Newspaper Clips
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Microbiologist Girish Sahni appointed new CSIR chief

http://zeenews.india.com/news/science/microbiologist-girish-sahni-appointed-new-csir-chief_1653556.html

New Delhi: Girish Sahni, a microbiologist and former director of CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology in Chandigarh, has been appointed as the new director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

He will also act as the secretary of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) under science and technology ministry.

He assumed charge of the CSIR and the DSIR on August 24.

Dr Sahni, who was born on March 2, 1956, has a PhD from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and has specialisation in Protein Engineering, Molecular Biology, and Biotechnology.

He has contributed to the production technology for India's first indigenous clot bluster drug, natural streptokinase and recombinant streptokinase.

In 1991, Dr Sahni joined CSIR-IMTECH and became its director in 2005.

He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, and the Association of Microbiologists of India.

ALMOST THERE - IIT-M develops drug for rare genetic disorder

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/ALMOST-THERE-IIT-M-develops-drug-for-rare-genetic-disorder/articleshow/48690806.cms

Only 11 Of 19 Children In India Diagnosed With Cystinosis Are Alive Researchers in IIT Madras have developed a life-saving drug that can keep children suffering from a rare genetic disorder alive. There are only 11 children in the country who suffer from the condition called cystinosis. The drug, if made and marketed in the country , will bring relief to the parents of these children who at present import them from Europe at a huge price as it is not approved in India.

Children with cystinosis suffer from growth retardation, kidney failure, bone deformities like rickets and blindness. In India, only 19 children have so far been diagnosed with the disorder, and nine of them are no more.

Cystinosis Foundation, India has collaborated with IIT-M to make the drug Cysteamine Bitartrate to treat the disorder, which is now in the final stages of development. Professor in the Chemistry department S Sankaraman said they are now in the process of purifying the compound. "We began developing the drug a year back.It will be ready in another one or two months' time," he said. The drug is now being manufactured by Orphan Europe, a firm headquartered in Paris. Parents in India import the drug once in every three months from there.

Nephrologist Dr Rajan Ravichandran said the drug removes the amino acid cysteine that accumulates in cells. The

patients have to be given the drug once every six hours. Though it is not a cure, it can contain the disorder. However, the drug is very expensive. "For a three-month course, it costs about `2 lakh. There is also the customs duty , which is 10% to 15%," he said.

According to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, an individual can import lifesaving drugs in small quantities upon obtaining a permit from the Drugs Controller General. "Every time we have to obtain permission. It is a very tedious procedure to import these drugs," said Sujatha Sivarasu, mother of two boys who were diagnosed with the disorder.

Dr Ravichandran said pharmaceutical companies do not manufacture or market the drug in India as it has no commercial value since there are only 11 known consumers. Further, to get the controller's approval to commercialise the drug in India, extensive clinical trials are needed . "But we cannot have a trial as we need large sample size," the Dr Ravichandran said."Fortunately , the Madras high court has given a direction asking the controller to approve the drug without clinical trials as it is a life-saving drug. Also, the patent for the drug made in Europe has expired as it is more than 25 years old," he said.

A pharmaceutical company has volunteered to make and market the drug. "We have to scale it up and formulate it into a capsule or tablet. It would be made available at a nominal price," Dr Ravichandran said.

Smriti Irani to attend IIT Bhubaneswar convocation on September 12

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Smriti-Irani-to-attend-IIT-Bhubaneswar-convocation-on-September-12/articleshow/48682294.cms

BHUBANESWAR: Human resource development minister Smriti Irani will attend the fourth convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar scheduled on September 12, institute's director R V Rajakumar said on Wednesday.

Rajakumar said the convocation will be held for the first-time time on its permanent campus located at Argul village on the outskirt of Bhubaneswar. The campus is only partially functional since July: While classes are currently being held at six different locations, only hostel facilities of the students have started on the 950-acre permanent campus.

Apart from the students' accommodation, the institute has made functional a guest house, a mini shopping complex, playground and staff quarters. The institute is eyeing to start classes on the Argul campus within the next six months to a year.

This year, 215 students would receive degrees. They include 109 B.Tech, 44 M.Tech, 12 PhD and 50 MSc, the director said.

IITBBBS had earlier contacted former president APJ Abdul Kalam for the event. But his untimely demise shattered its plan.

IITBBS had started functioning from IIT Kharagpur premises for academic year 2008-2009 and shifted to Bhubaneswar in 2009. When construction work started in November 2011, the institute had a December 2013 deadline to complete first phase work creating facility for 2500 students, 250 faculty members and 275 support staff.

Master plan of the campus has been designed to accommodate 10,000 students, 1,000 faculty, 1,100 non-teaching employees besides 1000 out sourced support staff. The Union government had approved construction of 2, 21,000 square meters of covered area (63000 square meters for academic complex and 1, 58,000 square meters for residential complex) in the first phase for which it has released Rs 450 crore. The institute currently has over 900 students and over 100 faculty members.

Team of experts to inspect land for IIT

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/team-of-experts-to-inspect-land-for-iit/article7585365.ece

A high-level team of experts and officials will inspect the land identified for establishing the proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the buildings where temporary campus of the premier institute can be set up, on Thursday.

This is the first visit by the team after Mysuru was short-listed with two other cities — Raichur and Dharwad — for the IIT.

The team includes R. Subramanya, Additional Secretary (technical education), Ministry of Human Resource Development; IIT Bombay Director Devang Khakhar; IIT Gandhinagar Director Sudhir Jain and Ravikanth Soni, Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Bengaluru.

Deputy Commissioner C. Shikha, who will be making a presentation to the team and also accompany them, told *The Hindu* that the team will arrive on Wednesday evening.

“The presentation will be made before the spot inspection,” she said.

The land proposed for setting up the IIT is near the Tandya industrial area in Adakanahalli and Tandavapura which is spread over 108 survey numbers, covering an area of 499 acres and 13 guntas.

The buildings of the government silk farm, spread over 43 acres and which temporarily housed the College of Horticulture, at Tandavapura had been identified for setting up temporary campus for IIT.

Mysuru MP Pratap Simha said that the land was ideally located since it was closer to the railway and highway network and the Mysuru airport at Mandakalli is 6.5 km away.

The Bengaluru International Airport is around 150 km from the spot.

The Pioneer ND 27/08/2015 P-14

Road to innovation

M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Urban Development, inaugurated IIT Roorkee-NBCC Research & Development Centre on Sustainable Civil Infrastructure at IIT Roorkee's Greater Noida Extension Centre (GNEC). The function was also attended by Anoop Kumar Mittal, CMD, NBCC and Pradipta Banerjee, Director, IIT Roorkee, among others. Congratulating the initiative of NBCC and IIT Roorkee, the Minister stressed upon the need for Research & Development in today's environment and said that the innovation through constant research can only bring in faster infrastructure development of the nation. On the occasion, the Minister also assured both NBCC and IIT Roorkee of the Government's all possible support in the venture. He mentioned that the research and innovation shall provide the necessary impetus to the present Government's resolve to achieve the goal of housing for all by 2022 and creating 100 Smart Cities as these ventures would require adoption of new construction techniques, improved building materials, upgraded skills for smoother and faster implementation.

In his welcome address, Anoop Kumar Mittal, CMD, NBCC, briefly outlined the objectives behind setting up this ambitious project and stated that the Centre would be extensively carrying out research, training, workshops and would look for constant innovation in construction technology and adoption of green/smart features in construction. This Joint Research & Development Centre shall have initial validity of five years where NBCC would sponsor research project worth ₹5 crore to IIT Roorkee. It may be mentioned that NBCC has already sponsored three projects namely (i) Recycled Demolition Waste (ii) Agriculture Waste based Accelerator (iii) Modular Construction Alternative for New Lecture Hall Complex at IIT Roorkee, for implementation.

Hindustan ND 27/08/2015 P-01

आईआईटी का भी मेडिकल कॉलेज

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

विश्वविद्यालयों, आईआईटी, इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के लिए अब मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलने की राह आसान हो गई है। केंद्र ने मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलने के लिए अपना अस्पताल होने की अनिवार्यता खत्म करने का फैसला किया है। अब संस्थान किसी भी अस्पताल से एमओयू कर मेडिकल कॉलेज चला सकते हैं।

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, आईआईटी खड़गपुर को इस फैसले का सबसे पहले फायदा मिल सकता है। वह कोलकाता के एक अस्पताल के साथ मिलकर मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलना चाहता है। आईआईटी का आवेदन एमसीआई में अभी लंबित है।

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, एमसीआई के प्रस्ताव को हरी झंडी दिखा दी गई है। इसके तहत सरकारी संस्थान सरकारी अस्पताल के साथ और निजी संस्थान निजी अस्पताल के साथ एमओयू साइन कर मेडिकल कॉलेज खोल सकते हैं। एमओयू आदि को लेकर एमसीआई भी जल्द ही एक व्यापक नियमावली जारी करेगी।

अपना अस्पताल होने की बाध्यता खत्म

...पर यह जरूरी

- मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलने के लिए कम से कम 300 बिस्तरों का अस्पताल होना चाहिए
- अस्पताल अच्छा चल रहा हो साथ ही 80% बेडों पर मरीजों की भर्ती अनिवार्य रहनी चाहिए

सरकार का भी फायदा

सरकारी एजेंसियों के लिए अपने सरकारी अस्पतालों के मौजूदा ढांचे का इस्तेमाल कर मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलना सरल हो जाएगा

409 मेडिकल कॉलेज ही हैं देश में जबकि इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज 3500 से ज्यादा

The Pioneer ND 27/08/2015 P-05

Govt says it could recognise Australian pathway courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to students enrolled in Australian universities through the pathway courses, India has said it could consider recognising such programmes if the duration spent pursuing such courses are reflected in the main degree awarded by varsities there.

The proposal was discussed by HRD Minister Smriti Irani with her Australian counterpart Christopher Pyne during a bilateral meet on the issue early this week. "The HRD Minister offered to consider recognition for such programmes if the Australian university agreed to reflect it in the transcript of the main degree," officials said.

The Minister said as Indian laws for recognition of degrees were based on duration of the programme, inclusion of the transcript of pathways institution on the main degree awarded by the university will help solve the problems for a number of Indian students.

During the bilateral meeting, Pyne said Australia has agreed to include Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the BRIDGE programme run by Australian Schools in collaboration with Indian Schools. The Australia India Building Regional Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE) school partnerships project, currently confined to private schools, will connect Australian and Indian schools and focus on building teacher capability across key learning areas, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communication technologies, intercultural understanding, values and inclusive education.

Significantly, when the Australian Education Minister raised the issue of recognition of degrees, Irani said the AIU under the HRD Ministry has

recognised qualifications earned by completing part of the course in Australia and part in India.

Moreover, the degrees awarded by an Australian institution in a third country will be recognised provided that the university is recognised under the Australian education system.

Pathways (similar to a bridge course) are diploma institutes where students pursue a diploma course for a year or more to improve their language skills and knowledge.

Currently, 48,500 students are enrolled in various Australian universities and the figure is increasing at about 15 per cent annually.

Pathway courses are pursued by thousands of Indian students because several Australian universities don't admit Class XII pass out from India directly into degree programmes citing shortcomings. After the diploma, students take admission into the second-year of the degree programme which the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) does not recognise since it is gained through the pathway mode.

Business Standard ND 27/08/2015 P-18

Isro to share satellite tech with Indian private companies

RAGHU KRISHNAN &
BIBHU RANJAN MISHRA
Bengaluru, 26 August

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) plans to share satellite manufacturing technology with private Indian companies so that they can tap the market for small commercial satellites.

Isro will also share the knowhow for ground equipment that capture satellite data and process it for specific local applications. "Whenever there is a large production of satellites, there will also be requirement for sub systems," said A S Kiran Kumar, Isro chairman.

Companies are planning to launch hundreds of small satellites to beam high-speed Internet in remote parts of the world. The biggest is OneWeb, a global consortium that includes the Virgin Group, Bharti Enterprises and Qualcomm. It aims to launch 648 small satellites. PlanetLabs, a US company aided by NASA, is planning to launch 150 imaging satellites.

Isro launches satellites for European companies and foreign universities. The polar satellite launch vehicle is a third cheaper than rival launchers in Europe, Russia and China.

Between 2,000 and 2,750 nano and micro satellites would be launched till 2020, SpaceWorks Enterprises, a US company, said in 2014.

"We want to enable the Indian space ecosystem. The demand for electronics in the space industry is growing. There are opportunities for niche companies," said Kumar.

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

The Pioneer ND 27/08/2015 P-06

Scientists cross fingers as crucial Thursday closure for ISRO nears

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■
CHENNAI

Scientists of Indian Space Research Organisation are all tensed up as the 29-hour-long countdown began on Wednesday for the launch of India's biggest ever satellite launch vehicle (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-D6) from Satish Dhavan Space Centre, Sriharikotta in Andhra Pradesh, 80 km north of Chennai.

Thursday's launch of the GSLV is crucial for the space scientists of India as its success will determine the country's entry into the big league with capability to launch heavy satellites into the Geo Stationary Transfer Orbit (GTO), which is 36,000 km away from the earth. Heavy communication satellites, essential for telecommunication and direct to home television services could be deployed into the 36,000 km orbit only with the heavy -lift GSLVs.

Though India had launched eight GSLV missions in the past, five of them failed. This was mainly due to the failure of the country to develop an indigenous cryogenic engine which only can power the launch vehicle to the GTO for injecting heavy satellites.

If everything goes well, the GSLV-D6 will lift off from the space port at 4.52 pm on Thursday with GSAT-6, a communication satellite weighing 2116 kg on-board. The successful deployment of GSAT-6 in the pre-determined orbit is not going to make any impact in the life of common man. "There are six transponders in this advanced communication satellite. All of them are being kept at the services of various Government of India agencies for strategic purposes," Devi Prasad Karnik, ISRO spokesman, told *The Pioneer*.

Though India has mastered the technology for the

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles which are used for deploying satellites into the Low Earth Orbit, the technology for injecting satellites weighing more than 2000 kg into the Geo-Stationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) has been eluding our scientists. Hence India remains to be at the mercy of space agencies like European Space Agency (ESA) which charge exorbitant rates for launching communication satellites with

If everything goes well, the GSLV-D6 will lift off from the space port at 4.52 pm on Thursday with GSAT-6, a communication satellite weighing 2116 kg on-board

their advanced rockets capable of carrying satellites weighing up to 6 tones. The international rates for deploying one kg payload into the GTO is approximately $25,000.

What makes Indian GSLV unique is its low cost for deploying communication satellites into the GTO. Countries led by the USA have been working overtime to ensure that India does not develop the cryogenic engine technology because they fear that it would obliterate their monopoly in the launch business. More over this will bring down the cost of direct to home TV services and increase the speed of data transfer through satellites.

Four of India's ten GSAT series satellites were launched by ESA using their Ariane rockets from the launch station at Kourou in French Guyana. India's attempts to deploy heavy satellites into GTO from its own space port at Sriharikotta has met with more failures than success.

India's last GSLV mission with an indigenously developed cryogenic engine (GSLV- D5) on January 5, 2014 had deployed a 1980 kg satellite (GSAT-14) into the GTO. Since the country is facing severe shortage of communication satellites, it is important that India successfully develop an indigenous cryogenic engine at the earliest. Since the business of launching heavy communication satellites is a trillion dollar affair, other space powers will not share the technology with India. The country's mission to develop its own cryogenic engine was sabotaged by many agencies including the CIA with the help of their agents in various intelligence wings of Indian government.

"We are yet to perfect the GSLV technology and hence there is always an uncertainty associated with the launch. It is only after a series of successive successful launches of the GSLV we can emerge as a space power," Nambi Narayanan, the father figure of India's cryogenic technology, told *The Pioneer*.

Though Nambi Narayanan and his team were on the verge of developing the indigenous cryogenic engine, the spy scandal unleashed by a cartel led by R B Sreekumar, a former Intelligence Bureau official, sabotaged India's space dreams.