Newspaper Clips

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foreign education bill

It's the value that counts

A lot will hinge on the kind of international universities that come to India, say academicians

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Once the foreign educational institutions law is in place, will Harvard and Cambridge open campuses and offer their best programmes right here at our doorsteps? Will it change India's higher education landscape for the better? A section of senior academics are sceptical about what the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill can do.

"Foreign universities coming to India may help overcome the dearth of quality institutions in the country. It's also important to give them genuine autonomy and ensure that they are close replicas of their foreign campuses. Also, a level-playing field must be created between the domestic and foreign players. Students need good quality education, which includes the best faculty and infrastructure, at a reasonable price," says Bakul Dholakia, former director, IIM Ahmedabad.

Saumen Chattopadhyay, associate professor of education at Jawaharlal Nehru University, says the arrival of overseas players "will lead to expansion of higher education, but only for the upper crust (5%) of society". It will not be inclusive.

MCT

An open question is who will eventually turn up. According to Shyam Menon, VC, Ambedkar University, Delhi and Chattopadhyay, if institutions such as Harvard and the London School of Economics come in, it will possibly mean quality education. Menon adds, "We need to observe if they are just coming here to make money or to add value to our education system."

But Menon is "cautiously optimistic". Apart from giving more education options in the private sector, it will also open up the job market (for graduates), he says.

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Diversifying education to meet employability mandates

With the education fraternity in India poised for a change, The Education Times to mark its 13th anniversary celebration, organised Eduvision, an interactive seminar which focused on the robust growth and required reforms in the academic sector

Mayura Mathur

Despite the fact that India is an emerging economy, there still are challenges at the primary level which pose as road blocks in its development. Especially with issues which point-put the mismatch between the Indian employability standards and education system becoming impetrative, the nation has a lot to worry about. To discuss the same, on its 13th anniversary celebration, ***The Education Times*** organised a seminar called Eduvision, to discuss the diversifying learning needs of the gen-next. This seminar was presented by Institute of Management Technology -CDL Ghaziabad in association with DMC education.

To address the seminar, experts and industry leaders came together to talk about issues like how the low enrolment ratio is affecting our nation's growth, what innovative approaches are being adopted to bridge the skill gap and how the creative minds are being ignited with symmetrical and collaborative learning methodry, Director and Chairman (Joint Admissions Committee), IMT-CDL, said, "There is a clear mismatch between the academic curriculum and competitiveness that is required to get employed and approximately 50 percent employable youngsters still remain unemployed as they haven't acquired the mandatory skillsets." Adding to Sherry, Dilip Chenoy, CEO and MD, NSDC, said, "It is not incorrect to say that we are deficient in skilled workforce. Since knowledgeable workers are a part of the knowledge economy, it is important to align our education system in a manner that India can also produce skilled and knowledgeable workforce, starting at primary school level."

The panellists agreed that there is a need to strike a balance between classroom and real world learning in order to make Indian students future ready by equipping them with the workplace demands. Commenting on this, BB Bhattacharya, Professor, Business Environment, IIM-L (Noida Campus), shared, "Rather than we educating students according to the requirement traditional learning system." Giving an instance of the role of ICT in education, Dr M Jagadesh Kumar, (NXP-Philips) Chair-Professor, IIT-Delhi, informed, "A fine example of ICT in education is the National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) which has been introduced to provide a common education platform to the students, who download these lectures in the form of webcasts at various locations."

Chopras, explained, "In today's world, where half the people are partially employed, it is important to be a lateral thinker in order to survive the competition. Teachers should emphasise on courses which build foundations like English and history."

Laying stress on the increasing importance of technology interface in the present day education system, Dr Arun Mohan Sherry, shared, "Today, the use of ICT in education extends beyond equipping classrooms with computers and an Internet connection. By the inclusion of this technology, a university or a school can provide the following to their students: increased networking opportunities, better distance learning opportunities as well as supple-

THE PANEL (L TO R): Dr Arun Mohan Sherry, Director and Chairman (Joint Admissions Committee), IMT-CDL, Prof R Pillai, VC IGNOU, Dilip Chenoy, CEO and MD, NSDC, TSR Subramanian, Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation, Dr NK Dhooper, Professor Emeritus and Advisor in IMT-CDL, Dr Nalin Jena, Sr Education Specialist, The World Bank

Institute of Management Technology
Centre for Distance Learning
Presents

"With the student drop-out ratio in India being as high as approximately 70 percent, it is important that skills are taught to a child in his primary years. Thus I feel that it's the duty of the education sector to link formal education with specialised skills so that it makes a student employable, even when he drops out of secondary schools." Elaborating it further, Dr Arun Mohan Sherkaccommodating themselves accordingly."

Adding to this thought, Dr Dilip Bandopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, GGISP University, added, "Education sector is a collaborative sector, thus it must be given key focus. This sector is also responsible for giving employable workforce, thus teaching should be inclusive of knowledge, skills and attitudes." While Naveen Chopra of The

While concluding the seminar Pranav Chaturvedi, Co-Founder and Director, IIFM, in an interactive session with students spoke to Naveen Bansal from IMT-CDL, Swarn Lata Jha from IMT, Atul Parashar from IIM Lucknow (Noida Campus) and Mohit Mehra, a student at Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies to learn the youth perspective on the present education system. The seminar gave an opportunity to understand the challenges the sector is facing and the way forward.

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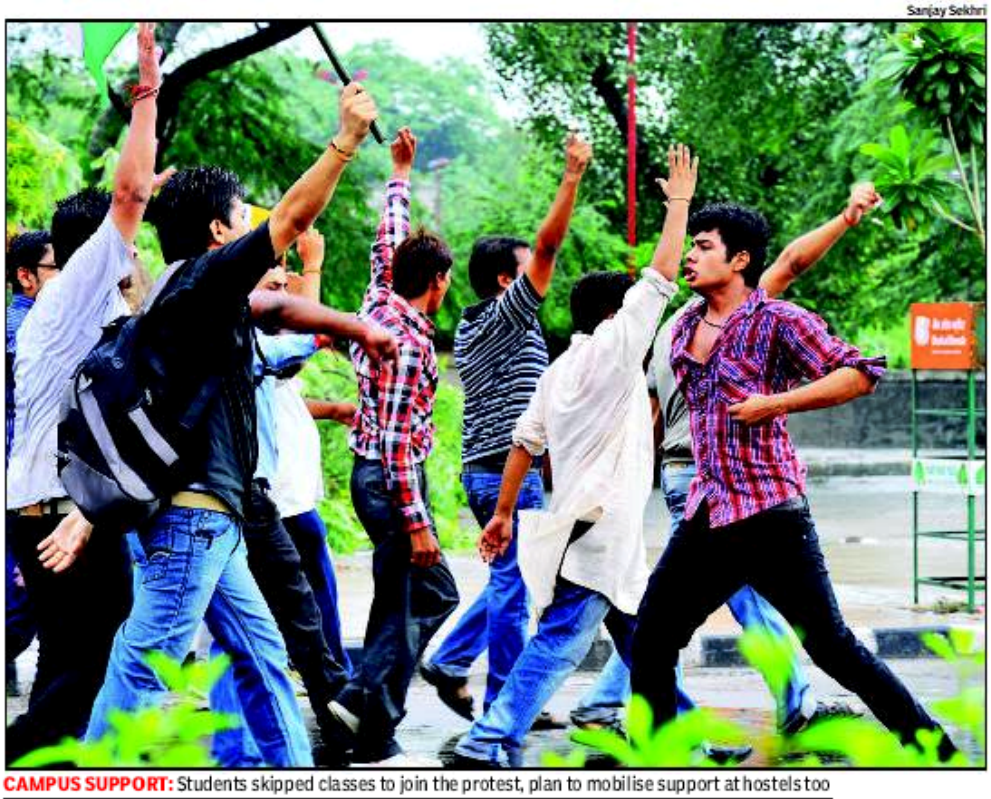
Student power for Anna cause

Hundreds Of Students From DU, JNU, Jamia, IIT And DTU Detained

Manash Pratim Gohain & Neha Pushkarna | TNN

Sanjay Sekhri



CAMPUS SUPPORT: Students skipped classes to join the protest, plan to mobilise support at hostels too

New Delhi: On Tuesday, college students were more than eager to bunk classes, but for a cause. Heavy rain, tight academic schedule or heavy police presence could not dampen their spirit. Hundreds of students of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, IIT, Delhi Technological University "courted arrest" in support of Anna's campaign against corruption.

Students from Hans Raj, faculty of management studies, law faculty and arts faculty of DU kicked off the protest on the campus, which culminated at Chhatrasal Stadium and Rajouri Garden. Here they were detained. At IIT, students held a candle-light march and wore black bands. The JNU campus was flooded with handmade posters. The vigour was unprecedented and rain was no dampener.

Deepak Singh Rawat, a second-year student of Hans Raj College, had only one thought in mind — to court arrest. "About four of us left the college to go to Chhatrasal Stadium. We met a group of students near Patel Chest, who were raising slogans and marching towards the stadium. Here, police were not letting us in. Then some women and schoolchildren joined us and we were detained." he said.

Deepak, however, is not satisfied with the number of students turning up for the protests. He wants to give a fillip to the movement. "I am planning to print anti-corruption banners and carry them to all colleges. Some students went home after classes. They need to know that they too can contribute," he said.

Meanwhile, the student activists who joined the protest are in no mood to relent. And they are planning to mobilise support at the hostels. "We are going to stay put at Chhatrasal Stadium and fast. The fight against corruption has just begun," said Rishikesh Kumar of the law faculty.

Several students skipped classes to join the protest without informing their parents. Groups of students at different Metro stations were seen planning their future course of action. At IIT, Delhi, students organised a candlelight march where nearly 800 people participated. But some students missed the march as they were detained at Chhatrasal. One of them, Annad Poonia, a third-year student of electrical engineering, said, "I was released, but five of my friends are still detained. They are hungry and thirsty. There are thousands still protesting outside. Inside the stadium. Those detained have formed groups and are determined to continue the protest. What is happening is against the spirit of democracy," Anand said.

HindustanTimes
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WEB TANGLE

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STAFF TOLD TO STICK TO OFFICIAL EMAIL. AS MANY AS 199 GOVT SITES HACKED LAST YEAR

NEW DELHI: Use of free email accounts by those in the government, shunning official ones created by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), has sparked security concerns.

Junior officers, often the ones required to source sensitive data and information, routinely use popular email services. An agriculture department official said district officials send him crop data — sensitive because it can move global markets — mostly from non-official accounts.

Sometimes, even those in top offices violate the rule. Soon after last month's Mumbai bombings, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's staff used a Hotmail account to issue a statement. The air force used an unofficial account to send out media releases on the recent $11bn (₹49,500 crore) fighter jet deal.

The government, following advice from the home ministry, has now issued a directive that the staff must only use official email accounts.

"The staffer in the PM's office exposed his address to servers on foreign shores where India's jurisdiction simply doesn't apply," said Pawan Duggal, a cyber law expert.

NIC chief BK Gairola did not respond to a query, but a secretary heading a government department denied such practices were rampant. "I'm on a committee of inter-ministerial secretaries and all of us use official accounts only," he said, requesting anonymity.

Times of India ND 17-Aug-11 P1

From 2013, take single test for MBA admissions

Mathang Seshagiri & Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: In a move that will cut down the multiple entrance exams that students are forced to take for admission to management courses across the country, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to conduct a common admission test from 2012-13.

The test will cover admissions to both MBA and postgraduate diploma in management.

The decision to hold a pan-India Common Management Admission Test (CMAT) was taken at the recent executive council

▶4,000 colleges, P 18

meeting of the AICTE, the umbrella body for professional courses. While CMAT will be one of the entrance exams to be held in 2012, the Council wants all its colleges and institutes to admit students based on their CMAT scores from 2013.

A NEW CHAPTER

- AICTE to hold **Common Management Admission Test** for MBA and PG diploma in business management courses
- Although CMAT will be held in 2012 too, **from 2013 all admissions will be based on CMAT scores**
- But IIMs and deemed universities can **hold their own tests**

"Almost every college was holding an entrance exam. Moreover, each state has its own entrance tests, and private associations have their own exams," AICTE chairman S S Mantha said. "In principle, CMAT will be a test for all AICTE-approved institutes and will reduce the stress and financial burden on students."

Times of India ND 17-Aug-11 P18

Common test for 4,000 MBA colleges soon

Mathang Seshagiri & Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: Admission to 4,000 colleges that offer an MBA and another 500 which run diploma programmes will take place on the basis of the Common Management Aptitude Test (CMAT) from 2013. The Indian Institutes of Management, which are independent and autonomous B-schools, will continue to conduct the CAT (common admission test). Deemed universities will also hold their individual entrance tests.

"We still have to work out the modalities of conducting the CMAT. But having so many exams, all of varied difficulty levels, also raises concerns about the quality of students who enter this course," chairman of the All-India Council for Technical Education S S Mantha said. It is the first time that the AICTE has spoken about holding an entrance exam; to date, it has been an approval-seeking body for new colleges and institutes wanting to expand student intake. The Management Aptitude Test, taken by 3.85 lakh students every year, is the largest B-school entrance test. Hari Krishna Maram, governing council member of AIMA which conducts MAT, said "I welcome the idea of a single entrance exam for management courses in the interest of students."

Financial Chronicle ND 17/08/2011 P-11

The path to higher education

Arun Nigavekar

AP

NURTURING DREAMS: Each state government should think of creating a Higher & Professional Education Financial Corporation to provide soft loans to students and competitive interest rate loans to institutions

DEVELOPMENT of human capital is a national priority for each country. Hence, it is their endeavour to see that no deserving student is denied an opportunity to pursue higher education for want of financial support. The concept of education loans, followed in the west for the last several decades, is new to India.

In the US, student loans are an indispensable tool for families as the cost of education now falls anywhere in the range of $ 20,000 to $50,000 a year. Undergraduate students have three financial options: federal loans made by the government directly; federal loans made by banks or other lenders and guaranteed by the government; and private loans from banks or other private lenders that carry no government guarantee.

The most popular federal loan is the Stafford loan, available to students regardless of financial need, from a lender or from the government directly. Perkins loans are available to students with greatest financial need; priority is given to students receiving federal Pell grants, which are awarded to low-income students. Parents of students can also take out federal loans, known as Parental Loans for Undergraduate Students or 'Plus' loans.

The Congress sets the maximum interest that a lender can charge on federal loans. At present, the maximum interest rate on new Perkins loans is 5 per cent; on Stafford loans, it is 6.8 per cent (but 6 per cent for subsidised Stafford loans, on which the government pays the interest). On Plus loans, borrowers pay 7.9 per cent if they borrow through the direct loan programme and up to 8.5 per cent if they borrow from a bank or other, non-governmental lender. The maximum amount an undergraduate can borrow through the Stafford loan programme is $31,000. After graduation, students repay the loan in a period of 10 to 25 years. The entire process takes just one week, in college itself. In the US, the student loan debt is higher than credit card debt now and would reach a trillion dollars this year as more students go to colleges.

The government of India's modified education loan scheme to Indian students became operative in the financial year 2004-05. The scheme has a ceiling of Rs 10 lakh for studying in India and Rs 20 lakh for studies abroad. The education loan scheme initially was well accepted by parents as a means of providing professional education to their children. However, data shows that the education loan growth rate in public sector banks (PSBs) is continuously declining. The growth rate in education loan, which was 47.54 per cent in 2003-04, went up to 49.14 per cent in 2004-05 and since then has been on the decline. This year, it is just 20.90 per cent. Similarly, while the number of education loan accounts in absolute numbers is increasing — in 2011 it is 2.2 million — the growth rate has fallen from 46.64 per cent at the end of March 2005 to 15.93 per cent at the end of March. The total outstanding education loans of PSBs as on March 3, stood at Rs 43,074 crore, compared with Rs 4,550 crore on March 31, 2004.

The education loan scheme is mostly used by affluent, middle class Indians and a very small percentage of lower middle class families. The dip in its use shows that parents and students do not find it interesting, for two reasons. First, the rate of interest, at 10-11 per cent, along with a maturity period of 7 years, brings with it the pressure of heavy repayment installments. Secondly, the process of sanctioning of loans, with complex co-obligations and collateral security, is very time consuming.

The government of India, the finance ministry and Indian Banks Association (IBA) all are worried about dips in educational loan growth. Recently the IBA came up with a suggestion to double the tenure of these loans to 15 years from 7 years at present and also allow students to take top-up loan if s/he desires to pursue further studies. This is a good move but the interest burden would go up because of enhanced tenure and there is also the likelihood of more defaulters. Indeed the IBA wants the government to chip in around Rs 4,000-5,000 crore to set up a credit guarantee fund that would provide comfort to the lenders and protect them in case of defaulters.

The time has come for each state government to think seriously of creating a Higher & Professional Education Financial Corporation (HIPEFIC), an independent financial entity, whose ownership rests with all stakeholders desirous of a strong educational structure, namely the state government itself, private and state-owned educational companies in the territory of the state, other financial institutions created by the state, the higher education institutions themselves and the central government.

The HIPFEC should be run as a professional entity and managed by finance and investments experts. The task to be met is to provide soft loans to students and competitive interest rate loans to educational institutions. What should be the business model for such a solution? That is a question, which would be discussed separately.

(The writer is a former chairman of UGC and former VC of University of Pune)

Statesman ND 17 August 2011 P11

Growing spares

We may soon be able to generate our own body parts for transplant, says s ananthanarayanan

PEOPLE in need of organ transplants face two challenges: the first is to find a donor and the next is that the body should accept the organ that has come from a different person. Generating organs from our own body cells would eliminate both these challenges at one go. Professor Doris Taylor, director of the Center for Cardiovascular Repair at the University of Minnesota, has spearheaded work that uses an animal's stem cells to build organs, in just weeks — organs that the animal would not reject because it is made of the animal's own body cells.

When cells that do not belong in the body are introduced, the body calls out agencies that throw the intruder out – a built-in defence mechanism to protect the body against infection and invading pathogens. What these policing agencies in the body use to recognise outsiders are specific proteins found on the surface of cells. If the patterns do not belong in the body, *flash*, antibody production starts – production of specific antibodies that have the patterns actually found on the predator cells so that they can swiftly identify and destroy them. It is this system of surveillance that keeps the body safe from billions of foreign organisms that invade the body every minute!

But the same system would also throw out a massive foreign body like a whole organ that has come from another person's body. In organ transplant, the doctors carefully select the donor – apart from the same blood group, the more genetically similar the donor, the less eventful the transplant. And then, powerful drugs that weaken the body's immune response are used to hold back the body's defences against the "friendly" outsider. Apart from the side effects of these drugs, weakening body defences, with their help, allow other pathogens a field day and the patient needs to be carefully quarantined. And still, in most cases, the immune system does revive and not many transplants succeed for a long time.

Using native cells

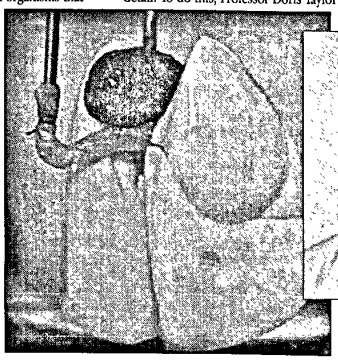
While the effort in organ transplant is to get "as near as possible" to the recipient's cell genetics, the best solution would be if the organ was not donated by an outsider but built from the recipient's own cells. Biologists do have experience in growing living cells in the correct media. But cells grown in this way just grow as a lump and can scarcely form an organ. A first start to building body parts was to grow cells on a suitable mould so that the cells assumed the desired shape. Special materials, called *biorubber*, were developed and once the cells began to grow they were allowed to develop on the body of a living thing, like a mouse, so that they received nutrients and oxygen. Artificial ear cartilage and blood vessels, skin, even bladders, have been grown in this way for some years now.

But this method cannot work for a more complex organ, which has internal parts and a network of blood vessels that branch, ending as capillaries that connect with each individual cell.

What is needed for building cells in such a complex way is a scaffold or the framework, on which the cells need to grow, to end up in the right shape, and as the right kind of cell, down to the last detail! To do this, Professor Doris Taylor and her associates have used an ingenious method that actually amounts to going backwards in building an organ. They start with a real organ, say a heart, where the cells have died.

Doris Taylor.

Paulo Macchiarini.



Harald Ott and a rat's lung (left) at his laboratory.

Well, the cells in a dead organ are no good, but the good thing is that when the organ was originally formed, these cells grew on a framework of protein, called *collagen*, and this framework, which was there in the dead organ, follows the exact shape of the organ when it was well. In the case of the heart, this means the shape of the chambers, the valves, the blood vessels, down to the capillaries, are preserved in the collagen scaffold under the dead cells.

Exposing the skeleton

The method of extracting this scaffold from a real heart to build a new one was discovered by Doris Taylor's colleague, Harald Ott, now in Massachusetts General Hospital. Getting at the scaffold underlying an organ means stripping the organ of its cells, and nothing else, so that the scaffold remains intact. Ott thought one way could be to use the organ's blood vessels to deliver a chemical to each cell so that the cell got washed away but left everything else unchanged.

He experimented with a host of candidate reagents and finally zeroed in on one, ironically a common soap used in cosmetics. This chemical, as it dripped through the blood vessels of the dead heart of a rat, slowly stripped away every cell, leaving only a translucent jelly that was the exact protein framework on which every cell of the heart had been placed. Injecting a dye into the blood vessel showed graphically that the network was complete and undamaged.

Ott then went on to build a new heart by allowing stem cells to build on the scaffold, or the mould, now available for the complex organ.

The cells could grow in the exact shape of the organ, developing, in the case of the heart, the chambers, the valves and the blood supply system of vessels. Along with not only creating the cells body, there was the challenge of providing blood supply, with oxygen for the cells and the blood pressure for the heart, and the electrical signals to get the heart muscles contracting. In short, creating an artificial body to try out the new grown heart. But after a space of eight days of handling the complexity, the team was thrilled to see the heart they had built from scratch burst into life and start beating!

After this first success, Ott has used the same method to build a living lung, which was transplanted into a rat. Soon after, the method has been used in Barcelona, Spain, to build a new windpipe for a patient who had lost her own through tuberculosis. Surgeon Paulo Macchiarini, of the Instituo Univeritario Dexeus, took a windpipe from a cadaver, cleaned it of cells and used living cells from his patient to build a new windpipe. The new organ was put in place in just four days and the patient, Claudia Castillo, has been doing fine, without any immuno-suppressant, and was home just four days after surgery.

"I think we're years away and not decades away. It is not unreasonable to imagine within the next four or five years we'll have some organs we can transplant", says Professor Doris Taylor.

The writer can be contacted at simplescience@gmail.com

Harvesting stem cells

THE living cells that are used to build organs are stem cells or pluripotent cells that have the capacity to become a particular type of cell — for example, a liver cell or a kidney cell. Apart from following the shape that the protein collagen framework defines, stem cells also discover what kind of cells to become from the proteins in the framework.

Stem cells are created in bone marrow and are present, although in smaller numbers, in the bloodstream. One method of collecting stem cells is to put the donor under general anaesthesia and tap the bone marrow, generally in the pelvic region, with needles. A safer procedure, called the peripheral blood stem cell harvest, which is usually followed now, is to collect stem cells from the bloodstream. The method is to tap the blood flow, intravenously from one arm, separate stem cells in an *aphaeresis* machine and send the blood back, intravenously, through the other arm. The word, "aphaeresis" means "taking away" in Greek and the machine is basically a centrifuge that which spins the blood round so that heavier components collect on the outside and lighter components on the inside. It is not unlike separating butter from milk by "churning".

Peripheral blood harvests produce better results and are also less stressful. But sometimes, if the yield of stem cells is not adequate, the traditional bone marrow harvest is the fall back.

Aphaeresis machine

Statesman ND 17 August 2011 P11

Under the skin

A stick-on circuit can monitor heart rate as well as conventional devices but is weightless, wireless and inconspicuous, writes steve connor

IT may soon be possible to wear your computer or mobile phone under your sleeve with the invention of an ultra-thin and flexible electronic circuit that can be stuck to the skin like a temporary tattoo. The devices, which are almost invisible, can perform just as well as more conventional electronic machines but without the need for wires or bulky power supplies, scientists said.

The development could mark a new era in consumer electronics. The technology could be used for applications ranging from medical diagnosis to covert military operations.

The "epidermal electronic system" relies on a highly flexible electrical circuit composed of snake-like conducting channels that can bend and stretch without affecting performance. The circuit is about the size of a postage stamp, thinner than a human hair and sticks to the skin by natural electrostatic forces rather than glue.

"We think this could be an important conceptual advance in wearable electronics, to achieve something that is almost unnoticeable to the wearer. The technology can connect you to the physical world and the cyberworld in a very natural way that feels comfortable," said Professor Todd Coleman of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who led the research team.

A simple stick-on circuit can monitor a person's heart rate and muscle movements as well as conventional medical monitors, but with the benefit of being weightless and almost completely undetectable. Scientists said it may also be possible to build a circuit for detecting throat movements around the larynx in order to transmit the information wirelessly as a way of recording a person's speech, even if he/she were not making any discernible sounds."

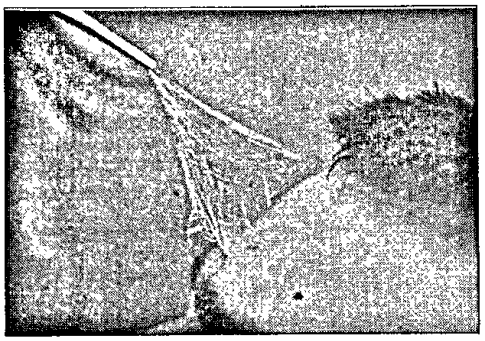
Tests have already shown that such a system can be used to control a voice-activated computer game, and one suggestion is that a stick-on voicebox circuit could be used in covert police operations where it might be too dangerous to speak into a radio transmitter.

"The blurring of electronics and biology is really the key point here," said Yonggang Huang, professor of engineering at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. "All established forms of electronics are hard, rigid. Biology is soft, elastic. It's two different worlds. This is a way to truly integrate them."

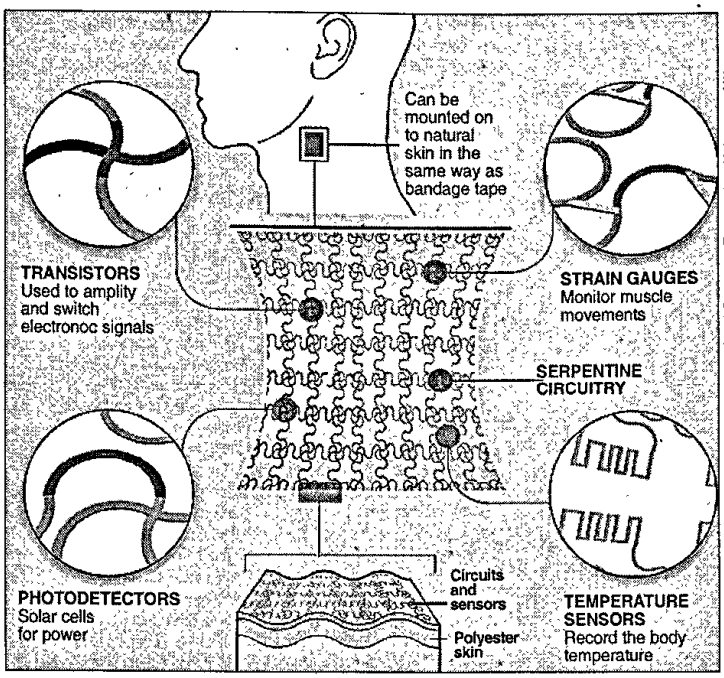
Engineers have built test circuits mounted on a thin, rubbery substrate that adheres to the skin. The circuits have included sensors, light-emitting diodes, transistors, radio frequency capacitors, wireless antennas, conductive coils and solar cells.

"We threw everything in our bag of tricks on to that platform, and then added a few other new ideas on top of those, to show that we could make it work," said John Rogers, professor of engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a lead author of the study, published in the journal *Science*.

The Independent, London



The patch of electronic skin consists of an array of electrical devices for monitoring the vital signs of the body.



Pioneer ND 17/08/2011 P-4

IGNOU trains teachers to develop online courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

When it is distance learning university like the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) then the learning is ought to be unconventional. The Inter University Consortium (IUC) of the university organised a three-day workshop to train the trainers who were invited from various universities in order to address the change which has struck the 21st century teachers and learners. The change is the online learning and teaching experience which has made learning and teaching materials easily accessible, just a click away.

Online education is becoming popular day-by-day, but adapting face-to-face courses for online instruction presents many challenges and IGNOU took the initiatives to address them.

Keeping the new technological development in view, the IUC organised three day training workshop "on how to create /develop online courses". The training objectives of this three day workshop were to explain and describe the instructional design for online courses, highlight some of the tools used to create online courses, show some examples of online courses offered by IGNOU, understand the learning management system, how to publish the course, create an online course using Moodle.

"While designing and developing any online course there are three major areas we should focus on: instructional design, course management and instructional media. The Design should be carefully done and then only development and implementation should come in. There should be judicious use of multimedia, activities and interactivity among learners so that learning communities can be developed for effective online learning," said Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, IUC, IGNOU.

The training programme was attended by 21 faculty members from State open universities, private universities offering courses through distance mode and faculty of distance education institutes in formal universities like Jamia Hamdard (New Delhi), NIMS University (Jaipur), Anna University (Chennai), Karpagam University (Coimbatore), Dr. C.V. Raman University (Chhattisgarh), Institute of Advanced Studies in Education University (Rajasthan), Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (Maharashtra), Lovely School of Open and Distance Learning (Jalandhar), Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (Guwahati), Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Agra), Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (New Delhi) and UP Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UP).

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IGNOU tops the charts

According to a nationwide perception survey by *Careers 360* magazine and Yahoo! India, on distance learning, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) ranks number one for the year 2011.

Yashwantrao C Maharashtra Open University in Nasik has been ranked second, followed by IMT Distance and Open Learning Institute in Ghaziabad. Delhi University is ranked 16th.

IGNOU also ranks first in resources and reach of the university. The university caters to Gyanvani, an educational FM radio network, providing programmes covering different aspects and levels of education including primary and secondary education, adult education, technical and vocational education, higher education and extension education.

It also has a dedicated educational TV channel called Gyan Darshan which broadcasts lectures by the faculty members of the university.

Yashwantrao C Maharashtra Open University stands second followed by Uttar Pradesh's Rajarshi Tandon Open University at third position, Annamalai University at fourth and Dr BR Ambedkar Open University at fifth place. The Delhi University is ranked at the sixth position in its resources and reach.

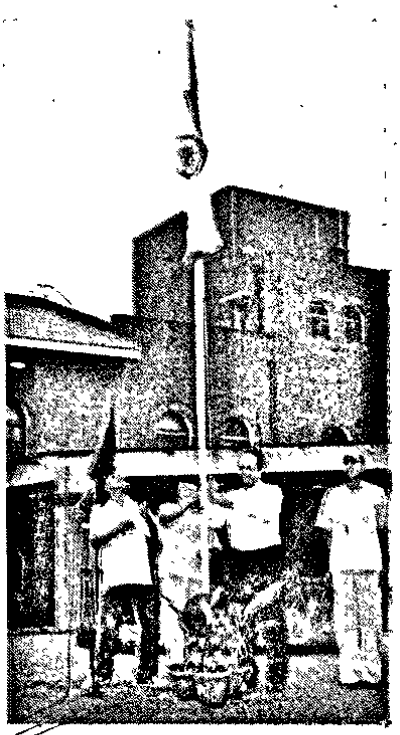
The Universe for Open and Distance Learning Institutes (ODLIs) in India comprises 249 institutes. Out of which, 188 institutes are currently offering distance education programmes. Given the nature of operations of ODLIs and the lack of adequate data with the Distance Education Council (DEC) as also in the public domain, short-listing of top 50 institutions was done by the magazine on the basis of student enrollment data. The logic behind this was the popularity of the institutions based on the number of admissions.

Careers360 then sent letters to these 50 institutions and based on the responses received from the institute as well as the data supplied by DEC, 32 institutes were chosen for ranking purpose. Further, visits were made to all the institutes which responded as well as to select study centres of others to build a database.

The input primarily looked at the reach, infrastructure and diversity of the institutions in providing distance education.

The process emphasised on the quality of resources and delivery mechanism, while output focused on the performance of the institute in facilitating the student in getting a better prospect.

Careers360 in association with Yahoo! India spearheaded the exercise that involved collating data on all the existing DL institutions.



'Flexibility in education a must'

On the occasion of independence day, Prof VN Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, hoisted the national flag and stressed upon the need to be flexible while educating the masses.

The students performed a street play dedicated to the theme of increasing corruption in independent India while school children showcased various yoga forms.

"A unique paper-wise registration scheme is about to launch at IGNOU where a knowledge seeker can take any number of papers from IGNOU programmes without the restrictions of age, qualification, knowledge and education in the subject," said Prof Pillai.

He added: "Efforts are now on for two-way teleconferencing, interactive radio counselling and relaying educational programmes through local FM radio stations."

With the launch of paper-wise registration scheme, students can enroll for a paper of their choice out of a programme.

In the previous year, IGNOU had taken the step of going into the multiple mode of education delivery.

Seminar on Chemical Research

IGNOU's Sir CV Raman Chair and School of Sciences (SOS) is organising a two-day national conference on 'Chemistry: Education and Research Frontiers' on October 13 and14, 2011 and is inviting applications for submission of abstracts on the topic 'Frontier Areas of Chemical Research'. The last date for the same is August 22, 2011.

The national conference is being organised to celebrate the international year of chemistry as proclaimed by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and UNESCO.

The conference aims to celebrate the achievements of the subject and its contributions to the well-being of mankind and also to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Nobel Prize being awarded to Madam Curie.

The conference will focus on increasing the public appreciation of chemistry in order to meet world needs, increase interest of young people in the subject and generate enthusiasm for its creative future.

"The conference aims to address the issues pertaining to chemistry education and exploring newer and emerging areas of chemical research. This is planned to be achieved by a series of lectures by persons of international acclaim and oral/poster presentations by the young scientists. An added feature is the inclusion of a session dedicated to the role of women scientists in chemical research commemorating the centenary of Madame Curie's Nobel Prize," said Prof VN Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU and patron for the conference.

Abstracts of the papers for presentations (about 300 words) should be e-mailed to the convenor, Prof Javed A Farooqi, SOS, IGNOU or to the co-convenor, Dr Lalita S Kumar, SOS, IGNOU. Participants will be intimated about the selected abstracts on September 1, 2011.

Details of the conference are available on the university website *www.ignou.ac.in*.

Mail Today ND, 17/08/2011 p-15

A 'hot' cancer cure

Heated chemo bath gives a fresh lease of life to patients

By **Ritu Bhatia** In New Delhi

THERE'S still no sure-shot magic cure for cancer. But new, innovative treatments offer more hope to those suffering from it.

Earlier this year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of electrical energy fields for the treatment of brain cancer and now the benefits of a chemotherapy "bath" are being acknowledged by oncologists.

Known as Hyperthermic Intra-Peritoneal Chemotherapy or HIPEC, this technique extends the lifespan and improves the quality of life of some patients who have advanced abdominal and gynaecological cancers.

This warmed chemotherapy bath provided immediately after the tumour-removing surgery is gaining popularity worldwide. It is found to be particularly effective in treating cancers that don't respond to oral or intravenous chemotherapy.

Heated chemotherapy, experts say, permeates tissues better and makes cancer cells more reactive to its toxic properties. Also, oncologists can direct high doses of the drug directly to where it's needed.

Those who used this treatment had the same outcomes as patients on chemotherapy, but with fewer side effects.

Hiranandani Hospital in Mumbai offers therapy

"It has a much better disease control outcome than conventional chemotherapy and in the coming years might become a standard treatment for selected cancers," Siddharth Sahni, head of the breast surgery department, B.L. Kapur Memorial Hospital said.

A patient who has HIPEC first undergoes surgery to remove as much of the tumour as possible. Immediately after this, the patient is subjected to a high dose of warmed chemotherapy (up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit) in the stomach area. This bath lasts about 90 minutes, after which the patient is stitched up and taken out of the operation theatre.

While HIPEC may offer many benefits, not every person with advanced abdominal or gynaecological cancer is a good candidate for the procedure.

"Patient selection for this procedure is very important," Sahni added. The tumour has to be confined to the belly. Additionally, the patient must be strong enough to withstand a lengthy operation. The only centre in India where this treatment is available is the L.H. Hiranandani Hospital in Mumbai, where a HIPEC machine was installed a few months ago.

Only 40 centres around the world provide the treatment.

"Currently there are about 40 centers across the world providing HIPEC treatment but the medical fraternity here isn't really aware of it. Special training is needed for this method," Sanket Mehta, consultant surgical oncologist at L.H. Hiranandani Hospital said. He is the only doctor trained in HIPEC treatment in India.

Two successful surgeries with HIPEC treatment have been conducted so far in the country and for most, it is a safe procedure. Wound infection and healing difficulties are two possible complications of HIPEC, but the surgery itself (rather than the chemotherapy) is the major risk.

For some patients with advanced abdominal cancer, HIPEC has the potential to help them live longer. But the huge cost of treatment — which begins at ₹5 lakh — is a deterrent.

Critics of this treatment are of the opinion that there isn't enough evidence to support the claims that this procedure helps cancer patients live longer.

Financial Express ND 17/08/2011 P-7

Google-Motorola deal may draw antitrust scrutiny

New York, Aug 16: Google, already the subject of antitrust inquiries, likely opened itself up to more regulatory scrutiny with its proposed $12.5-billion cash acquisition of Motorola Mobility Holdings.

Legal experts said government agencies will want to review how Google's largest takeover ever will affect competition in the mobile phone market. Google is already under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission over whether it uses its strength in online searches to thwart competitors.

"It seems inevitable that the US government will have to come into the mobile space and lay down some ground rules," said Eric Goldman, an associate professor at Santa Clara Law. "Way too many dollars are at stake."

Google, the maker of Android mobile phone software, portrays the takeover as a way to stay competitive against such rivals as Apple and Microsoft. Last month, Google lost out to Apple, Microsoft, Research in Motion and three others in an auction to buy bankrupt Nortel Networks' wireless patents.

Google chief executive Larry Page said on a conference call on Monday that Motorola's patent portfolio would protect Android from anti-competitive threats.

PATENT WAR

"They're going to go on the offensive by saying they're the victim here," said Daniel Crane, a law professor at the University of Michigan.

In one sense, that could be true. While Google is dominant in internet searches, it is less strong in mobile phones. "It really shows the steps that competitors are taking in a very competitive marketplace," said David Olson, a professor at Boston College Law School. "It also shows how patent law requires large companies to have a huge patent portfolio for hardware they're going to use for their software."

The likely concern regulators would have is that Google will vertically integrate its Android software with Motorola's hardware and attempt to shut out other manufacturers, such as Samsung and HTC, that license Google's software.

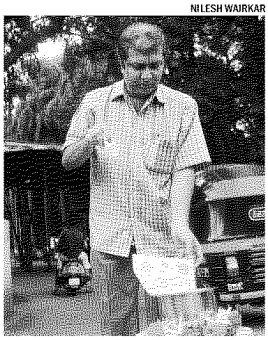
But because Android is an open source software, that's unlikely to happen, said Herbert Hovenkamp, professor of law at the University of Iowa. "It's not clear to me how you can turn an open source software into an exclusionary device," he said.

Richard Brunell, director of legal advocacy at the American Antitrust Institute, agreed Google would not likely stop licensing Motorola's competitors but said the company "could foreclose them in other more subtle ways".

Smartphone companies "have a common interest that they want the Android platform to be more defensive from the (intellectual property) perspective," said Hendi Susanto, a technology analyst at asset manager Gabelli & Co. *Reuters*

Mumbai Mirror 16.08.11, p-6

NILESH WAIRKAR



Suresh Verghese burnt his PhD degree outside the IIT-B gate, Powai on Monday

Disillusioned IITian lights bonfire of PhD degree

Deepti.Khera
mirrorfeedback@indiatimes.com

He stood outside the main gate of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) on Independence Day. And he "cremated" his doctorate certificate right outside the campus where he had earned it. Suresh Verghese, 39, an alumnus of IIT-B said he was doing this to protest the academic corruption at the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering, a branch under the aegis of IIT-B.

Verghese, who completed a Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) in 2005 in climate change, says his thesis was never acknowledged and his research work was in vain.

"Hard work is not the criterion to assess work. Instead, students are encouraged to please the faculty by any means" said Varghese. "I too had similar instances with my guide and fed up of all of this I decided to burn my degree."

Verghese said evaluation is not always based on academic performance, especially with subjective grading like in research evaluations, projects or seminars.

Verghese has written two letters to IIT-B this year – one in May, another last week – asking IIT to have an open inquiry into the irregularities.

"Neither of the letters has been answered," he said. "With no action being taken, I decided to burn my degree."

Verghese has been working with research firms. His wife too is pursuing a PhD in environmental science and they stay on the institute's Powai campus.

He said when students quit the centre midway through their research work, they are accused of being incompetent to carry out research," said Verghese.

Head of IIT-B's Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering, Virendra Sethi, said, "We do not know what his concerns are, but we are open to having a dialogue with him. He had been invited to the alumni meet in June, but for some reason he couldn't participate."

IIT-B director Devang Khakhar could not be contacted on his cellphone.

Mail Today ND, 17/08/2011
p-13

Daily exercise of JUST 15 min can cut death & cancer risk!

JUST 15 minutes of daily physical activity can reduce the risk of death and protect against cancers, a new study has found.

The recommended level of exercise currently is 150 minutes a week. But the new study, conducted by US and Taiwanese scientists, has found that even doing less has health benefits.

The study involved 4,16,175 healthy people aged 20 years or above. They were screened and followed up between 1996 and 2008. Physical activity was categorised as light (walking), moderate (brisk walking), medium-vigorous (jogging) and high-vigorous (running).

Those who had a daily average of 15 minutes of moderate exercise had significant health benefits, when compared with

150 min a week advised but even less helps

individuals who were inactive.

Compared with the people in the low-volume activity group, those in the inactive group had a 17 per cent increased all-cause mortality risk and an 11 per cent increased cancer mortality risk, the study, published in the medical journal *The Lancet* on Monday, found.

"If the minimum amount of exercise we suggest is adhered to, mortality from heart disease, diabetes, and cancer can be reduced," the scientists said.

After the minimum 15 minutes a day, every additional 15 minutes of exercise is expected to generate an additional reduction of four per cent for all-cause and one per cent for all-cancer mortality. One can go up to 100 minutes a day. The magnitude of all-cause mortality reduction from 15 minutes a day exercise was consistent in men and women across all age groups. *Savita Verma/New Delhi*

Financial Express ND 17/08/2011 P-3

Nervous IT cos cut back on hiring as global uncertainties loom large

Goutam Das
Bangalore, Aug 16

IT'S not quite the gloom of 2009 yet, but the Indian IT industry could end up hiring far fewer employees this financial year than expected earlier. Just a few months back, the industry — one of the biggest employers in the country—was expected to add about three lakh to its workforce in 2011-12. However, human resources contractors said that faced by economic uncertainty in its primary revenue geographies, the US and Europe, the industry will now end up hiring 25-30% less.

External recruitment agencies, who have a good view of the hiring workflows of companies, said many IT firms have gone cautious on lateral hiring while a few MNCs have put a blanket freeze on senior-level hiring. Openings are taking much longer to close as nervous companies are re-assessing the demand-supply scenario.

Recruitment firms *FE* spoke to said Cisco, Dell and Juniper Networks have frozen hiring. While Cisco confirmed a freeze and is eliminating positions, Dell and Juniper denied any such move. IBM India, sources said, have slowed down hiring as well. The firm did not respond to this newspaper's query.

"The IT industry may end up hiring 25% less than what was projected at the beginning of the year. There is a dip in lateral hiring that forms about 45% of a big company's employee mix. Senior-level hiring could be 10-15% of the mix and projections for this category are not bright," Surabhi Mathur Gandhi of Teamlease, a HR services company, said.

■ Continued on Page 4

TECH 2.0

- Hiring may 25-30% less than the three lakh expected earlier
- Lateral hiring and senior-level recruitments may be hit worst
- Slowdown in key geographies like US, Europe has prompted move
- Among MNCs, Cisco, Dell and Juniper have frozen hiring

Nervous IT cos cut back on...

Other HR consultants predict worse. BS Murthy, CEO of management search firm Leadership Capital said there was a blanket freeze in place at several multinationals. "Their business has not expanded as anticipated. Some businesses like cloud has not taken off. The hiring freeze could now extend to Indian IT service providers as well," he noted. His firm has taken a 10% hit in overall business compared to the last two quarters with MNCs freezing the hire of vice presidents, general managers and directors. Sanjay Shelvankar, CEO of human capital management consulting firm Scalene Works, said there were no sudden breaks like in 2008-09 but companies have gone cautious about lateral hiring. Kris Laxmikant of Head Hunters, a firm that places senior and middle-level managers, said hiring is going slow among Indian companies too. "Six months back, there was a lot of optimism in boardrooms. Big-time hiring was much easier. Now, everybody is reassessing requirements. Offers are being kept on hold. The decision to close an opportunity is taking longer. There is a hiring slowdown across American, Japanese, Chinese and Indian IT firms," he noted.

SPECIALITY FIELDS

Maharashtra permits private entities to set up universities

By Makarand Gadgil & Prashant K. Nanda

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Maharashtra has become the 10th state in the country to allow private entities to set up universities, hoping to attract investments in specialized disciplines.

Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat are among the states that have already allowed private participation to meet a growing demand for higher education.

India wants to add 25 million students to its higher education space and needs 800 more universities by 2020. It has about 530 today. The Union government has admitted this may not be possible without private participation.

Only 13% of the students who pass the Senior Secondary Certificate (SSC) examination in Maharashtra are able to enrol for higher education, the state's higher and technical education minister Rajesh Tope said.

"Our aim is that by 2020, this number should increase to 20%," he said. "But the state has limited funds for investment in higher education. Here, we believe, the private sector can play the crucial role of bringing much-needed investment in higher and technical education."

Tope said he does not want private universities offering routine courses in engineering, medical science, arts and commerce. "We want universities that will give education in super-specialty fields such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, space technology and also promote research in these fields," he explained.

A committee of educational experts, headed by the secretary of higher education, will approve proposals for setting up private universities, under a law passed by the state legislature last week.

Rajendra Gawankar/Hindustan Times

Expanding opportunities: *Only 13% of the students who pass the SSC examination in Maharashtra are able to enrol for higher education.*

Haryana, UP, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat are among the states that have already allowed private participation

The law makes it compulsory for private universities to have a campus of at least 4 hectares (ha) in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR); 10ha in divisional headquarters such as Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad; 20ha in district headquarters; and 40ha in rural areas.

Universities in MMR must have a minimum endowment fund of ₹10 crore, while those located outside MMR must have a ₹5 crore fund.

Private universities are not required to have reservations for scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other backward class students, but the law asks them to have an affirmative action programme.

"Reliance Industries (Ltd) and Azim Premji Foundation, which has already set up a university in Bangalore, are interested in setting up universities in Maharashtra," said an official in the higher and technical education department, requesting anonymity.

RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani, during the company's annual general meeting on 18 June, 2010, announced plans to set up a university through the Reliance Foundation.

"We are looking at Maharashtra and Gujarat for opening the first campus of the university, but nothing has been finalized yet," said a senior company executive, asking not to be identified.

"Currently, we don't have any plan for Maharashtra," said Anurag Behar, vice-chancellor of the Azim Premji University and co-chief executive officer of the Azim Premji Foundation.

At least ₹50 crore is required to set up a university, said Prashant Bhalla, vice-president of Manav Rachna International University, a deemed university in Faridabad, Haryana. "Bringing a law to promote private universities is a good move simply because it encourages private sector investment in the sector," he said. "Under such laws, universities get a lot of autonomy, like in admission, intake and administration, which is good for institutions."

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Tribune ND 17-Aug-11 JOBS & CARRERS P3

The SELECT sense

Zeroing in on the right B school is the first step to a successful career, writes **Ravindra Bhatia**

MBA/PGDM schools have mushroomed, of late, making it more difficult for choosing the right B-school. MBA and IIM's were synonymous 25 years ago. However, some good B schools have now emerged both in the private sector as well as in the universities. This has made it very difficult both for the students and their parents to decide which is a good institution. There are no laid down norms for making a choice. However, based on past experience certain broad parameters are listed below which might make taking a decision easier.

ACCREDITATION

One must look out for an institute that is approved by the AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) since all institutes are not approved by it. Moreover, the approval has to be got renewed from AICTE annually. Verify the latest approval letter and visit the website of AICTE – www.aicte-india.org and satisfy yourself. Further look out for B Schools that are NBA (National Board of Accreditation) and AIU (Association of Indian Universities) accredited since the PGDM programme is recognised as equivalent to an MBA by them. Please bear in mind that very few B- Schools have got this accreditation which again is valid for three to five years. Without accreditation an institute is not eligible to give PhD or engage in research projects, eligible to participate in government-student assistance programmes and is NOT acceptable to recruiters, especially the public sector.

STANDING

How long has the institute been in existence? How many batches of students have passed out? What is its market reputation? These are some of the points which should be absolutely cleared by the aspiring students.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Have a hard look at the options.
- Make a checklist.
- Don't expect to find everything everywhere.
- Study the pros and the cons.
- Decide where you see yourself five years down the lane.
- Does the B school match your vision.
- If yes take the plunge!
- Don't consult too many people around as it will add to your confusion.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A fully equipped campus, library, computer centre, and classrooms are some of the facilities that a good B school will provide to its students.

INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

It is essential that an institute has well qualified (post PhD) and experienced faculty. Industry-experienced faculty is the icing on the cake. Recruiters get attracted to students who are taught by this class of faculty. Does the institute rely heavily on visiting faculty? If so, beware. An institute with core faculty is a big plus for the students as they are available for guidance and consultation regularly vis-a-vis "suitcase or visiting faculty".

The biggest challenge being faced by B schools is the lack of good faculty who can churn out managers and not university students. A B School that is able to hire and retain faculty fares much better than the others. Of course this comes with a price which explains why some B schools charge higher fees!

Pedagogy and curriculum is the heart and soul of education. In recent years, there has been a significant shift in the teaching methodology. The emphasis is to make management courses relevant to the real world. Theoretical teaching is being replaced by practical exposure. Curriculum needs to be revised in consultation with experts from the industry and experienced faculty on a yearly basis so as to bridge the gap between what is being taught and what the industry needs. Ultimately the student should be "industry ready" at the end of a two-year programme. Pedagogy should combine lectures-cum-discussions, case studies, simulations and games, brain storming, industry visits, lectures from industry experts, projects, presentation etc.

E Cell – All the students who pass out do not necessarily want to do a 9 to 5 job. They wish to be entrepreneurs and do something different for themselves. An institute that has an E-Cell can better prepare the students to develop e skills. Such institutes' E cell works in collaboration with NEN – "National Entrepreneurship Network" which organises meets with entrepreneurs and holds annual conferences.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS (SIP)

Does the Institute arrange for summer internship for all its students or do they have to fend for themselves? Some B-schools permit students to undergo their SIP in their native places. Ideally, the SIP should result in final pacement of the students.

PLACEMENT

An institute should normally assist in 100 per cent placement of its students. Find out the details of the companies that visit the campus. Ideally, the companies need to be from diverse verticals and should preferably visit the institute annually. Management Development Programme (MDP) establishes good relations between the corporate and academics. They are a good indicator of future placements.

Most B schools boast of 100 per cent placement since inception. Check out the facts on your own. Compare the intake of students of the institute and number of students placed. Remember the larger the intake, more will be the difficulty in quality placement. See the ROI. Good institutes make the aspirants visit their placement cell to dispel any doubts they may be harbouring. Talk to seniors and alumni. See if there are enough alumni of your interest. If not take a call.

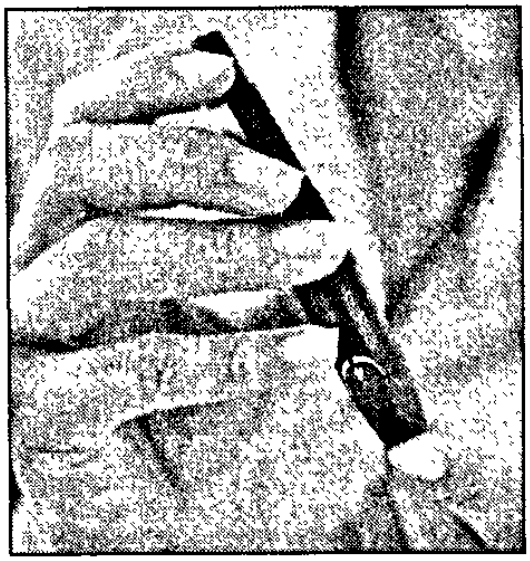
All the Best !

The writer is Assistant Professor and Chairman-Admissions department at Asia Pacific Institute of Management, Delhi.

Tribune ND 17-Aug-11 P14

Diabetes: Some useful suggestions

DR RAJAT GUPTA



According to the recent estimates by the International Diabetes Federation, approximately 285 million people in the adult age group are suffering from diabetes. India leads the pack with 51 million diabetics, aptly called "The diabetes capital of the world"! In addition, about 8-15 per cent of the adults are in the prediabetic stage. If that is not all, Indians are developing diabetes at a much younger age than anywhere else in world. This affects a person's most productive years of life adversely and hence the nation's health and economy as a whole.

Type-2 diabetes occurs in genetically predisposed individuals who are exposed to certain environmental influences. The ongoing diabetes epidemic is the result of today's lifestyle — abundance of processed food, sedentary lifestyle, obesity and mental stress. Indeed, epidemiological data suggest that nine of 10 cases of diabetes could be attributed to habits and forms of modifiable behaviour. Poor control of diabetes leads to severe complications in the long term. Diabetes mainly affects a patient's kidneys, eyes, the nervous system and the heart. In fact, diabetes is the leading cause of end-stage renal disease, non-traumatic lower extremity amputation and adult blindness.

Following a healthy lifestyle can help prevent diabetes: This includes proper diet and regular exercise. About 7 per cent of body weight reduction in prediabetic overweight individuals can reduce the risk of development of diabetes by about 30 – 60 per cent.

How much total calories a day does one require?

A healthy person with moderate physical activity requires 25 - 30 kcal/kg of ideal body weight per day. Out of total calories, 55-60 per cent should come from carbohydrates, 25-30 per cent from fats and 15 per cent from proteins. Five hundred-1,000 fewer calories than estimated to be necessary for weight maintenance usually result in a loss of body weight by 0.5-1kg/week. For weight loss, either low-carbohydrate or low-fat, calorie-restricted diets are effective.

What types of carbohydrates are good?

Carbohydrates should mainly come from whole grains (whole wheat flour and brown rice), legumes, fruits, vegetables and low-fat milk. Refined grains such as white rice, bread and other maida containing foods should be minimised. Also, food should contain a large amount of dietary fibres.

What types of fats are good?

Saturated fat intake such as from diary products, butter and meat should be limited to less than 7 per cent of total calories. Trans-fats should be minimised. Trans-fats are present in abundance in fast foods. Dietary cholesterol intake should be less than 200 mg/day. Monounsaturated fats (olive oil and canola oil) and polyunsaturated fats (Canola oil, mustard oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil and soyabean oil) are preferred.

What type of exercise is preferable?

It should include aerobic exercises (brisk walk, jogging, swimming, etc) of moderate intensity with a minimum duration of 30 minutes per day. Resistance-training exercises are complimentary if there is no contraindication for that. Those with coronary heart disease should consult a cardiologist before initiating any exercise protocol.

With these simple yet effective lifestyle modifications, a person can prevent/delay the onset of diabetes. In addition to diabetes prevention, recent studies indicate that adopting a healthy lifestyle is also beneficial regarding other diseases such as high blood pressure and coronary heart disease. But it is time to do it, not just know it.

The writer is Consultant, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Alchemist Hospital Panchkula

Tribune ND 17-Aug-11 P14

Clogged arteries — take care, scientifically

DR KULMEET SOIN

My recent tryst with clogged heart arteries and associated problems makes it imperative that, being a doctor, I separate best-selling myths and little-known facts associated with this disease. That an individual shall be involved in a disease precipitated by the clogging of his heart arteries is dominantly determined by his genes and his personality. These million buck-yielding diet and exercise programmes (for their initiators, remember Atkin's) finally say only two things: you move and you eat less, like your much less automobile-dependant and television-loving ancestors did.

Remember that Winston Churchill died on the pot at 91 years of age. Stress, obesity, smoking, drinking and intolerant desposition be damned.

Remember, this too, that not so long ago nuts (like almonds) and peanut butter were only mentioned to be condemned as a component of our diets. Now they hold the place of pride in all diet charts, and lo and behold, dark chocolate and alcohol are God's own benediction for hearts on a desperate hunt for panaceas to run more.

Atherosclerosis (the official name of the artery clogging phenomenon) is the predominant culprit in leading individuals to death and disability.

The term is derived from Greek, where thickening of the arterial wall (sclerosis, 'hardening') and accumulation of lipid (athere, 'gruel') categorise the basic disease.

Now, to predict which of us is in the run to get this disease, leading us to contribute to damaging world statistics of death due to cardiac disease is a difficult proposition as the facts exhibit.

Myocardial infarction (the dreaded heart attack) is the most common diagnosis in hospitalised patients. The death rate (mortality rate) with acute myocardial infarction is 30 per cent, with more than half the people dying before they reach the hospital (this happens in the industrialized First World countries, but the statistics are more gruesome back home). With the recent state of the art treatment modalities available to industrialised countries, inhabitants and to the rich everywhere, one in 25 of these still die within the first year of the episode. The availability of this treatment is not even in the realm of dreaming-about-it scenario of 94 per cent of our population.

The enigma of unpredictable nature of atherosclerosis is confounding.

It develops in time and space, and occurs over decades. The growth of this gruel is discontinuous rather than being scientifically linear — it has periods when it lies low (silent) and suddenly it gallops. The reasons for its silence and galloping are yet unexplained. Where and which heart artery it chooses to place itself (this gruel) and where it gallops is not understood contemporarily.

The heterogeneity of this disease, its macabre uncertainties, causes, natural history and clinical manifestations are difficult to explain at this juncture of understanding.

Now this is the icing on the cake of uncertainty of this dreaded disease process. Atheromas are deemed to be obstructing disease processes causing blood flow limitation or arterial occlusion leading to death (sometimes too suddenly, in the prime of life). However, in its full glory atherosclerosis can also cause ectasia and development of aneurysmal disease with an increase in lumen caliber. Hey, presto! Then you have all the gruel in the artery but more blood is actually flowing through your dilated artery.

This confounds all analysis. Myths and myriad magic cardiac remedial bullets flow all around the concerned, worried global community.

The writer is a Ludhiana-based radio-diagnosis expert.

Business Line ND 17/08/2011
p-15

IIT-Kharagpur convocation

Kolkata, Aug. 16

The Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur will hold its 57th annual convocation as well as the inaugural ceremony of the diamond jubilee celebration on August 22. The ceremony will be attended by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. The institute will also webcast the programme on its Web site. – **Our Bureau**

Tribune ND 17-Aug-11 P3

Angry students join in thousands, many arrested

JYOTI RAI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

Agitated over social activist Anna Hazare's arrest, the Delhi students' community took to the streets and fiercely protested against the stringent police action. However, after day-long protests, they were relived in the evening as the news of Anna's release arrived.

In the morning hours, North Delhi came to a virtual standstill because of protests in different areas. Students protested across the Capital-- from Chhatrasal Stadium in Model Town to the Vishwavidyalaya Metro station and Jawaharlal Nehru University in south Delhi. Thousands of them also took part in a candlelight vigil held in the evening at the India Gate, demanding Hazare's release. And as the news of the Gandhian leader reached them, a wave of triumph took over the spot.

"We are glad that Anna is being released. We wouldn't have stopped protesting until our demand was heard," said Juswin Talwar, a protestor at the India Gate.

During the day, students in big groups bunked their lectures and braved the rain to reach Chhatrasal Stadium to register their support. While many of them were arrested, others were removed from the protest locations.

Students from Delhi University, IIT, Indraprastha University and other private institutions reached Chhatrasal Stadium with Indian flags, big banners and shouted slogans like "sarkaar ki tanashahi nahi chalegi" and "ab Anna akele nahin, desh unke saath hai."

Students at Jamia Milia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University and DU also organised protest rallies on their campuses.

"It is after a long time that the university students have come out in support for a cause in such large numbers. Be it boys or girls, everyone wanted to be a part of the movement today. Many students were arrested near the North Campus Metro station and Chhatrasal Stadium. Students feel hurt, cheated and ripped off their constitutional rights," said Rohit Chahal, one of the student activists from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

"This is completely unconstitutional. It looks like the government is going back to the times of Emergency. Anna being sent to jail is unacceptable," said Kirti Bhattal, a third year sociology student from LSR who was protesting near the Vishwavidyalaya Metro station.

Towards the evening, members of the All-India Students Association gathered at the JNU campus to protest against the arrest of Anna and the unrelenting attitude of the central government. Jamia students also poured in to support the cause.

"We are angry at the state of affairs. Thousands of people have been arrested and many were escorted off the protest sites. Anna was sent to jail. This is not the freedom of speech and expression we have studied in books. The government is telling us that what we read in law books isn't true and the constitutional rights can be ripped off as per its convenience," said Karan Gupta, an MPhil student at JNU.

Meanwhile, all those who felt they couldn't be of much help during the day spearheaded a campaign on social networking websites and asked everyone to support Anna's release.

Hindu ND 16.08.11 P-18

'Before interim order, make sure if students can take exam'

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has cautioned High Courts against passing interim orders and allowing a student to write an examination without ascertaining whether the candidate has a right to do so. A Bench of Justices Mukundakam Sharma and Anil R. Dave said: "We find that very often courts are becoming sympathetic to the students and, by interim orders, authorities are directed to permit the students to take an examination without ascertaining whether the candidate concerned had a right to take the examination."

The Bench said: "For any special reason in an exceptional case, if such a direction is given, the court must dispose of the case finally on its merits before the declaration of the result. Grant of such interim orders should be avoided as they not only increase the work of the institution which conducts the examination but also give a false hope to the candidates approaching court."

Writing the judgment, Justice Dave said: "This court has observed time and again that an interim order should not be of such a nature by virtue of which a petition or application, as the case may be, is finally allowed or granted even at an interim state. We reiterate that normally at an interlocutory stage no such relief should be granted by virtue of which the final relief which is asked for and is available at the disposal of the matter is granted."

In the instant case, S. Krishna Chaitanya was permitted by the Central Administrative Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench, to sit for the preliminary Civil Services Examination, 2010, when he complained that he did not receive the admit card. The CAT further directed the Union Public Service Commission to declare his results and if he was found successful to permit him to take the main examination and the subsequent interview. As the Andhra Pradesh High Court did not interfere with the CAT order, the UPSC filed the present appeal.

The UPSC said the respondent's application was not at all received and only on the CAT's direction did he submit a fresh one. It said the declaration of his result would be absolutely unjust and would set a bad precedent.

Allowing the appeal and quashing the impugned order, the Supreme Court said: "As the case involves the career of a young man, who can turn out to be a good civil servant, we had very meticulously gone through the record maintained by the UPSC." The system being followed was very comprehensive and flawless.

"It is very clear that had the application form of the respondent been received by the UPSC in the manner provided, it would have been recorded somewhere. Even the eight-digit number of his application form has not been recorded anywhere. On a perusal of the record and looking at the facts of the case, we come to the conclusion that no proof could be submitted by the respondent that the application form was received by the UPSC."

Hindu Chennai 13.8.11 P-4

Semester Abroad Programme launched

Special Correspondent

TAMBARAM: The Semester Abroad Programme for students of SRM University for the academic year 2011-12 was launched on Friday.

Maureen Chao, Vice-Consul, US Consulate General, Chennai, who was the chief guest at the function, launched the programme.

She said that she too had taken part in a similar programme when she was a student. She was glad to note that the best students from best educational institutions in the U.S. and India were able to travel to both the countries to spend a semester.

A note said that under the Semester Abroad Programme, SRM students would be visiting prestigious universities in the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Japan, Korea and Australia to pursue studies for one semester. After the semester, the credits earned would be transferred to SRM.

The ninth batch of 58 students would be leaving later this month and in September. Selection for the 10th batch was in progress. To help reduce the burden on the students who opted for the programme, SRM would be giving scholarships and tuition fee waiver to deserving students to the tune of Rs.1.5 crore every year. Some of the prestigious universities the students would be visiting include Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard Medical School and Cornell University among many others. M.Ponnavaiko, Vice Chancellor, SRM University, participated in the function.

US Vice Consul Maureen Chao hands over a cheque to a student at the launch of Semester Abroad programme for students of SRM University, in Kattankulathur on Friday. — PHOTO: A. MURALITHARAN

Assam Tribune Guwahati 12.8.2011 P-1

AASU moves Govt over education policy

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11 – The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) today handed over a copy of 78 resolutions on the State Education Policy and its demands on such policies to Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma seeking its early and effective implementation to bail out the education system from the existing 'dismal' scenario.

Beside other demands, the AASU laid special stress on making the education system free from political interference and even sought decentralisation of the entire system.

"The government, over the years, has failed to address the issues concerning the education system. The education system lacks vision or a clear-cut policy, which is why implementation of the resolutions is a must," AASU adviser Dr Samujjal Bhattacharyya told media persons today.

Among others, the students' body also put stress on setting up institutes for higher studies, development of the infrastructure on schools and colleges and upgradation of basic standard of primary education.

The AASU further demanded setting up of Government Law College, Government B Ed College and Government Engineering College in every districts of the State.

"Like the private sector, even government schools should have play schools for students between age group of 3 to 5. We want the government to set up and attach such play schools in each of the

(See page 15)

AASU moves ...

(Contd from page 1)

lower primary schools of the State," Dr Bhattacharya asserted.

The 78-point resolutions and demand also touched issues concerning excessive holidays for the educational institutes.

The AASU also demanded increase in the annual grant for Gauhati University.

"Besides, the government should allot Rs 100 crore each to Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University and Assam Agriculture University which would help in introduction of new courses. We also want Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in the State," he further added.

Steps to streamline teachers' appointment process, delinking of +2 from colleges, overhaul of examination system, especially the marking system, change in the existing syllabi and curriculum have also been demanded by the students' body.

Deccan Chronicle Hyderabad 15.8.2011 P-13

DECCAN CHRONICLE

50 YEARS AGO

AP scientist's anti-cancer drug

Atlantic City, (New Jersey): Aug. 14: Researchers from the National Cancer Institute recently reported that a five-year study has confirmed their previously published findings that the drug methotrexate does control some cases of choriocarcinoma, a rare but highly Malignant form of uterine cancer.

The drug was discovered and developed at Cyanamid International's Lederle Laboratories under the direction of the Indian-born scientist, Dr. Yellapragada Subba Row, as part of Leaderle's 22-year cancer research activities. It was initially used in the treatment of leukemia and often helps prolong the lives of its child victims by several years. Dr Roy-Hertz and associates told this to scientists gathered for the 52nd annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Times of India Chennai 16.08.11 p-10

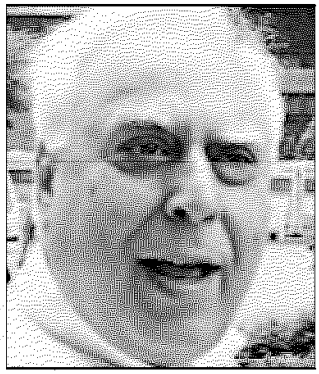
Edu quota likely to breach 50% ceiling

Sibal Agrees To Amend Law On CPM, BSP Demand

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: At the insistence of MPs of CPM and BSP, HRD minister Kapil Sibal has agreed to move an official amendment to the Central Educational Institutions (reservation in admission) amendment bill. A specific provision in the bill stating that reservation in admission, other than the North East, would not be more than 50% is likely to be dropped.

Since there are variations in reservation in admission in central educational institutions — for instance in National Institutes of Technology there is a state quota, in Ambedkar University in UP there is no reservation for OBCs and in north-eastern states like Tripura and in Tamil Nadu there is more than 60% reservation — MPs felt there was no need to put the provision that reservation, other than N-E states, would not be more than 50%.



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Though the ministry argued that the provision would not change the ground situation, MPs protested and CPM MPs even said they would move an amendment. It was argued that why put a provision that is already known.

Sources said there are three parts of reservation in the bill. One, in respect of state seats in central educational institutions like NITs, state policy of reservation would be followed. But in non-state seats of NITs, reservation would be less than 50%.

The bill also points out that in some central institutions like Ambedkar University, 49.5% reservation is given to SCs/STs and not to other backward classes.

In north-east states, reservation follows a different pattern since there are no OBCs in most of these states. Tripura and other N-E states have more reservation for STs and in some states, state and central quota put together crosses 50%.

Sources said the bill protects north-east states and says 50% bar for reservation is limited to rest of the country.

The bill also seeks to extend the period of implementation of 27% OBC reservation from three years to six years. After the bill was passed in 2006 and OBC reservation was challenged in the SC, phase-wise implementation was to be completed in three years. But many institutions expressed inability as they did not have necessary infrastructure.

Deccan Herald Bangalore 15.8.11 P-15

Universe? Nay, it may be a 'multiverse', say scientists

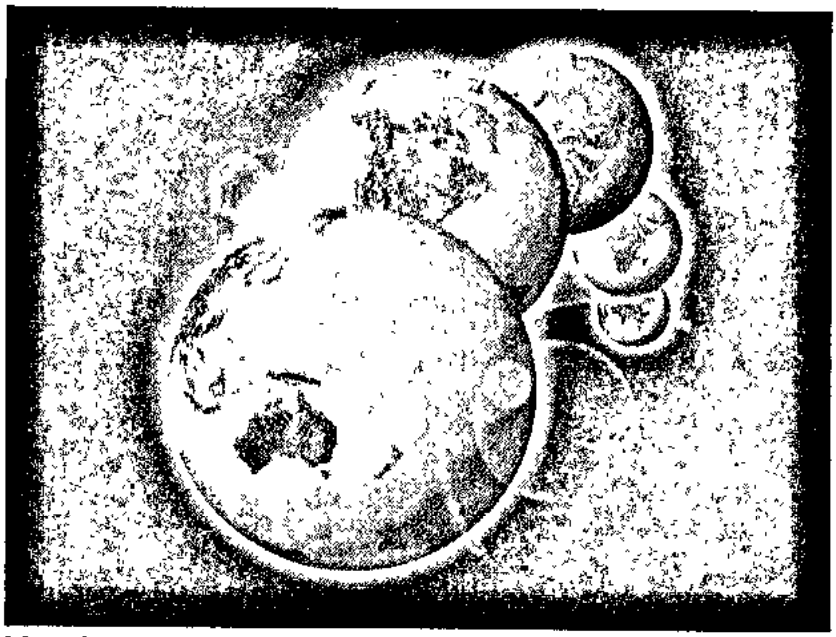
WASHINGTON: Is our universe just one of many? The idea may sound a bit bizarre, but it could be a reality, scientists say.

The possibility that we live in a multiverse arises from a theory called eternal inflation, which posits that shortly after the Big Bang that formed the universe, space-time expanded at different rates in different places, giving rise to bubble universes that may function with their own separate laws of physics.

The idea has seemed purely hypothetical until now. In a new study, published in the journals *Physical Review Letters and Physical Review D*, a team of researchers suggested that if our universe has siblings, we may have bumped into them.

Such collisions, they said, would have left lasting marks in the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation, the diffuse light left over from the Big Bang that pervades the universe, LiveScience reported.

"It brings the idea of eternal inflation and bubble collisions into the realm of testable science," said team member Daniel Mortlock, an astrophysicist at Imperial College London. "If it's not testable, it's hard to even call it science."



The Big Bang may have given rise to bubble universes.

Mortlock and the team looked for the best available CMB observations for signs of bubble universe collisions, but didn't find anything conclusive.

If two universes had collided, it would have left a circular pattern behind in the cosmic microwave background, they said.

"If you imagine two ordinary soap bubbles colliding, then the surface where they intersect is going to be a circle, so that's the key signature we're looking for in the CMB," Mortlock said.

For their study, the researchers developed a computer algorithm to analyse CMB observations for patterns that would fit. In data from Nasa's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP), the programme found four regions in the universe that were flagged as promising.

However, statistical analyses suggested these patterns were likely to be random, resembling the circular shapes of collisions simply by coincidence.

The idea of other universes out there is mind-bending, but scientists say in some ways it actually makes sense.

"It helps explain some of the strange coincidences about our own universe," Mortlock said. "Why is our universe so amenable to life?"

PTI

Deccan Chronicle Hyderabad 14.8.11 P-11

● EAMCET ALLOTMENT TODAY

Colleges strike deals to fill seats

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY

DC | HYDERABAD

Aug. 13: Managements of engineering colleges in the state are more worried than the students regarding the Eamcet engineering counselling "allotment list" that will be announced on Sunday. Their apprehension is understandable as even if every student who opted for counselling gets a seat, about 75,325 seats will go vacant after the list is announced.

Sunday's list will thus decide the fate of hundreds of engineering colleges in the state and the managements are worried that several colleges will have zero or single-digit admissions.

Several colleges are thus coming to an understanding among themselves to shift students from one college to another in case of single digit admissions and seek closure of colleges that are not viable to run. Expecting the worst, about 100 such colleges, mostly those that were established in the last 2-3 years, have already struck deals to transfer students.

tech colleges

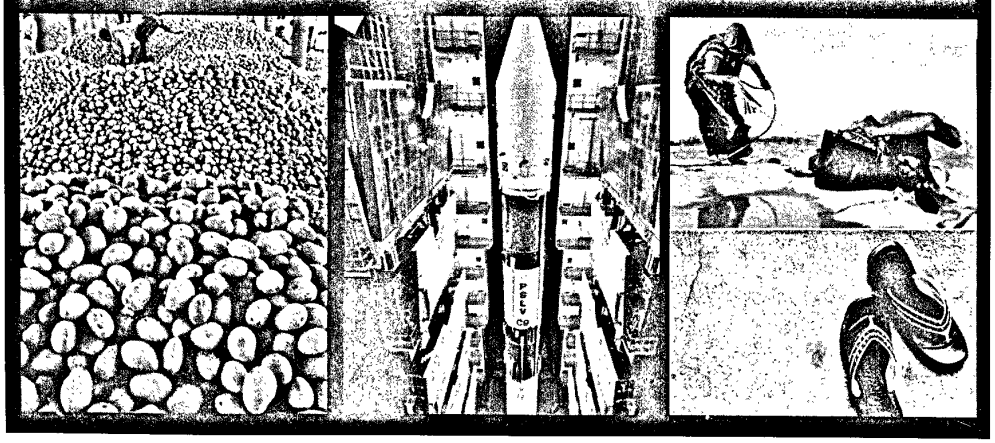
anxiety The list will decide the fate of many engineering colleges. The managements are worried that several colleges will have zero or single-digit admissions.

The managements are also promising a certain amount of compensation to the others to enable transfer of their students. "Instead of a group of 10 colleges suffering on account of zero or single-digit admissions, it's better to transfer students of nine such colleges to a single college which can offer some money to the other colleges. It will be mutually beneficial for all. The rest can go in for closures," said a correspondent of an engineering college.

Pioneer ND 16.08.11 P-13

Ideas with a *desi* beat

RM MASHELKAR and LK SHARMA talk to SHANA MARIA VERGHIS about a book which examines some uniquely Indian science and technology innovations that are being applied for mass use



In 1997, journalist LK Sharma edited the first in a series of coffee-table books about science and technology projects in India, titled, *Innovative India*. He went about it with some anger, remarking that, "Many photo-books about India at the time were all about holy cows and sacred temples." Sharma said, "Despite many developments in S&T, they were seldom recorded in print this way."

Innovative India, was followed by, *India Rises*, which examined the nation's S&T capability. Now there is *The India Idea* (published by Wisdom Tree). It looks at aspects such as, "local innovations, *jugaad*, innovation management and using S&T applications, even minor technology, for local good."

The book has essays on crowdsourcing, agriculture, space and atomic energy by various public figures like Sam Pitroda, who heads the Innovation Council of India, MS Swaminathan, dubbed the 'father of India's Green Revolution', K Kasturirangan, who is currently a Planning Commission member and Anil K Gupta, who founded the Honey Bee Network. Several case studies have also been included, like the successful *dabbawallas*, in Mumbai and Dr Devi Shetty's cardiac care project.

The story about a potter called Mansukhbhai Prajapati who dropped out from school and later created a low-cost refrigerator is in the book. And so is the designing of an innovative fabric from *mal-mal* and *khadi*, called 'malkha,' which provides employment for various communities of weavers.

LK Sharma explained that S&T innovations in the country, have developed from various factors, like, "policy, or a felt need." When Santosh Ostwal had designed a system to operate an irrigation pump from his mobile phone, it was after having watched his 82-year-old grandfather get up at midnight to switch on a water pump in his orange farm, because electricity was not available.

And when Remya, a schoolgirl in Kerala, created a washing machine operated with a foot-peddle, it was to get clothes and homework done efficiently, as she had to be a caregiver to two sick parents.

One Indian pharma company produced the first-of-its-kind Mother-Baby pack of world class retroyirals, to safeguard the transmission of HIV/AIDS from a mother to her child. And a 29-year-old named Ajit Narayanan developed something called AVAZ, to help people with speech disorders. It operates in Indian languages. And like many uniquely Indian innovations, is very affordably priced.

RM Mashelkar, formerly with CSIR, and now based in Pune with the National Chemical Laboratory, contributed an essay about 'inclusive innovation,' or as he puts it, 'getting more from less for more.' The author of *Reinventing India*, Mashelkar explained that, "India has always been innovative."

And, he also said, "Western concepts don't all work here. So we must look at an alternate definition for Indian innovation." He added, "The West tends to look at patents filed and also high-tech exports."

Mashelkar and the late CK Prahlad, who had talked for the need for creating wealth at the 'Bottom of the Pyramid' at the grassroot-level, had co-written an essay for the Harvard Business Review, where they connected India innovation to "scarcity, and aspiration."

Mashelkar, whose next book describes five kinds of innovation, drew the analogy of the Nano, which he said, "could not have been created anywhere else but in India. Here you see a family of four travelling on a scooter owing to the scarcity of resources." He referred also to yet another Indian innovation. ChotuKool, a portable refrigerator. The world's cheapest, at $69.

Others include Tamil Nadu-based Aravind Eye Care. Reports say that it does more surgeries than the Royal College of Opthalmic Surgeons in England. Mashelkar told us, "Theirs is workflow innovation. They took an assembly line approach by increasing productivity of individual surgeons, not costs."

LK Sharma meanwhile remarked how the aspiration model has influenced innovation. Products targetting masses, as the Nano shows, do not have to be crude or badly designed, just to be cheaper. Needless to say, your being below poverty line doesn't mean you lack an innate aesthetic sense. Sharma said, "Production design covers everything. Look at flats. Even the poor were not interested in occupying *janta* flats. Some innovations have been using decorative art on simple products." Distinguishing between, 'inclusive innovation' and *jugaad*, Mashelkar said the latter is about, "getting less for more." And, that "India's advantage lies in its capacity to create low-cost products from high-end technologies. Shanta Biotech for instance, innovated on Hepatitis B vaccine, to reduce costs from $18 to 40 cents" UNICEF apparently gets 40 per cent of vaccine supplies from Shanta Biotech.

As LK Sharma put it, "India is a new leader in drug research now. Not in discovering new molecules, but in devising processes to reduce costs in pharma and generate drugs for global consumption."

RM Mashelkar said there are many more stories about Indian innovation. Some will be discussed in his next book, titled, *More for less for More* (people). He also shared that one of these relates to, "a young man in Chennai who created a desktop textile machine." The *India Idea* also mentions innovators like A Muruganathan, of Coimbatore. He manufactures low-cost sanitary pads costing 10p. And an NGO called A Little World in Mumbai, produces smart cards for the use of villagers.

Even as Indian school kids today get enabled to hold video conferences with peers in UK via Skype, and through satellite, other innovations die by the way, due to reasons like poor distribution systems.

Sometimes another country might pick up a local innovation, and then improvise in their fashion.

Mashelkar has identified various subgroups of innovation techniques, such as product innovation, (used in the case of Chotukool), and business process innovation. An example of the latter, he said is, "when Airtel reduced its call charges substantially, though there was a dearth of technology."

Workflow innovation, also on Mashelkar's list, was referred earlier in the case of Arvind Eye Care. And there is, "generalisational innovation." A case in point being an IAS man in Rajasthan who provided generic (branded) drugs by coordinating with suppliers, stores, etc. Mashelkar said, "India is one of few countries to recycle all its plastics. Where else do you have someone to repair a plastic bucket? That is how we are." Earlier, he concluded, "A Mercedes was manufactured in Europe. When it reached India, it dropped things off to a Nano state. Now the main product is made in India, with its added functions created in places like Europe. We no longer are just a back-end office."

Amar Ujala, ND 17/08/2011 p-6

नोएडा आउटर रिंग रोड को मंजूरी

आईआईटी ने ट्रैफिक के लिए इसे आवश्यक कदम बताया

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

- सेक्टर-14ए और 14 के बीच होगा निर्माण
- 525 करोड़ रुपये का बजट किया जाएगा खर्च

नोएडा। शहर के बीच से निकलने वाली आउटररिंग रोड को आईआईटी दिल्ली ने मंजूरी दे दी है। इसमें बढ़ते यातायात दबाव को कम करने के लिए सेक्टर-14ए और 14 के बीच बनी शाहदरा ड्रेन के ऊपर सेक्टर-95 कालिंदी कुंज तक एलिवेटेड रोड बनेगी।

इस पूरे प्रस्ताव पर प्राधिकरण 525 करोड़ रुपये का बजट खर्च करेगा, इसके लिए नोएडा प्राधिकरण के बोर्ड ने पहले ही हरी झंडी दिखा दी है। इसके तैयार होने के बाद पूर्वी व दक्षिणी दिल्ली के साथ गाजियाबाद और नोएडा से काफी हद तक यातायात सुगम हो जाएगा। नोएडा जल्द ही एक नए आउटर रिंग रोड बनाने की तैयारी में जुट गया है। इसके लिए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-दो से सरिता विहार की तरफ से आकर वाया कालिंदी कुंज होते हुए मयूर विहार और गाजियाबाद जाने वालों को नोएडा में प्रवेश नहीं करना पड़ेगा। यहां से गुजरने वालों के लिए प्राधिकरण की शाहदरा ड्रेन पर एलिवेटेड रोड बनाने की योजना प्रस्तावित है। मई 2011 में हुई 173वीं बोर्ड बैठक से मंजूरी मिलने के बाद इस प्रोजेक्ट को परीक्षण के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली के पास भेजा गया।

दो महीने की लंबी प्रक्रिया के बाद आखिरकार आईआईटी ने इसे मंजूरी देते हुए ट्रैफिक के लिए आवश्यक कदम बताया है। पूरे प्रोजेक्ट पर सवा पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये जारी किए गए हैं।

इसके जरिए कालिंदी कुंज से सीधा एलिवेटेड रोड पर चढ़कर सेक्टर-95, 15ए, 14 और 14ए के साथ-साथ सीधा मयूर विहार निकल सकेंगे। हिंडन नहर पर बनी हुई सड़क से इसे जोड़ा जाएगा। वर्तमान में इस नहर के साथ-साथ चलते हुए मयूर विहार, वसुंधरा एक्सटेंशन, धर्मशिला अस्पताल और एनएच-24 के नीचे से होते हुए गाजियाबाद-इंदिरापुरम आसानी से पहुंचा जा सकता है।

'इसको तैयार करने के लिए दूसरे राज्यों की स्टडी भी हो रही है। साथ ही कई ऐसी कंपनियों से वार्ता जारी है जिन्होंने सफलता पूर्वक इस प्रकार के प्रोजेक्ट को पूरा किया है। इस रिंग रोड के बनने के बाद करीब सवा लाख वाहन सीधे-सीधे लाभान्वित होंगे। दूसरी तरफ शहर के अंदरूनी हिस्सों में होने वाली जाम की दिक्कत को भी दूर किया जा सकेगा, क्योंकि एमपी-तीन और दो के साथ इंदिरापुरम और गाजियाबाद जाने वाले वाहन इसका प्रयोग कर सकेंगे। वहीं, एक हिस्से से हिंडन नहर को भी जोड़ा दिया जाएगा, जिससे वैशाली, वसुंधरा और यूपी गेट जाने वालों को सुविधा मिल सके।'

– यादव सिंह, इंजीनियरिंग इन चीफ, नोएडा

Dainik Jagaran ND 17-Aug-11 P5

शाहदरा एलिवेटेड रोड पर आइआइटी हुआ सहमत

नोएडा, संवाददाता : शाहदरा ड्रेन पर प्रस्तावित एलिवेटेड रोड पर आइआइटी दिल्ली ने सहमति जता दी है। प्राधिकरण ने सहमति मिलने के बाद इस दिशा में काम तेज कर दिया है। यह रोड चिल्ला रेगुलेटर से कालिंदी कुंज के मध्य ड्रेन के ऊपर बनाई जाएगी। प्राधिकरण ने 173वी बोर्ड बैठक में 23 मई, 2011 को इस परियोजना को मंजूरी दी थी।

प्राधिकरण की योजना के मुताबिक, दिल्ली बारापुला की तर्ज पर इस मार्ग का निर्माण किया जाना है। चिल्ला रेगुलेटर से कालिंदी कुंज तक इसकी कुल लंबाई होगी 5.8 किलोमीटर। यह रोड ड्रेन के ऊपर मयूर विहार के करीब सेक्टर 14 व 14ए के बीच से होते हुए फिल्म सिटी के पीछे व सेंट्रल पार्क के बगल से होते हुए कालिंदी कुंज जाएगी। इससे गोल चक्कर से झुंडपुरा तक के उद्योग मार्ग, रजनीगंधा चौराहे से सेक्टर 12-22-56 तिराहे तक (एमपी वन) के मार्ग, फिल्म सिटी तिराहे से सेक्टर 60 चौराहे (एमपी दो) तक के मार्ग और एक्सप्रेस-वे सहित सरिता विहार दिल्ली को सीधा जोड़ने की योजना है। इसका मकसद सेक्टर 14ए स्थित नोएडा प्रवेश द्वार से एक्सप्रेस-वे तक के मार्ग और गोल चक्कर से फिल्म सिटी तक के मार्ग पर वाहनों का दबाव कम करना है। प्राधिकरण के पास इन मार्ग के विस्तार का कोई विकल्प भी नही बचा है। इस एलिवेटेड रोड के जरिए पूर्वी दिल्ली से पश्चिमी दिल्ली की तरफ या एक्सप्रेस-वे होते हुए ग्रेटर नोएडा की तरफ जाने वाले वाहनों को शहर के अंदर नही घुसना पड़ेगा। इससे शहर के मार्गों पर यातायात का दबाव काफी हद तक कम किया जा सकेगा। इंजीनियर इन चीफ यादव सिंह ने बताया कि एलिवेटेड रोड के लिए आइआइटी दिल्ली ने सहमति जता दी है। फिलहाल कई अनुभवी कंपनियों से इसके निर्माण के लिए बात चल रही है। ईओआइ होने के बाद प्राधिकरण इसकी फिजिबिल्टी रिपोर्ट और डीपीआर तैयार करा निविदाएं आमंत्रित करेगा। कालिंदी कुंज पर पक्षी विहार के सामने ड्रेन के ठीक बगल में पहले ही एक क्लोवर लीफ और अंडरपास प्रस्तावित है। एलिवेटेड रोड को भी यही जोड़ने की योजना है।

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शीर्ष वैज्ञानिक संस्था की परीक्षा में धांधली पर निगाह

भाषा सिंह

नई दिल्ली। देश की शीर्ष वैज्ञानिक शोध संस्था-विज्ञान एवं औद्योगिक शोध केंद्र (सीएसआईआर) में मनमाने ढंग से होने वाली परीक्षाओं की प्रणाली तथा उसे कराने का ठेका देने में हुई गड़बड़ियां इस समय जांच के दायरे में हैं। संसद के मौजूदा सत्र में सीएसआईआर पर भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (कैग) की जो रिपोर्ट पेश होने की उम्मीद है, उसमें इस गड़बड़-घोटाले पर सख्त टिप्पणियां होने की आशंका जताई जा रही है। ये मामला 2009 में मनमाने ढंग से नियमों में तब्दीली करके परीक्षा प्रणाली में आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन को लेकर है। इस पूरी गड़बड़ी से जुड़े कागजात नईदुनिया के पास हैं। दरअसल, सीएसआईआर हर चार साल पर सिविल सर्विस की तर्ज पर एक

प्रशासनिक सेवा के लिए परीक्षा कराता है, जिसमें तीन कैडर के अधिकारियों का चयन किया जाता है-वित्तीय, सामान्य एवं प्रशासनिक तथा स्टोर एवं खरीद। 2009 में संयुक्त सचिव ने फैसला किया कि अब से सिर्फ एक ही श्रेणी में परीक्षा होगी और इसे सीएसआईआर के महानिदेशक तथा मंत्रालय के तहत आने वाले विज्ञान एवं औद्योगिक शोध विभाग के सचिव समीर ब्रह्मचारी ने इस रद्दोबदल को मंजूरी दी। अब ये सवाल उठाया जा रहा है कि महानिदेशक को यह मंजूरी देने का यह अधिकार नहीं था। इससे जुड़ा दूसरा मामला है, इन परीक्षाओं को कराने का। इन तीन श्रेणियों

■ कैग की रिपोर्ट में गड़बड़ी की आशंका

को एक में करने के बाद यह तय किया गया कि इन परीक्षाओं को ऑनलाइन कराया जाएगा और बिना कोई टेंडर प्रक्रिया अपनाए यह काम एनआईआईटी को सौंपा गया।

दस्तावेजों से पता चलता है कि एनआईआईटी को इस आधार पर यह काम सौंपा गया कि उसे सीएसआईआर एक अंतर्गत काम करने वाले विभाग ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डेवलप ग्रुप के लिए ऐसा ही परीक्षा बेस तैयार करना है जबकि हकीकत है कि न तो उस समय यानी 2009 में और उसके बाद आज तक एनआईआईटी के बीच कोई समझौता हुआ था। नईदुनिया को पड़ताल के दौरान पता चला कि एनआईआईटी को ऑनलाइन परीक्षा कराने के लिए 1.40 करोड़ रुपए गए जिनका कोई इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ। एनआईआईटी ने जो ऑनलाइन परीक्षा कराई उसमें इतने बड़े पैमाने पर धांधलियां सामने आईं कि शिकायत, केंद्रीय सतर्कता आयोग के पास गई। उसने पूरी परीक्षा ही रद्द कर दी। हालांकि एनआईआईटी को कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ, उसे सारा भुगतान हुआ। नुकसान हुआ इस परीक्षा में बैठने वाले छात्रों का, क्योंकि सारे फैसले इतने अफरा-तफरी में हुए कि जिस परीक्षा में 1.25 लाख छात्र बैठते थे, उसमें सिर्फ 23 हजार बैठ पाए। उस समय भी सीएसआईआर के वित्त विभाग ने इस मनमाने फैसले पर यह आपत्ति जताई थी कि इसमें संस्था के हितों की रक्षा के लिए कोई बात नहीं रखी गई, सब कुछ निजी कंपनी के पक्ष को ध्यान में रख कर तैयार किया गया है।