Newspaper Clips
August 19, 2014

Hindustan Times, ND 19/08/2014 P-8

Soon, IIT-KGP to boast of a centre for promotion of human values

Vanita Srivastava
vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In a first, IIT Kharagpur, the oldest among all IITs, will have a centre exclusively for promotion of human values through meditation, yoga, lectures on spiritualism and character building, its director announced on Monday.

The nearly ₹15 crore project will be funded by its alumni and the government. Vijay Kumar, an alumnus, has already given ₹1 crore for this project.

To be named after Swami Vivekanand, the centre will aim to combine modern education with development of the personality. "Vivekananda is the ideal of the youth. Hence the centre is being named after him to honour him and inculcate his teachings among the youth. There is a need for leadership and human excellence in addition to regular academic curricula," PP Chakrabarti, director, IIT Kharagpur, said.

Siddhartha Mukhopadhyaya, dean, alumni affairs, told HT: "Swami Vivekanand had proposed the right mix of modern education drawn from the best western ideals with the goal of total development of human personality as envisioned by eastern sages."

The centre, Mukhopadhyaya said, would be a sanctuary for the soul." It will be located in the middle of a lake with a pristine environment. We hope to start construction in a few months and the centre may be complete by the end of next year."

Times of India, ND 19/08/2014 P-16

Indian-origin student finds, measures black hole

Subodh.Varma@timesgroup.com

An Indian-origin graduate student has discovered and measured one of the most elusive and mysterious objects in the Universe — a middling-sized black hole.

University of Maryland astronomy graduate student Dheeraj Pasham and two colleagues made the measurements of the rare black hole which they found hiding in the well-known galaxy M82, some 12 million light years away from earth. Their findings were published online on August 17 in the journal 'Nature'. The reason why this discovery and the measurement are considered significant is that these intermediate-mass black holes are hard to measure, even their existence is sometimes disputed. Little is known about how they form, a Maryland varsity statement said. Some astronomers question whether they behave like other black holes.


EPA
RARE FEAT

The universe has countless black holes and just our galaxy, the Milky Way, may have up to 100 million of them, it is thought. Nearly all black holes fall into one of two classes: big, and colossal. The 'big' ones have from about 10 times to 100 times the mass of our sun.

They are the remnants of dying stars. The supermassive black holes have more than a million times the mass of the sun. These giants inhabit the centres of most galaxies. But scattered across the universe are a few apparent black holes of the more mysterious type.

Ranging from a hundred times to a few hundred thousand times the sun's mass, these intermediate-mass black holes are mysterious because they are difficult to pinpoint. "Objects in this range are the least expected of all black holes," Richard Mushotzky, an UMD astronomy professor and a co-author said. "Astronomers have been asking — do these objects exist or do they not exist? What are their properties? Until now we have not had the data to answer these questions." While the intermediate-mass black hole that the team studied is not the first one measured, it is the first one so precisely measured, Mushotzky says, "establishing it as a compelling example of this class of black holes."

Pasham, who will begin a post-doctoral research position at Nasa Goddard in late August, has identified six potential intermediate-mass black holes that Nasa's to-be launched X-ray telescope NICER might explore.

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

Times of India, ND 19/08/2014
P-13

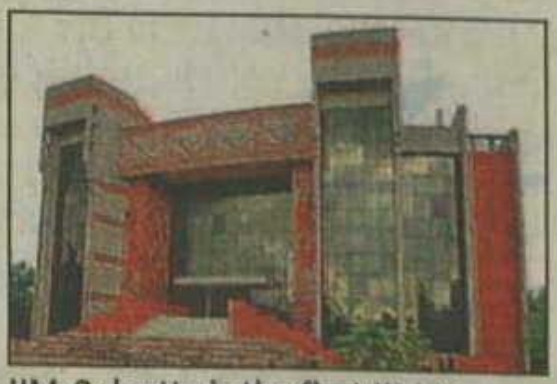
IIM-C first to enter elite B-schools club

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta is now in the elite list of 716 B-schools globally as Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) announced new members of this exclusive club.

With this, IIM-Calcutta becomes the first IIM to receive this accreditation, which is considered to be the gold standard by B-schools with less than 5% of the global business programmes being accredited by it. IIM-Calcutta is only the third Indian B-school to be accredited by AACSB — two other are Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and T A Pai Management Institute, Karnataka.

In all there are 716 B-schools across 48 countries which have received AACSB accreditation.



IIM-Calcutta is the first IIM to be accredited by the UK agency Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

Terming this as a big opportunity, Saibal Chattopadhyay, director, IIM-Calcutta said: "We have been waiting for this for a long time. To be assessed globally and then be a part of the exclusive club of 716 B-schools is a great opportunity. Therefore this is a major breakthrough for us."

IIM-Calcutta underwent five years of assessment by AACSB and must go through a peer review process every five years in order to retain its accreditation.

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

IIM Calcutta becomes country's first IIM to receive AACSB accreditation

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iim-calcutta-becomes-countrys-first-iim-to-receive-aacsb-accreditation/articleshow/40369207.cms

MUMBAI: Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C) has become the first IIM in the country to receive accreditation from AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) International. With this, India's oldest IIM joins an elite group of global institutes that have received this accreditation - considered the gold standard in business education - and earned by less than 5% of the world's business programmes

Only two Indian B-schools - ISB and TAPMI - already have this accreditation.

In March, IIM Calcutta also bagged a global accreditation status by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) for its PGPEX (MBA) and PGP (MBM) programmes for five years. Now it becomes the only B-school in India with both the AACSB and AMBA accreditations.

"This accreditation is a big step in our journey towards internationalisation," Saibal Chattopadhyay, director, IIM Calcutta told ET. Benchmarking IIM-C against the best in the world will not only further the institute's global ambitions but also help it tie up with better-known international counterparts for offering new/dual programmes, carrying out student and faculty exchanges and promote better research. "All this will be possible on a much larger scale than what we are doing now," said Chattopadhyay.

Achieving accreditation by AACSB is a process of rigorous internal review, evaluation, and improvement, and can take multiple years to complete. "AACSB evaluated us according to 19 parameters including the quality of faculty, research, student quality, infrastructure, financial stability, and assurance of learning. Above all, they judge whether the work we are doing is aligned to our overall mission and vision statement," said Chattopadhyay.

All accredited schools must go through a peer review process every five years in order to retain their accreditation.

Founded in 1916, AACSB International (AACSB) is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctorate degrees in business and accounting. Today, there are 716 business schools in 48 countries and territories that maintain AACSB accreditation. Similarly, 181 institutions maintain an additional specialised AACSB Accreditation for their accounting programs.

"It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB Accreditation, and I commend Indian Institute of Management Calcutta for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in the community," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International in a release. "Through accreditation, IIM Calcutta has not only met specific standards of excellence, but has also made a commitment to ongoing improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver high quality education to its students."

IIT-Kanpur alumni motivate students to join civil services

TNN | Aug 18, 2014, 10.49AM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIT-Kanpur-alumni-motivate-students-to-join-civil-services/articleshow/40356558.cms

KANPUR: The first session of the event 'Tips from the Top' — a unique career awareness session, was held under the Project Saraswati at IIT-Kanpur on Sunday. The alumni contact programme of the institute was headed by Prof Prabhat Munshi, dean, resources and alumni.

Alumni of IIT Kanpur were invited at the event to deliver talk about their profession and solve the queries of students.

The theme of the talk on Sunday was career in civil services. Top notch alumni of IIT-K from civil services were present at the event. Around 600 students attended the session. The speakers addressed the students and also had a panel discussion with them.

Sudhir Vyas, ambassador of India in Germany and a President's gold medallist from IIT Kanpur's electrical engineering department, 1975 batch, was one of the key speakers. He motivated the students to join civil services and said that in the past several years, there has been a rise in the number of students joining civil services.

Rupak Kumar Dutta, 1979 batch (chemical department), an IPS officer of 1981 batch (Karnataka cadre) and additional director in Central Bureau of Investigation, New Delhi, also addressed the students. Before joining CBI, he served as director general of police, CID, special units and economic offences in Karnataka. He answered queries of students and spoke about the challenges of his job.

Gaurav Kanaujia, director, Central Board Of Direct Taxes, department of revenue ex joint commissioner of Income Tax at Kolkata of 1995 batch (Mechanical department) and Sunil Kumar, district magistrate and deputy commissioner, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, of 1993 batch (Computer Science department) also talked about their career.

IIT-Kharagpur setting up digital 'Hall of Fame'

Kharagpur (West Bengal), Aug 18 (IANS): A sophisticated digitalised 'Hall of Fame' will be set up by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp) at a cost of Rs.10 crore to document the evolution of the IIT system and record contributions of everyone associated with it.

In addition, a leadership development centre - the Vivekananda Centre for Human Excellence, Thought Leadership and Holistic Development - will also come up inside the IIT-Kgp campus at an investment of Rs.15 crore.

Both the ventures will take two to three years to complete.

"We are going to set up a 'Hall of Fame' to document the IIT system. We will remember every one who contributed to this system. We will harness the best of the digital technology to document every person we can remember who built IIT," Parth Pratim Chakrabarti, director of IIT-Kgp said during the institute's 63rd Foundation Day.

Conceptualised by IIT alumnus Tapan P. Bagchi, the unique archive has received an initial seed funding of Rs.1

crore (from Bagchi and another former student Vijay Kumar).

Kumar has granted Rs.1 crore for the leadership development hub.

"The centre will boost all-round growth of the students. There will be stress on meditation and spiritual growth too," Chakrabarti said.

Virbhadra announces IIM in Sirmaur dist

TNN | Aug 18, 2014, 06.26AM IST

SHIMLA: Putting all speculations to rest, chief minister Virbhadra Singh has announced to set up Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaulakuan in Nahan constituency of Sirmaur district. There were demands to set up IIM in Shimla, BIlaspur and Kullu districts but since beginning, Virbhadra Singh favoured Sirmaur district, one of the backward districts of the state.

A Matter of Degree: Wedding Website for IIT and IIM Graduates

http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2014/08/18/a-matter-of-degree-wedding-website-for-iit-and-iim-graduates/

Helping people find the right bride or groom is big business in India where most marriages are arranged.

Parents and relatives weigh a list of criteria from religion and caste to skin tone and height in looking for an acceptable spouse for Indians reaching marriage age. And that has spawned a horde of online matchmaking businesses that promise to make the search easier.

Now a new website, iitiimshaadi.com, says it can help people seeking partners with a degree from an appropriate alma mater.

The site takes its name from two of the country's biggest brand names in higher education, the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Management. Shaadi means marriage in Hindi.

Membership isn't limited to graduates of those two institutions, and the site sets a higher bar for educational attainment by men than women.

The site restricts male membership to "alumni of Indian and international premier institutions" in fields like engineering, medicine and law. Women are required to have a degree from school with a "country-wide" reputation.

The site has lower entry requirements for women to give "a larger pool of choice to the men," said the site's founder Ajay Gupta. "It is not a chauvinistic discrimination, but some highly-educated men, in terms of practicality, like women who also consider taking care of the home a task as good as a job."

Mr. Gupta says he came up with the idea for the site after struggling to find brides for his nephews, who are business-school graduates. His search on matrimonial websites kept turning up profiles that fell short of the family's expectations.

"They were looking for intellectual compatibility, but at the same time wanted women who would understand their hectic lives and dedicate more time to the house—while doing some part-time work," Mr. Gupta said. "Someone with a half-day job would have also worked."

That combination can be hard to find in modern India, Mr. Gupta said. "One of the nephews has settled with someone with a similar intellectual wave length and an equally demanding job," Mr. Gupta said.

Priya Florence Shah, who runs an online magazine called Naaree.com that offers business and career advice to women, says men shouldn't be dismissive of ambitious professional women. "Career-oriented wives are more understanding of their husband's work issues," she said.

In an ideal world, Ms. Florence Shah said, men should share the load of staying home, taking care of kids or working part-time instead of the onus falling only on women. "If someone wants to choose a woman who is going to take care of the kids, it's their personal choice. But for me, women like me, we are hoping for a more equal world."

Since the launch of iitiimshaadi.com in April, more than 500 people have applied for listing, but only 70 have been accepted. The others were rejected since the site only lists profiles for people who provide proof of education.

That pales in comparison to mega marriage websites like shaadi.com, which has over 20 million members.

But smaller might be better for Indians in the market for a spouse with a particular academic background. The narrower focus on education is better, "unlike the general focus on castes and religion on the other matrimonial websites like shaadi.com," said Prachi Tiwary, a graduate of the Institute of Management Technology in Nagpur.

India's top business schools are big marriage markets, where men and women often shop for future spouses, said Ms. Tiwary, who married one of her classmates. But men can have a hard time finding spouses on IIT and IIM campuses, where men outnumber women, she said. They might be earning a degree that has employers chomping at the bit to nab them, but they "have to look harder for girls," Ms. Tiwary said.

Mr. Gupta is not the only person trying to connect people who want well-educated spouses. Another site, premiummatrimony.in, was set up in January by three IIM Bangalore graduates. The website says they were inspired by "the fact that many of our friends from IITs and IIMs face the difficulty of finding the right partner."

While enrolment at iitiimshaadi remains small, Mr. Gupta is already beginning to see returns. He said his family has found a potential match for one of

UGC directs Varsities to make campuses PwD-friendly

— By FPJ Bureau, August 18, 2014 12:04 am

http://freepressjournal.in/ugc-directs-varsities-to-make-campuses-pwd-friendly/

In a significant move that aims at providing equal opportunities and approachable environment to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) enrolled in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), University Grants Commission (UGC) directs varsities funded by it, to ensure that campuses are equipped with PwD-friendly physical amenities like ramps, rails, lifts, special toilets, brail signages, auditory signals, tactile flooring etc and information and

communication technologies, as envisaged in the PwD Act, 1995 and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). HEIs are requested to utilize the development assistance provided for the purpose and report compliance to the directive within three months.

Rights of PwDs on the campuses of HEIs has been central to Commission's agenda of maintenance of standards of higher education and it is borne out by UGC's earlier communications to varsities. The present directive assumes huge significance in the light of Supreme Court judgement, dated 26.03.2014, in WP (Civil) No. 116 of 1998 – Justice Sunanda Bhandare Foundation V/s Union of India &Anr, which regretted the partial implementation of the provisions PwD Act, 1995 even after 18 years since its inception, and directed the Central and State Governments and Union Teritories to implement the provisions of the Act by the end of 2014.

Mars Mission: Isro gears up to lower spacecraft speed

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

As D-day approaches for Mangalyaan's entry to Mars, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is gearing up for its next big challenge — lowering the velocity of the spacecraft.

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) is slated to enter the planet's atmosphere on September 24 at 7:15 am.

"Mangalyaan has to travel only 88 million km more in its heliocentric trajectory to reach Mars. It now takes 20 minutes for radio signals to reach MOM and return," said the Facebook page of Isro's Mars Orbiter Mission.

The next great challenge is to reduce the velocity of the spacecraft to 1.6 km/sec by firing the LAM engine. The engine has been lying idle for the past 300 days and to restart it will be a great challenge. "The firing has to be done very precisely. When we reduce the spacecraft's velocity, it should be close enough to Mars for it to be captured by the planet's gravity," an official spokesperson said.

Economic Times ND 19/08/2014 P-10

Higher Education Needs to Move up Several Notches in Scale and Quality

Research in universities needs more funds; government must offer scholarships for admission

BIJENDRA N JAIN

This summer, a large number of students have applied for admission to our country's foremost universities. As usual, a significant fraction will end up being denied admission by an institution of their choice, not because they are not intelligent or did not work hard enough, but simply because the supply of high-quality university seats in our country is small. For every student who wants to study at an Indian Institute of Technology, there are over 50 applicants. Cut-offs at the most desirable courses in University of Delhi's elite colleges are well into the nineties.

In India, over two-and-a-half-crore students are enrolled in over 700 universities, 30,000 colleges and 12,000 polytechnics, constituting a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of just over 18% compared with the global average of 27%. Historically, our public universities and institutes were leaders in the higher education sector. But these institutions have been stretched thin because of growing demands, paucity of resources, faculty shortages, among other challenges.

As the country dreams of double-digit economic growth, we clearly need to increase the GER to 30% by 2030, and grow the enrolment in universities to more than 5 crore students. This is no trivial task. If it costs Rs 5 lakh to create capacity for a single seat in a higher educational institution, the investment required for the anticipated growth will be over Rs 12 lakh crore, and another Rs 10 lakh crore to upgrade existing universities and colleges. So the central question is: how should we create high quality institutions of higher education in India at a scale that satisfies both the aspirations as well as meets the needs of the economy.

Independent, privately-funded universities and colleges are an important part of the answer to this question. Already, such institutions play an important role, since 64% of institutes of higher education in India are not publicly funded, yet enrol 59% of the student population.

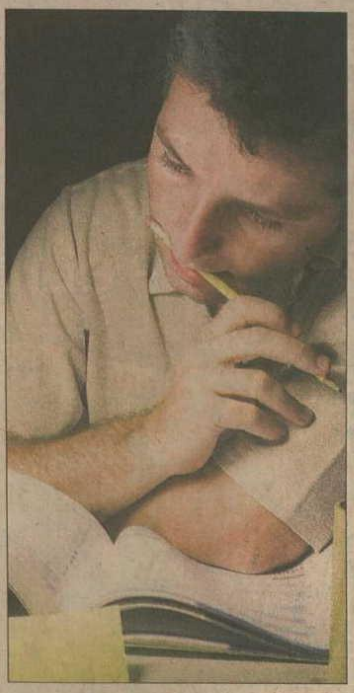
Going forward, large-scale participation by the private sector in higher education can become significant if only the government proactively encourages, facilitates and incentivises independent initiatives.

The research output of most private universities is poor because of the expense associated with establishing, maintaining, upgrading laboratories

Some of the required steps are: Clear procedures for land acquisition and for MoEF clearances, which will hasten the time required for establishing a new university; a proactive stance from central regulators such as UGC and AICTE, which will allow the development of innovative programmes and novel techniques of instruction.

However, two major steps will empower private universities to increase capacity, while boosting quality so that they will hopefully count among the best in the world.

The first is to boost funding of research in universities to significantly improve the quality of education. The research output of most private universities is poor because of the enormous expense associated with establishing, maintaining and upgrading laboratories that support post-graduate education and research. Investment in these facilities is very difficult to recover, especially since students in Masters and PhD programmes rarely pay tuition fees and often expect stipends. While the central government has funds to create, expand or rebuild research laboratories, such schemes have limited funds to disburse, or simply discriminate against private universities by insisting that the university arrange for 50% of the required funds.



Large-scale participation by the private sector in higher education can become significant if only the government proactively encourages, facilitates and incentivises independent initiatives

Top private universities in the US such as Johns Hopkins University, MIT and Carnegie Mellon University became research powerhouses by accessing public funds disbursed by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, for instance. By alleviating such policies, and offering equal access to public funds for research, the government will significantly boost the quality of cutting-edge education and innovation at independent private universities.

The second proposal is for the government, both central and state, to offer a large number of scholarships that students can take to any public or private university. At many private universities, philanthropy supports the creation of new facilities and other one-time expenditures, but rarely pays for recurring expenditures. Tuition fees from students sustain year-on-year operations. In contrast, government institutions charge low fees because they receive annual maintenance grants from the public exchequer. This seriously disrupts the level-playing field between public and private institutions.

Instead of directly supporting public universities, the government might consider financing students who study there with scholarships. Students can choose the college that best fits their needs and interests, regardless of whether it is private or public. Of course, the move might simultaneously motivate public colleges to compete for stronger students, but that will only help to improve the entire higher education system.

(The author is vice chancellor, BITS Pilani)

Hindustan Times, ND 19/08/2014 P-7

KMC students' Mars rover competes in NASA contest

Mallica Joshi
mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Students of Delhi University's Kirori Mal College have built a remote-operated Mars rover.

A team of six students went to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, US, in May this year to participate in an international competition to build and present their robots.

The team secured the 13th position out of the 31 teams. Four other teams from India were part of the competition.

The students, who are studying BSc Physics at KMC, are part of the Robophysicists society in college.

They started building the rover in February and took nearly a month to come out with the final model — MR 03 — the college's third rover so far. From then on, it was all about perfecting and testing their rover and making it competition ready for May.

THEY STARTED BUILDING THE ROVER IN FEBRUARY AND TOOK NEARLY A MONTH TO COME OUT WITH THE FINAL MODEL

Out of the 20 undergraduate students in the society, six went to Utah for the competition.

"We were supposed to manoeuvre the rover inside a radius of half a metre. There were several other tasks, such as making the rover pick up things. We had built a robotic arm and MR-03 did well," said Nikita Lohani, a part of the six-member team that went to Utah who is in the second year of college.

One of the areas in which they were marked was terrain travel. This was done in the Utah desert. It was also marked on servicing of equipment and wireless operation.

The students were then supposed to prepare a presentation on the basis of the performance of the rover, which was adjudged by NASA engineers.

"The experience was wonderful. We were able to meet engineers who have so much experience in this field. Being in the control station was absolutely mesmerising for us, especially since we are just undergraduate students," Lohani added. Members of the society were also part of the Revolutionary Aerospace System Concepts and Academic Linkages competition and were the only international team to be selected for it. A team of two girls, in the third year of college, presented a paper on 'Enabling long duration missions through holistic habitat design' at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA. The teams were accompanied by their teacher, Sumitra Mohanty. Students from KMC were also placed second in NASA's Lunabotics competition in 2013.

Times of India, ND 19/08/2014 P-15

Here's a drug that cures baldness in 5 months

New York: In a breakthrough, scientists may have discovered a cure for a form of baldness after they found a drug which restored the hair of three patients within five months. Researchers at Columbia University Medical Centre (CUMC) identified the immune cells responsible for destroying hair follicles in people with alopecia areata, a common autoimmune disease that causes hair loss.

They report initial results from an ongoing clinical trial of an FDA-approved drug, which has produced complete hair regrowth in several patients with moderate-to-severe alopecia areata. Three of the participants experienced total hair regrowth within five months of the start of treatment.

"We've only begun testing the drug in patients...it (the drug) will have a dramatic positive impact on the lives of people with this disease," said Raphael Clynes, who led the research, along with Angela M Christiano, professor in the departments of dermatology and genetics and development at CUMC. Alopecia areata is a common autoimmune disease that causes hair loss. The disease can occur at any age and affects men and women. Hair loss in alopecia areata occurs when cells from the immune system surround and attack the base of the hair follicle, causing hair loss.

HAIR-RAISING DISCOVERY

In the current research, the team first studied the disease in mice, and identifed specific set of T cells responsible for attacking the hair follicles. Further investigation revealed how the T cells are instructed to attack and identified several key immune pathways that could be targeted by a new class of drugs, known as JAK inhibitors.

Two JAK inhibitors tested separately by the researchers – ruxolitinib and tofacitinib – were able to block these immune pathways and stop the attack on the hair follicles. In mice with extensive hair loss from the disease, both drugs completely restored the animals' hair within 12 weeks. Each drug's effect was long-lasting. The researchers rapidly initiated a small open-label clinical trial of ruxolitinib – which is FDA approved for the treatment of a blood disorder – in patients with moderate-to-severe alopecia areata. PTI

Deccan Herald, ND
19/08/2014 P-13

Brain changes key to learning math in kids

NEW YORK: Do you panic when you have to solve math problems? Blame your brain!

A precisely orchestrated group of brain changes, many involving the memory centre known as the hippocampus, play a crucial role in helping kids learn math, researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have found.

"We wanted to understand how children acquire new knowledge, and determine why some children learn to retrieve facts from memory better than others," said Vinod Menon, senior author of the study.

Children use certain brain regions, including the hippocampus and the prefrontal cortex, very differently from adults when the two groups are solving the same types of math problems, according to the study by Stanford University School of Medicine researchers.

"It was surprising to us that the hippocampal and prefrontal contributions to memory-based problem-solving during childhood don't look anything like what we would have expected for the adult brain," said postdoctoral scholar Shaozheng Qin, the research paper's lead author.

In the study, 28 children solved simple math problems while receiving two functional magnetic resonance imaging brain scans; the scans were done about 1.2 years apart.

The researchers also scanned 20 adolescents and 20 adults at a single time point. At the start of the study, the children were aged 7-9.

During the study, as the children aged from an average of 8.2 to 9.4 years, they became faster and more accurate at solving math problems, and relied more on retrieving math facts from memory and less on counting. As these shifts in strategy took place, the researchers saw several changes in the children's brains. The hippocampus, a region with many roles in shaping new memories, was activated more in children's brains after one year.

Regions involved in counting, including parts of the prefrontal and parietal cortex, were activated less. The research was published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

PTI