों पर शिक्षक कार्यरत हैं, जबकि 118 पद खाली हैं। वे भी शिक्षकों की कमी और हाल में

रैंकिंग में पिछड़ने की बात को खुले तौर पर स्वीकार करते हैं। हालांकि, साथ ही यह दलील भी दे रहे हैं कि तीन वर्षों में आईआईटी दिल्ली में 70 नए शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति हुई है।

जबकि सिर्फ 23 शिक्षक इस दौरान सेवानिवृत्त हुए हैं। प्रो. सुरेंद्र प्रसाद ने यह दावा भी किया है कि शिक्षकों के रिक्त पदों को जल्द से जल्द भरा जाएगा। साथ ही, उन्होंने आने वाले वर्षों में आईआईटी दिल्ली की रैंकिंग में सुधार का आश्वासन भी दिया है।

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IIT AIMS AT SECURITY

Aruba Networks, a global leader in distributed enterprise networks, has announced the introduction of 'Aruba Wireless Solution' in the academic section and workshops in IIT-Delhi. It has installed 250 access points, providing IIT a centralised WLAN solution with centralised management and authentication from a central AAA server. The Aruba 6000 is designed to be the most scalable modular controller available today. Designed for large campus-wide deployments, it features 10-Gb Ethernet connections and can aggregate up to 8,192 access points in a single modular chassis.

Times of India ND 27-Apr-11 p-16

IIT-Kharagpur director made accused in AICTE scam

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: CBI has made IIT-Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya an accused in the All India Council for Technical Education scam. He was AICTE chairperson when approval to many existing technical institutions was granted.

In its latest report to HRD ministry, CBI has recommended regular departmental action for major penalty for the lapses committed by Acharya. An employee can be dismissed under the regular departmental action, sources said. It remains to be seen what action HRD ministry takes against Acharya. So far, the ministry has been going by the CBI's recommendation and taken action against several officials.

Acharya's involvement relates to the extension given to Padmavathy College of Engineering for 2006-07.

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From next year, new IIMs may have common admission criteria

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: Seat selection on the lines of the Indian Institutes of Technology, common admission criteria and single-location group discussion and personal interviews: these are some key reforms the new bunch of Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) could usher in next year while picking candidates through from one of the toughest B-school admission

> Single-location GDs and interviews are among the key reforms IIMs could usher in next year while picking candidates

tests in the world.

At a meeting with the ministry of human resources development last week, directors and chairpersons of

the six new IIMs proposed common admission criteria where sectional cut-offs in the Common Admission Test and other weightages will be equal among them.

IIMs at Rohtak, Trichy and Raipur already had such criteria for the 2011-13 batch. Other IIMs at Ranchi, Udaipur and Kashipur will join this system next year.

On the anvil is also an IIT-like system of seat selection.

IGNOU redefines concept of HR Management

The period from November 2006-2007 has been a golden era as far as the Human Resource practices within the IGNOU system are concerned, and the role of Academic Co-ordination Division and Administrative Division is crucial in achieving this goal .

"Promotions given in the Administrative Division from November 2006 till date show the university has taken care of each and every individual when it comes to honouring one's skills, dedication and hard work.

Academic Coordination Division (ACD) at IGNOU is entrusted with the responsibilities of establishment, administration and other service matters pertaining to teachers and academics of the university.

"IGNOU hired 93 consultants (Academic) and 215 consultants (Administration) since November 2006. Senior-level superannuated teachers who have retired from service were also appointed on re-employment basis to utilise their experience and expertise in the development of various programmes and courses of the University," says Dr MS Senam Raju, director, ACD.

The division is also entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordinating appointment of adjunct professors and engagement of consultants, On-line experts, web developers and project associates on full-time as well as part-time basis for various academic activities to support the permanent faculty appointed for performance of certain core functions and all other development needs.

"The idea is not only to strengthen the faculty in terms of numbers, but also sustain and nurture a large pool of academics who can help the nation achieve its educational goals in the decade of innovation," says the vice -chancellor, Prof VN Rajasekharan Pillai.

About 800 teachers and academics with PhD and higher-level research qualifications are working in the university. An exclusive research unit was created in the university recently to coordinate all these research activities. "Research is a process of systematic collection, investigation and analysis of information to increase a research scholar's understanding of the study which he or she has undertaken with specific objectives. In this context, it is the responsibility of the researcher to commit himself/herself to the study undertaken. The RTA Scheme is a unique move in this period and will benefit highly meritorious full-time postgraduates," stresses Dr V Venugopal Reddy, director, Research Unit.

IGNOU is heading for a paradigm shift in its research policy and research facilitation processes in the context of the global scenario of full-time research, part-time research and systemic research under the open university and distance education systems.

The university has a research project scheme. Paid research study leave, in addition to the sabbatical leave scheme, are available to teachers and academics. Participation in national and international research conferences is facilitated by travel grants.

IGNOU has a faculty strength of over 1,000 with doctoral and post-doctoral qualification who are occupying permanent full-time positions as Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors or equivalent academic positions as assistant directors, deputy directors and directors.

"In addition, the university has a rich pool of over 40,000 part-time academic counsellors. A large number of very eminent scientists and academicians are also serving the university as consultants, Emeritus Professors and Chair Professors. The university also provides family residential facilities for over 400 teachers and other staff," adds the Vice Chancellor.

"IGNOU has 62 Regional Centres. The University is in the process of building facilities for all the Regional Centres. laboratories for specific science programmes and an Inter-University consortium for technology-enabled learning are also housed in the Campus," informs Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Latha Pillai.

IGNOU was one of the first Universities in the country to implement the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission, including clearing the arrears.

"This expenditure is also a necessary part of the University's effort to keep its staff and faculty satisfied and maintain high productivity levels," says Prof Pillai, adding that a concerted effort has been made to ensure that senior faculty members have independent rooms and personal assistants. All of them have also been issued laptops to increase efficiency and productivity.

With increased salaries, the University also had to incur a much higher expenditure toward terminal benefits, compared with earlier years. Total quality management remains the highest priority in all areas of operation of the University.

New strategies are also being evolved to mobilise resources so that the University can continue to work on its mandate without any financial impediment. In addition, maximising non-monetary inputs and achieving cost-effectiveness in operations and economy in spending also remain the guiding principle of the University.

New internet rules open to arbitrary interpretation

Manoj Mitta &
Javed Anwer | TNN

New Delhi: Six years after an e-commerce CEO's arrest for a pornographic CD sold from his website, the government has introduced a liability on intermediaries such as Facebook and Google to "act within 36 hours" of receiving information about offensive content.

Under the rules notified on April 11 under the Information Technology Act, the intermediaries are required to work with the internet user "to disable such information that is in contravention" of the prescribed restrictions.

While most of the restrictions in the rules are based on the criminal law (stuff that is blasphemous, obscene, defamatory, paedophilic, etc), some are so loosely worded that they could easily be misused against netizens accustomed to speaking their mind freely, whether on politics or otherwise.

One glaring example of an

Besides encroaching on free speech, the subjective notion of insulting a nation — as opposed to valid criticism — opens scope for arbitrariness & politically motivated interpretation

ill-thought-out provision is the prohibition on saying something that is "insulting any other nation". Since this expression has been mentioned without any qualifications, it could be invoked against anybody who talks disparagingly about other countries.

Apart from encroaching on free speech, the subjective notion of insulting a nation — as opposed to valid criticism — opens scope for arbitrariness and politically motivated interpretation. The authorities may not, for instance, take action against any content that is bashing Pakistan

but may be touchy about similar attacks on the US.

Since such violations and the remedial action taken on them could become a subject of police probe, the rules state that "the intermediary shall preserve such information and associated records for at least 90 days for investigation purposes".

Given their legal repercussions, activists termed the new rules "draconian". Pranesh Prakash of Centre of Internet and Society alleged, "The rules seek to expand government's reach to control content on the internet. This

is neither reasonable nor constitutional as the rules undermine the free speech guaranteed by the Constitution."

The intermediaries are also required to appoint a grievance officer and publish his contact details as well as the mechanism by which "users or any victim who suffers" can notify their complaints. The grievance officer is required to redress the complaints within one month of the receipt of the complaint.

Industry sources hold that the 36-hour deadline imposed on the intermediaries to take action on complaints would unduly affect their freedom as service providers in the Indian jurisdiction. A Google spokesperson told TOI that the proposed guidelines could be "particularly damaging to the abilities of Indians who are increasingly using the internet in order to communicate, and the many businesses that depend upon online collaboration to prosper."

'The arsenal to fight microbes is very weak right now'

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has made antimicrobial resistance the theme of this year's World Health Day. The WHO representative to India, Nata Menabde, spoke to Rema Nagarajan on why the issue of growing resistance to antibiotics is a threat to the global fight against infectious diseases and what the Indian government needs to do to address this issue:

■ How serious is the problem of the irrational use of antibiotics?

It's a very serious problem globally because it endangers human lives when antibiotics don't work. In 80 years, 150 antibiotics have been developed. No new antibiotics are expected for at least 10 years. Hence, the arsenal to fight the microbes is very weak now. Antibiotic resistance in any part of the world is a threat to global health security as there-sistant microbes travel and spread fast with global travel and trade.

■ Why is the problem said to be more serious in India?

It is an even bigger problem in this region because infectious diseases account for 40% of all diseases in Asia. Diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV can only be treated with antibiotics. We don't even know how big the problem is in India because there is no surveillance system.

Q&A

In malaria we know that chloroquine is not working. So far more expensive artemisinin derivatives are being used. Similarly, many people are infected with TB bacteria resistant to first-line drugs. So you're forced to move those patients to more expensive second-line drugs. India carries 20% of the world's TB burden. Of all TB cases being reported, 28% are cases of multi-drug resistant TB. In HIV treatment, the second-line therapy is six times costlier. So, fighting these diseases is not only going to become more difficult but also more expensive.

■ What is the biggest barrier to implementing a rational antibiotics policy in India?

Antibiotics are available over the counter in India and most people don't complete the full course of antibiotic therapy. Plus, spurious drugs often do not contain the full or correct dosage. Incomplete therapy or dosage gives microbes time to develop resistance. Often people pressurise their doctors to prescribe antibiotics and doctors out of fear of losing business prescribe it even when not needed. There is no monitoring of antibiotics prescription by doctors.

■ Can India fight growing antibiotic resistance?

Advances in IT and mobile technology means that the solutions are available here. The government has to strengthen the regulatory mechanism, monitor the professional quality of doctors and medical associations need to enforce them. Over-the-counter sale of antibiotics should be stopped. The health ministry is considering labelling antibiotics a different colour and selling them only in hospitals so that they cannot be dispensed without prescription. It is not easy to enforce all this immediately. It is a process. But it has to start and hopefully, things will improve.

■ What is the role of WHO in promoting rational use of antibiotics?

WHO collaborates with governments and gives a supporting shoulder. We help generate enough evidence to back the policy measures that need to be put in place and also help the government develop appropriate curricula for medical personnel. Antibiotic resistance is under-researched in Asia and WHO has started collecting data to help understand the problem better. It also helps governments put in place proper labs and research facilities and with multi-sectoral coordination that is required to tackle this problem.

Is China Overtaking America?

Political complications, unsustainable economic policies – Beijing has a bumpy road ahead

Joseph S Nye

The 21st century is witnessing Asia's return to what might be considered its historical proportions of the world's population and economy. In 1800, Asia represented more than half of global population and output. By 1900, it represented only 20% of world output – not because something bad happened in Asia, but rather because the Industrial Revolution had transformed Europe and North America into the world's workshop.

Asia's recovery began with Japan, then moved to South Korea and on to Southeast Asia, beginning with Singapore and Malaysia. Now the recovery is focussed on China, and increasingly involves India, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the process.

This change, however, is also creating anxieties about shifting power relations among states. In 2010, China passed Japan to become the world's second largest economy. Indeed, the investment bank Goldman Sachs expects the Chinese economy's total size to surpass that of the United States by 2027.

But, even if overall Chinese GDP reaches parity with that of the US in the 2020s, the two economies will not be equal in composition. China would still have a vast underdeveloped countryside. Assuming 6% Chinese GDP growth and only 2% US growth after 2030, China would not equal the US in terms of per capita income – a better measure of an economy's sophistication – until sometime near the second half of the century.

Moreover, linear projections of economic growth trends can be misleading. Emerging countries tend to benefit from imported technologies in the early stages of economic take-off, but their growth rates generally slow as they reach higher levels of development. And the Chinese economy faces serious obstacles to sustainable rapid growth, owing to inefficient state-owned enterprises, growing inequality, massive internal migration, an inadequate social safety net, corruption and inadequate institutions, all of which could foster political instability. China's north and east have outpaced its south and west.

> A Chinese military posture that is too aggressive could produce a countervailing coalition among its neighbours, thereby weakening China's hard and soft power

Almost alone among developing countries, China is ageing extraordinarily fast. By 2030, China will have more elderly dependents than children. Some Chinese demographers worry that the country will get old before getting rich.

During the past decade, China moved from being the world's ninth largest exporter to its leader, displacing Germany at the top. But China's export-led development model will need to be adjusted as global trade and financial balances become more contentious. Indeed, China's 12th five-year plan is aimed at reducing dependence on exports and boosting domestic demand. Will it work?

China's authoritarian political system has thus far shown an impressive capacity to achieve specific targets; for example, staging a successful Olympic Games, building high-speed rail projects, or even stimulating the economy to recover from the global financial crisis. Whether China can maintain this capability over the longer term is a mystery to outsiders and Chinese leaders themselves.

Unlike India, which was born with a democratic Constitution, China has not yet found a way to channel the demands for political participation (if not democracy) that tend to accompany rising per capita income. Communist ideology is long gone, so the legitimacy of the ruling party depends on economic growth and ethnic Han nationalism. Whether China can develop a formula to manage an expanding urban middle class, regional inequality, and resentment among ethnic minorities remains to be seen.

Some analysts argue that China aims to challenge America's position as the world's dominant power. Even if this were an accurate assessment of China's intentions (and even Chinese cannot know the views of future generations), it is doubtful that China will have the military capability to make this possible. To be sure, Chinese military expenditures, up more than 12% this year, have been growing even more rapidly than its economy. But China's leaders will have to contend with other countries' reactions, as well as with the constraints implied by the need for external markets and resources in order to meet their economic-growth objectives.

A Chinese military posture that is too aggressive could produce a countervailing coalition among its neighbours, thereby weakening China's hard and soft power. In 2010, for example, as China became more assertive in its foreign policy towards its neighbours, its relations with India, Japan and South Korea suffered. As a result, China will find it more difficult to exclude the US from Asia's security arrangements.

Even if China suffers no major domestic political setback, many current projections based on GDP growth alone are too one-dimensional: they ignore US military and soft-power advantages, as well as China's geopolitical disadvantages in the internal Asian balance of power. My own estimate is that among the range of possible futures, the more likely scenarios are those in which China gives the US a run for its money, but does not surpass it in overall power in the first half of this century.

Most importantly, the US and China should avoid developing exaggerated fears of each other's capacities and intentions. The expectation of conflict can itself become a cause of conflict. In reality, China and the US do not have deeply rooted conflicting interests. Both countries, along with others, have much more to gain from cooperation.

The writer is a professor at Harvard and an author.

China: Life in the fast lane?

Some bugs 'doze off' to outwit antibiotics

Washington: Some bacteria go off to "sleep" to prevent themselves from being attacked by antibiotics which can fight only those bugs which are metabolically active. A new research, led by Thomas Wood, professor of chemical engineering at the Texas A&M University, details this surreptitious survival mechanism of the bugs.

"Through our research, we're understanding that some bacteria go to 'sleep', and that antibiotics only work on bacteria that are metabolically active," Wood explained.

"You need actively growing bacteria to be susceptible to antibiotics. If the bacterium goes to sleep, the antibiotics are not effective because the bacterium is no longer doing the thing that the antibiotic is trying to shut down."

"A small community of bacteria is in a sense hedging its bet against a threat to its survival by taking another approach," Wood said. "If we can determine that this 'going to sleep' is the dominant mechanism utilized by bacteria, then we can begin to figure out how to 'wake them up'.

"This would include applying the antibiotic and a chemical that wakes up the bacteria." he said. IANS

Top-Level Changes At IT Industry Body, Co

Rajendra Pawar NIIT founder new Nasscom chairman TIMES NEWS NETWORK New Delhi: Nasscom has appointed NIIT founder Rajendra S Pawar as chairman and N Chandrasekaran, the CEO and managing director of TCS, as its vice-chairman for 2011-12. Pawar succeeds Accenture's Harsh Manglik as the software industry body's chairman. While talking to TOI, Pawar identified three main segments for making IT-industry growth sustainable. He said that the industry body will work to improve the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises so that they can compete in the global market. "In the last two years, SMEs have grown very fast. Now the efforts have to be made to broaden and deepen the competitiveness among them," said Pawar. According to vision 2020, India's IT software exports would touch $175 billion from the current level of $60 billion. Secondly, he said, Nasscom will work towards increasing IT adoption in India by engaging industry members and state and central governments. "This will not only improve the efficiency of the entire system but will also bring in transparency. Moreover, Increased egovernance in the country will help the economy in achieving higher growth," said Pawar. Pawar, who is the founder chairman of country's leading IT education company NIIT, said that to have a sustained growth in the IT industry, skill development is very essential.

Sudip Banerjee Sudip Banerjee quits L&T Infotech Mini Joseph Tejaswi TNN Bangalore: Sudip Banerjee has quit as CEO of L&T Infotech, a wholly owned subsidiary of technology, engineering and manufacturing leader Larsen & Toubro, to take a personal break. "It was really a tough task for me to shuttle between my job in Mumbai and my family in Bangalore every week. I did that in the last three years. Now I have decided to take a break to be with my family," said Banerjee. So what's next? "Well, for a few months I am going to be on a vacation with my wife Sumita and son Sujoy, who is completing his graduation in UK. I have a lot of pending work at home like mending our garden and painting our house, etc. Not planning to join anywhere for sometime. Even in the future, no plans to take up anything outside Bangalore." Banerjee joined L&T Infotech in August 2008, when recession hit the industry. Banerjee has been reporting to V K Magapu, director, L&T Group, and now the latter will hold the fort till a new CEO is announced, said the company. Former Wipro Technologies joint CEO Girish Paranjpe's name is also heard among the possible CEO candidates. However, L&T spokesperson has declined to comment. Prior to L&T, Banerjee was president (enterprise solutions) at Wipro Technologies. He started his career in 1979, and joined Wipro in 1983.

Sem to hit quality of courses, say teachers

Annual Syllabi Compressed To Suit Sems

**Manash Pratim Gohain &
Nehha Pushkarna** | TNN

New Delhi: Teachers of Delhi University are a dejected lot. The honours courses have always been the USP of DU, but the university is hell bent on demolishing these courses, they feel. They have cited various discrepancies in the "half-baked" courses passed by the standing committee on academic affairs on Sunday and by the academic council on Monday. Apart from many factual errors, the teachers claim that they have not specified the number of papers, lectures, tutorials and reading lists among others. In the existing science courses, teachers had to delete certain topics to complete the syllabus in time for the exams.

"There are so many issues with the new syllabi that have not been given due consideration. In fact, in Hindi and Urdu, we have not been given any syllabi for minor papers. There are no names of publications and the syllabi completely exclude contemporary poets. In Hindi specifically, it seems the annual-mode syllabus has just been compressed to suit the semesters," said Renu Bala, an elected member of the academic council. Teachers say the syllabi were framed in a hurried manner without much debate and deliberations. Besides diminishing the quality of the course, such a move will also affect the performance of students, teachers said.

Teachers complain the university is paving the way

SETBACK SEEN

for demolishing the honours system of courses. A glimpse of such a situation is already visible in the 13 science courses where semesters were introduced last year. Abha Dev Habib, associate professor, physics, Miranda House, and a member of the joint action body of teachers, said: "There was certainly less time left for academics in the first semester due to teachers' struggle but no time was wasted in the second semester. Still we had been struggling to finish the course now. In the end, the teachers were asked to leave out a few portions to complete the syllabus in time for the exams." She added, "This is a fraud. The university will award students a degree for having completed an honours course even though they would not have studied the whole syllabus."

Alleging that instead of going for actual reforms in problem areas such as examinations and revision of obsolete curriculum, the university is systematically bifurcating the existing syllabi based on the annual model for the semester mode without taking into account the damage to the quality of learning. According to a mathematics teacher of St Stephen's, Nandita Narain, "The first objection is they have divided the course into two halves without considering the loss of teaching time in the semester calendar which is nearly two months. Therefore, the course gets too heavy for students to cope with. Secondly, the quality will suffer as we will have to rush through it without going to the depth of the subject. Same is already happening to the first semester batch science students."

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Talisma's ERP solutions to digitise higher education

N Vasudevan

Bangalore

BANGALORE-BASED Talisma has launched solutions for higher education in India. According to the company, the solutions will transform the Indian higher education system from the traditional to a digital approach.

Talisma sees great potential for its offerings in the Indian education sector, which is projected to grow to $50 billion by 2015, according to Assocham.

The solutions will help faculty and administrators gain a 360 degree view of campus operations for strategic analysis, enhanced recruiting and accurate, real-time reporting, Talisma said. Bangalore University is

The solutions will help administrators gain a 360 degree view of campus operations

installing part of Talisma's solutions, while Talisma is in talks with Karnataka University for its solutions.

Timothy Loomer, CEO of Campus Management, parent company of Talisma, said, "There is a huge opportunity for educational institutions across the country to capitalise on technology and enhance their relationship with students. With Bangalore University coming on board, it contributes tremendously to achieve our objective to digitise higher education in India."

According to Talisma, over 1,700 college and university campuses worldwide are using the company's solutions. Rajendra Mruthyunjayappa, MD (Apac), Talisma, said, "The solutions integrates student and faculty to enable better governance, bring efficiency into the system and transparency across functions. In India, ICT investment in the education sector is expected to touch $700 million, which would grow to $5 billion in the next 5 years."
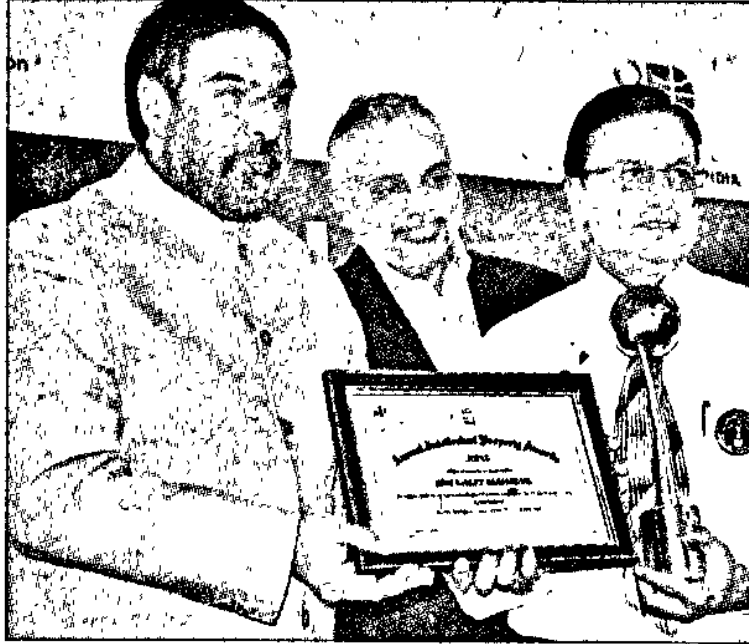
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आर्थिक हब है एशिया महाद्वीप : आनंद शर्मा

सर्वाधिक पेटेंट प्राप्त करने के लिए ललित महाजन सम्मानित

●) अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। विश्व बौद्धिक संपदा दिवस पर विभिन्न क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट योगदान के लिए एजूकेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट, प्राइवेट कंपनी, पब्लिक सेक्टर कंपनी और व्यक्ति विशेष को सम्मानित किया गया। समारोह का आयोजन कंफेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्री (सीआईआई), केंद्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्रालय की तरफ से किया गया। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्री आनंद शर्मा कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि थे।

समारोह में आनंद शर्मा ने कहा कि एशिया महाद्वीप आर्थिक हब है। ग्लोबल जीडीपी का 50 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। जिसमें भारत और चीन की हिस्सेदारी 40 प्रतिशत है। लिहाजा आवश्यक है कि बौद्धिक

संपदा क्षेत्र में बेहतर विकास के लिए तारतम्यता बैठे। वर्ल्ड साइंटिफिक पब्लिकेशन महज दो

प्रतिशत ही भारत पहुंचता है। पीएचडी पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट में भी हम काफी पीछे है। हालांकि हम आम

जनता से जुड़ी हुई आवश्यक वस्तुओं का ईजाद करते रहे है। इस मौके पर उल्लेखनीय कार्य के लिए जे. मित्रा कंपनी के प्रमुख ललित महाजन को सम्मानित किया गया। पांच वर्षों में सर्वाधिक पेटेंट प्राप्त किए है।

बकौल महाजन लाइफ साइंस के क्षेत्र में उन्होंने एचआईवी, एचसीवी, डेंगू, चिकनगुनिया, एच1एन1 आदि जांच किटों का अविष्कार किया है। आईआईटी चेन्नई से उपाधि प्राप्त महाजन मलेरिया, टीबी आदि पर कार्य कर रहे हैं। इनके अलावा टाटा स्टील लिमिटेड, भारत हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल लिमिटेड, आईआईटी मद्रास, क्रॉम्टन ग्रेव लिमिटेड और सीआईआई के दीपक भराली को सम्मानित किया गया।