Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 31-Aug-13 P-3

IIT KHARAGPUR TO READY SELF DRIVEN CAR

COME 2014 The GPS-enabled car can navigate on its own; to be commercialised

Vanita Srivastava

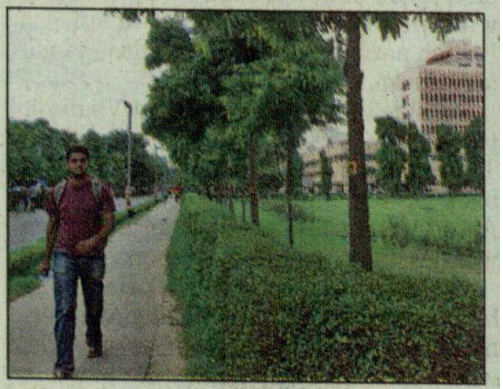
NEW DELHI: Scientists at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur are working on developing India's first self driven car and a prototype is to be ready by 2014.

"We are in the development phase and expect the first trial on a prototype around the end of April 2014. But it depends on various parameters that are needed to be synchronously working in order to develop and get this commercialised," Dr D Chakravarty, associate professor, Department of Mining Engineering, who is heading the project team said.

"We are developing a prototype vehicle which can navigate on its own, avoiding the static and dynamic obstacles and following the GPS way points to reach a target destination given by the user," he said.

Highlighting the special features, he said it would not only be in a position to go for self driving, but the 3D environment mapping related data would be incorporated, along with pedestrian detection and inter-communication with other cars

The technology may also find its usage in underground spaces viz in underground mines, tunnels and metro railway workings which need to be mapped and kept under surveillance.



IIT Kharagpur plans to build India's first self driven car by April 2014 FILE PHOTO

The car would function like any other car with drivers, but it would be able to navigate on its own, in the process utilising the energy in the fuel efficient way. The cost of the car was not yet decided. The project was started as a student initiative in 2010 and has 20-40 students engaged in it at different times.

Times of India ND 31-Aug-13 P-1

More opt for higher edu, but even more drop out

Highest Rates Of Increase In Decades

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

Higher education continues to be a mixed bag in India. A countrywide education survey has found that the rate of attendance in the 20-24 age group (corresponding to graduation and above) has recorded the highest rates of growth in several decades. However, the good news is offset by the fact that the drop-out rate has also kept pace.

The survey, which was carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2009-10, was released this month. Compared to the 1991-2000 period, the past decade (2001-10) saw attendance rates for the higher age group increase by 71% for boys and 110% for girls in villages. In urban areas, the growth was 40% for boys and 45% for girls.

UPWARD SWING

Share of population in 20-24 age bracket currently attending edu. institutions

	%	% Change*
RURAL		
Male	19	71
Female	8	110
URBAN		
Male	33	40
Female	24	45

*1999-00 to 2009-10
Source: NSSO Report Nos.552 & 468

Though the rise in percentage terms is a marked improvement over previous decades, the data shows that the picture remains dismal

▶Govt yet to act, P 15

at the ground level. In 2009-10, the attendance rates were just 19% for boys and 8% for girls in rural areas; in urban areas, the corresponding figures were 33% and 24%, respectively. This state of higher education compares badly with those in the 5-14 age group, where 87% of boys and 84% of girls were attending school in rural areas, and 91% of all boys and girls in urban areas.

Various measures like mid-day meals, new curricula and better facilities have drawn children to schools, said eminent scientist Yashpal, former chairperson of the UGC. However, in higher education, complex socio-economic conditions skew the growth rate in favour of female students.

While economic pressures force young men to opt out of education at the earliest possible level in order to start earning, young women are increasingly pursuing higher education as it boosts marriage prospects and future employment. An earlier NSSO study had shown that women, despite pursuing higher education, were still not part of the workforce.

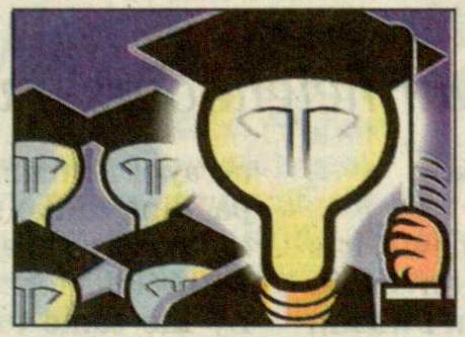
"At the higher education level, we need to do away with rigidity, allow more freedom and innovation, and link the courses to life. Resources need to be pumped in on priority basis," asserted professor Yashpal.

Govt yet to act on panel's report on higher education

▶Continued from P 1

Prof Yashpal had headed a high-level committee on 'renovation and rejuvenation' of higher education which submitted a detailed report in 2009. Its battery of suggestions included increased funding for higher education and stricter regulation of private entities. The government is yet to act on the report.

While current attendance rates indicate a positive trend for the future, existing educational levels of people 15 years old and above continue to be dismal. The traditional picture of educational levels—like a pyramid with a very wide base (of illiterates) tapering to a sharp point (of graduates)—is changing at



the bottom but not much at the top. The proportion of those who are illiterate or have studied just up to primary levels is going down but beyond that the pyramid continues to be sharply pointed.

In urban areas, about 15% of males and 11% of females are graduates or above. This is much higher than the rural areas where only 3.7% of males and a mere 1.6% of females have gone up to graduation or beyond. This is despite an explosion of private higher education institutions including universities in recent years.

What is even more alarming is that in 10 years between 1999-2000 and 2009-10, the graduate and above segment of the urban population declined by 5% among males although it increased by 10% among females. In the rural areas, the pent-up demand for education is still driving educational levels higher. The proportion of graduates and above went up by 78% among females but only 12% in males.

Times of India ND
31-Aug-13 P-11

IIT prof suspended over vulgar texts to student: After protests on the campus by students, a professor of IIT-Guwahati was suspended on Thursday for harassing a girl student by sending her 'vulgar' text messages.

Deccan Herald ND 31 August 2013 P-4

Braveheart

Cancer survivor makes it to IIT

NEW DELHI: His resolve is written large on his face. Pankaj Yadav, 18, has made it to the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi, overcoming his handicap of losing an eye to cancer 13 years ago. In doing so, this cancer survivor has set an example for hundreds of others like him who have fought off the dreaded disease.

The National Society for Childhood Cancer and Cankids...Kidscan have committed to supporting his family to meet his higher education costs of Rs 4,00,000 over four years and are seeking donors to help him.

"When I lost an eye at the age of five, no one imagined that I would go far in academics," said Yadav, a resident of Haryana whose father is a constable in the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force. Even when I started my preparations for the IIT entrance exam, not many of my peers believed that I would crack it," said the survivor of retinoblastoma eye cancer, who sports a plastic left eye.

The IIT-entrant was among the 23 cancer patients and survivors who were recently honoured by Cankids in New Delhi with scholarships under the 6th Annual National Childhood Cancer Scholarship Programme 2013. Over 830 child cancer patients and survivors, aged 5 to 21, from 24 cancer hospitals across the country had applied for the scholarships.

Among the awardees was Aman Saxena, who is fighting a nose and throat cancer relapse.The second year BA student from Delhi's Shaheed Bhagat Singh College won the KCK Cancer Awareness and Social Contribution Award for pioneering work through his Jasba Theatre group.

The programme was hosted in association with Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi.

"Twenty-three children were given cash awards, citations and trophies in different categories. But every cancer fighter who applied is being given a medal and certificate," Cankids education officer Tannu Sharma said.

Amita Mahajan, senior consultant (Paediatric Hematology and Oncology), Indraprastha Apollo Hospital and chairman of Cankids Medical Advisory, said: "The programme was a platform to motivate and encourage those children who have fought cancer and emerged as winners," she added.

Iksha Kumari, a nine-year-old girl undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer at MCS Patna, was also among the scholarship winners.

She scored 99 percent in Class 1 even while undergoing treatment. She was awarded the Yoginder Kishen Agnihotri Scholarship for Academic Excellence in the junior category.

Leela Agnihotri, who has instituted three of the 16 scholarships in memory of her parents, her husband and her son, said: "Honouring the bravery of the children who have excelled even as they battle cancer is the most fitting tribute to my family, especially my husband who recently died of cancer."

IANS

HT Mumbai

NOW, TWO BRAINS HAVE BEEN LINKED VIA INTERNET

IN THE EXERCISE, ONE PERSON WAS ABLE TO CONTROL THE MIND OF ANOTHER

Press Trust of India

Scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have conducted the world's first non-invasive human-to-human brain interface in which one person was able to control the motions of another person via Internet.

Using electrical brain recordings and a form of magnetic stimulation, Rajesh Rao, a University of Washington professor, sent a brain signal to his colleague Andrea Stocco, causing Stocco's finger to move on a keyboard.

While researchers at Duke University have demonstrated brain-to-brain communication between two rats, and Harvard researchers have demonstrated it between a human and a rat, Rao and Stocco believe this is the first demonstration of human-to-human brain interfacing.

"The Internet was a way to connect computers, and now it can be a way to connect brains. We want to take the knowledge of a brain and transmit it directly from brain to brain," Stocco, a research assistant professor in psychology at the UW's Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, said.

Rao sat in his lab wearing a cap with electrodes hooked up to an electroencephalography machine, which reads electrical activity in the brain. The team had a Skype connection set up so the two labs could coordinate them.

> "The Internet was a way to connect computers, and now it can be a way to connect brains."
> -Stocco, research assistant professor