

Newspaper Clips

August 5, 2014

Indian Express ND 5/08/2014 P-1

CITY ANCHOR DEVICE IS PORTABLE, FITS IN PURSES AND POCKETS AND CAN BE CHARGED THROUGH ITS USB PORT

IIT-D's smartcanes reach out to Mumbai's visually-impaired

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 4

FOR nearly 60 visually-impaired college students in Mumbai, detecting obstacles will no longer require physical contact.

'Smartcanes' developed by a team from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) will enable them to detect open windows, electric poles, hanging branches and protruding AC units, open car doors at a distance of three metres. The canes use ultrasonic ranging sensors which are attached to regular canes used by the visually-challenged.

The Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XR-CVC), in association with National

Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Saksham Trust and IIT-Delhi, will be distributing smartcanes to the students under the Central's Assistance to Disabled Persons Scheme (ADIP) scheme on Tuesday. The smartcane, which costs Rs 3,000, will be provided free of charge to the students.

The device vibrates with three different frequencies when an obstacle is three, two and one metre away. There is also a special alarm that goes off for fast-approaching obstacles such as a reversing car.

"The smartcane is designed to detect obstacles from knee to head height up to three metres away, helping the visually-challenged avoid injuries. Our product can't fit



A student with a smartcane

CANE & ABLE

■ The smartcane can detect open windows, electric poles, hanging branches and protruding AC units as well as open car doors with sensors

■ The smartcane device vibrates with three different frequencies when an obstacle is 3m, 2m and 1 m away

■ There is also a special alarm that goes off for fast-approaching obstacles such as a reversing car

in purses and pockets and can be charged through its USB port," Rohan Paul, co-founder and post-doctoral fellow, assistive technologies group, IIT-D, said. He had worked on this project as an undergraduate student in 2005.

With adjustable knob to detect low-occurring obstacles such as potholes, the detachable device can be used on almost all canes available in the market.

"We have even roped in 'Mumbai cane' manufacturers to ensure our device is compatible with their canes," Piyush Shanana of IIT-D said.

According to the researchers, Mumbai canes are preferred by the visually impaired in the city and are

heavier than regular canes.

"The smartcane helps me track people on a busy street without having to touch them with my cane. It has helped to reduce my injuries. Now, people are surprised when I 'see' them walking towards me," Deepak Jaiswal, a first-year BA student at St Xavier's, said.

Another user, Rajesh Mehta, said the cane helped him avoid falling between compartments while trying to enter the one for the differently-abled in local trains.

The college students will also receive PlexTalk Vachak, which enables variable speed recording, enabling access to written content both in English and Hindi on a portable player.

अंधेरी दुनिया को रोशन करेगी 'स्मार्ट केन'

Aug 5, 2014, 08.30AM IST

<http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/metro/mumbai/other-news/Will-brighten-dark-world-39Smart-Cane39/articleshow/39639987.cms>

मनीष झा, मुंबई

राह चलते हुए या किसी प्लैटफॉर्म पर लोकल ट्रेन पकड़ने का इंतजार करने के दौरान अक्सर आपका सामना किसी न किसी अंधे व्यक्ति से हो ही जाता है। इस दौरान कई बार वह आपसे टकरा जाता है या फिर आपसे रास्ता पूछकर आगे बढ़ने लगता है, जबकि कई बार तो वह व्यक्ति किसी हादसे का शिकार हो जाता है या फिर शिकार होते-होते बच जाता है। इन हालात से जूझ रहे रोशनी खो चुके व्यक्तियों के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली की टीम ने एक ऐसा डिवाइस बनाया है, जिसकी मदद से कोई भी अंधा इंसान बिना किसी दूसरे की मदद से निडर होकर आगे बढ़ सकता है। रास्ते में आने वाले हर बाधक से वह समय रहते निबट सकता है। इस डिवाइस को 'स्मार्ट केन' नाम दिया गया है, जिसे सेंट जेवियर्स कॉलेज स्थित जेवियर्स रिसोर्स सेंटर फॉर द विजुअली चैलेंज्ड (XRVC), IIT-दिल्ली और सक्षम एनजीओ की मदद से अंधे लोगों के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है। बैटरी से चलने वाले इस डिवाइस में चार्जिंग की सुविधा, बीप की आवाज, अलार्म सिस्टम, वाइब्रेशन और 1.8 मीटर की दूरी में आने वाले बाधा के बारे में समय रहते जानकारी देने वाली सुविधाएं लगी होती हैं।

स्मार्ट केन है दूसरी आंख

रोशनी खो चुके इंसानों के लिए काम करने वाली XRVC के डायरेक्टर डॉ. सैम तारापोरेवाला ने बताया कि 'स्मार्ट केन' को सरकारी

योजना के तहत अंधे लोगों के बीच मुहैया कराया जाएगा। मंगलवार को अभिनेत्री विद्या बालन की मौजूदगी में सेंट जेवियर्स कॉलेज में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान इसे हम विजुअली चैलेंज्ड लोगों को ट्रेनिंग देने के बाद उन्हें सौंपेगे। डिवाइस को बनाने वाले टीम के सदस्य और IIT दिल्ली के पीजी स्टूडेंट पियूष चानन बताते हैं कि यह कई विशेषताओं से युक्त मॉडर्न डिवाइस है, जो अंधे लोगों के लिए दूसरी आंख साबित हो सकती है। इसमें वाइब्रेशन के जरिए रास्ते में आने वाली सभी चीजों मसलन- आदमी, पेड़, वाहन, दीवार या अन्य दूसरी बाधक चीजों के बारे में समय रहते पता चल जाता है। यह एक प्रकार की मॉडर्न टेक्नॉलजी स्टिक (आधुनिक सुविधा युक्त लाठी) है, जिसका इस्तेमाल करने से पहले जरूरतमंद लोगों को मामूली ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है।

कॉमन काउंसलिंग, लैटरल एंट्री की संभावनाएं तलाशेंगे IIT और NIT

<http://www.bhaskar.com/article/EDUC-EDNE-iit-and-nit-explore-possibilities-of-lateral-entry-and-common-counseling-4702321-NOR.html>

एजुकेशन भास्कर। आईआईटी और एनआईटी संस्थानों में सीटें खाली रह जाने को गंभीरता से लेते हुए दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने अगले साल से सरकार को कॉमन काउंसलिंग सुनिश्चित करने का निर्देश दिया है। इसके साथ-साथ अदालत ने कहा है कि सरकार यूजी कोर्स के दूसरे साल में एनआईटी और अन्य इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के छात्रों को आईआईटी में प्रवेश की संभावनाएं तलाशे।

आरक्षित श्रेणी की खाली सीटों को अनारक्षित कोटे से भरा जा सकता है या नहीं, इसके लिए भी न्यायालय ने सरकार से जवाब मांगा है। इन सभी मुद्दों पर सरकार को 30 नवंबर से पहले अपना जवाब न्यायालय में पेश करना होगा। आईआईटी और एनआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए कॉमन काउंसलिंग का प्रस्ताव पिछले दो-तीन सालों से लंबित है, लेकिन आईआईटी संस्थानों के अडियल रुख के चलते इस पर अमल नहीं हो पा रहा।

MIT to test making oxygen on Mars

WASHINGTON, PTI: A Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) oxygen-creating instrument will fly on the upcoming Mars 2020 mission to study how to make oxygen out of the Martian atmosphere.

Nasa has announced the seven instruments that will accompany Mars 2020, a planned \$1.9 billion roving laboratory rover currently cruising the Red Planet.

Key among these instruments is an MIT-led payload known as MOXIE, which will play a leading role in paving the way for human exploration of our ruddy planetary neighbour.

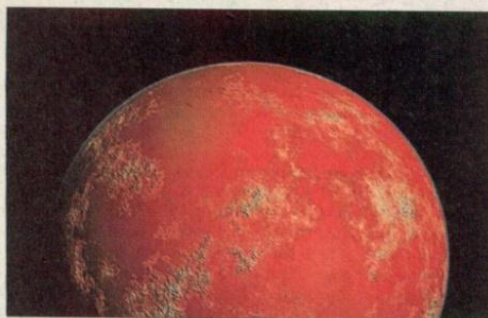
MOXIE — short for Mars oxygen In situ resource utilis-

ation Experiment — was selected from 58 instrument proposals submitted by research teams around the world.

The experiment, currently scheduled to launch in the summer of 2020, is a specialised reverse fuel cell whose primary function is to consume electricity in order to produce oxygen on Mars, where the atmosphere is 96 per cent carbon dioxide.

If proven to work on the Mars 2020 mission, a MOXIE-like system could later be used to produce oxygen on a larger scale, both for life-sustaining activities for human travellers and to provide liquid oxygen needed to burn the rocket fuel for a return trip to earth.

“Human exploration of Mars will be a seminal event



for the next generation, the same way the moon landing mission was for my generation,” said Michael Hecht, principal investigator of the MOXIE instrument and assistant director for research manage-

ment at the MIT Haystack Observatory.

One of the main goals of the Mars 2020 mission will be to determine the potential habitability of the planet for human visitors, researchers said.

The MOXIE instrument will attempt to make oxygen out of native resources in order to demonstrate that it could be done on a larger scale for future missions.

MOXIE will be designed and built as what Hecht calls a “fuel cell run in reverse.” In a normal fuel cell, fuel is heated together with an oxidiser — often oxygen — producing electricity.

In this case, however, electricity produced by a separate machine would be combined with carbon dioxide from the Martian air to produce oxygen and carbon monoxide in a process called solid oxide electrolysis.

“It’s a pretty exotic way to run a fuel cell on earth, but on Mars if you want to run an engine, you don’t have oxygen.

Over 75 per cent of what you would have to carry to run an engine on Mars would be oxygen,” Hecht said.

Setting up a system to create oxygen that human explorers could breathe would be extremely helpful for a mission of any duration. But there’s an equally important reason to be able to produce oxygen onsite.

“When we send humans to Mars, we will want them to return safely, and to do that they need a rocket to lift off the planet. That’s one of the largest pieces of the mass budget that we would need to send astronauts there and back. So if we can eliminate that piece by making the oxygen on Mars, we’re way ahead of the game,” Hecht said.

PTI

Times of India ND 5/08/2014 P-13

Ombudsman must for all universities

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New Delhi: Students in private universities and colleges worried about the lack of quality in their institutions have something to look forward to. HRD minister Smriti Z Irani on Monday told Rajya Sabha that UGC has notified UGC (Grievance Redressal) Regulations 2012 according to which each university has to appoint an ombudsman.

Irani said the decision was taken due to the concern expressed by the Supreme Court in Viplav Sharma case regarding dilution of academic standards in deemed universities.

In case of a college, the vice-chancellor of the affiliating university shall constitute a grievance redressal committee. As per the regulations, the ombudsman in a central university and

deemed university shall be appointed on part-time basis from a panel of three names recommended by the search committee.

This committee will consist of chairperson of the UGC or his nominee, one vice-chancellor from central university to be nominated by the central government on rotation, one VC from deemed university to be nominated by the central government on rotation and one joint secretary



Smriti Irani

to the government of India in the HRD ministry dealing with higher education.

Minister's reply was with regard to functioning of deemed universities. She said government has constituted a committee to review the functioning of existing deemed universities and the desirability of their continuance as such.

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

Book launched

How to sell a rambling story of a confused young man from an unspecified IIT

Sheila Kumar

My mother's neighbour's son wrote a book. He found a publisher and now it was time for the launch. I was asked if i would please 'do the needful'. My mother being very fond of his mother, his mother making the most mouth-watering gajar halwa i have ever eaten, all entered the mix. The cover was a bit on the lurid side. The title was enigmatic. 'You are what you are', it read. And just as one digested that, there were ellipses and the title continued, 'so take that world'. Put simply, the book was titled, 'You are what you are ... so take that world'.

I read the book from cover to cover in 30 minutes. It told a confused story of a confused young man who comes to Bangalore after having finished his course at IIT (sigh), which IIT not specified. It chronicled each and every day in the hero's extremely banal life. He acquires PG digs, has a cultural clash with his vegetarian, bhajan-chanting landlord, moves into a shared apartment with two slightly daft friends ('we called ourselves as the three idiots') and proceeded to er, live.

One night, a burglar enters their apartment. Overcome with fear at the sight of the gleaming (glimmering, as the writer would have it) knife in the intruder's hand, the three men cower and beg for their life. Then our hero decides on a stratagem. He engages the burglar in conversation and a tale of much pathos emerges. The intruder too is from far away and desperately in need of money to send back home to a mother in dire need of stomach surgery. I will not disclose anything more; if you want to know how this touching tale ends, you need to buy 'You are what you are ... so take that world'.

They garlanded me when i entered the bookstore. The author was a bespectacled young man with an earnest expression on his pleasant face. The place was packed. There was much joshing and jollity.

The book dutifully launched (to catcalls and whistles, no less), i was requested to read from it. I did so, and was proud of the fact that i did not once falter over words like, 'He loomed like a monster with a monstrous dagger in his wrist'. When i looked up, i realised i was reading to a rapt audience. After the waves of applause died down, i was asked what i had liked best about the book. I said i had been much struck by the way the men had faced down their fear. This led to a 'panel discussion' on fear. I told the gathering i feared cockroaches. My entertainment quotient as a book launcher immediately went up by several notches. The writer told them he was afraid of Bangalore's traffic. He said he'd ventured out one Saturday in a friend's car and 'got it hit'. It took me a minute to realise he meant he had had an accident. That feared him a lot, he said. At which, many in the audience, behaving like lit fest audiences all across India, turned their questions into comments, and many (not so sage) pronouncements were made on fear.

When the author sat down to sign copies of his magnum opus, i was asked by at least three people to sign on his book, along with him. I gently desisted, telling them it was *his* book. 'I want all writers to sign in one place', announced a matron firmly. Since i had seen copies of my book in the store, i told them i would happily sign on the flyleaf of that book, if they so wished. 'Is it about fear?' asked one young woman.

That stumped me. 'Fear and many things besides', i told her. She was not impressed.

The last i heard, 'You are....' was going into its second imprint. I had apparently launched a true-blue bestseller.



Scientist calls for collaboration in energy

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chen-events/scientist-calls-for-collaboration-in-energy/article6281304.ece>

A country which was able to create its own fast breeder nuclear reactor does not have engineers to design windmills, said scientist Baldev Raj, while delivering the Brahm Prakash Memorial medal lecture at IIT-Madras, on Monday.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT-M, presented the medal, instituted by the Indian National Science Academy, to Mr. Raj who delivered a lecture titled 'A Perspective on Technology Challenges with Emphasis on Energy Security and Sustainability'.

Touching on various subjects regarding production of electricity from various sources and its transmission, Mr. Raj found fault in the extent of collaboration between individuals and organisations, and the inability to create breakthrough technologies in the power sector.

He cited the background for creating indigenous fast breeder reactor technology by involving 250 organisations. He also pointed out that energy conservation required a community effort and the government alone could not make a big impact in energy efficiency.

Hindustan Times (Jaipur)

Data reveals rush for PhD admissions in pvt varsities

There seems to be a rush for academic research in Rajasthan. A few of the private universities in the state are giving admission to hundreds of students every year and there are examples where these universities have awarded hundreds of PhD degrees every year.



HT FILE PHOTO

MLA Vasudev Devnani (2nd row, 3rd from right) who raised the question on PhD admissions, in the assembly.

The data related to PhD rush in universities was revealed after BJP MLA Vasudev Devnani asked a question in the state assembly that whether universities have followed UGC dictate of holding admission tests for PhD and how many students have been given admission through this process.

“The capacity of admitting PhD scholars depend on the number of professors the universities have. In general, most of the private universities do not have more than 5-6 such persons. So if they are admitting scholars in such a large number then it is suspicious and calls for investigation,” Vasudev Devnani, BJP MLA from Ajmer-North, said.

“I would again submit a question in the assembly to know the number of faculties eligible to oversee research in these universities,” he added.

According to the data provided by the higher education department, Singhania University in Pacheri Bari in Jhunjhunu district have admitted 4,85,195 and 151 PhD scholars in the last three academic sessions.

Jagdish Prasad Jhabarmal Tibrewal National University in Jhunjhunu, Mewar University, Chittorgarh, Bhagwant University in Ajmer and Pacific University in Udaipur are other private universities where PhD hopefuls are lining up in hoards.

The private universities in Rajasthan were allowed after 2007 and currently there are 15 state-funded universities, 8 deemed universities and 33 private universities in the state.

Most of these institutes of higher learning which are offering PhD course in various streams are not more than 5-7 year old.

The only state funded university where number of those aspiring for PhD is high is the Rajasthan University (RU).

“We have academic capacity to offer PhD to aspirants we admit in our institution. Research work in our university is regularly assessed by research board and academic council. We concentrate on quality as unless we do not give attention to research in academics, we cannot create world class institutions,” Dr Devswarup, vice-chancellor of Rajasthan University, said.

The RU may have enough faculty members to deal with the rush of PhD aspirants but it is a fact that most of the private universities struggle to get enough faculty members to hold regular classes.

Experts say that bringing private investment in higher education is welcome but it should not be done on the cost of quality.

“Universities are autonomous institutions; we cannot interfere in their working unless we receive some grave complaint,” a highly placed officer of education department said.

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

Smriti Irani's profile growing, may lead PM Modi's skill push for youth

NEW DELHI: Human resource development minister Smriti Irani is likely to be put in charge of a new department of skill development and entrepreneurship, one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet projects.

The department will ensure speedy and quality training to India's youth, making them more employable. It will be carved out of 21 ministries dealing with the Centre's skill development programmes, and focus on Modi's mantra of 3S -Scale, Speed and Skill.

The programme will target massive skill upgradation of the youth, who, studies say, aren't competitive in the job market owing to poor training.

The project could be put under 38-year-old Irani, one of Modi's youngest ministers, after Cabinet secretary Ajit Seth met a couple of times last month with ministries dealing with the issue. No final decision has been taken, sources said.



The ministry of sports and youth affairs was asked to run the department initially, but was deemed not “technically equipped” to deal with such a massive programme. The ministry itself was reluctant owing to an absence of domain knowledge, sources said

There was a view that the HRD ministry was best suited for the job as it handles education at all levels with close linkage to skill development, said a senior official.

“The ministry can introduce skill-development-linked curriculum in schools that can help in meeting the target,” he added.

The first indication of such a change came when the government approved guidelines for the National Employment Enhancement Mission, to be implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

Rich tributes paid to IIT Rupnagar faculty

RUPNAGAR: Several people attended the condolence meeting held at IIT, Rupnagar to pay tribute to Rajyashree Khushu- Lahiri, head of the humanities department, IIT, Ropar, who was killed in a car accident near Samrala on Sunday.

Flexible Credit- Based System for IIT-Kharagpur Students

📅 04-AUG-2014

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/flexible-credit-based-system-for-iitkharagpur-students-1407153864-1>

The esteemed engineering institution, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has proposed an all new **'credit-based system'** that would enable the students the much required flexibility to complete their courses in a shorter/longer time span. The students can now complete their four year B. Tech course in three-and-a-half year time. Every student would get a 'pre-specified credit' depending on which the student can have the flexibility to end his course in his own pace. The students who are fast-paced and are willing to complete their course earlier, can do the same by six months through the help of the credits they earn in their previous semesters. On the other hand, those who are willing to go for a year-long internship and come back to finish the remaining course can do the same later on. The proposed planning to begin the modernization of the institute's undergraduate and postgraduate programs, in phases is from 2016.

Those students who opt for their own ventures during study or those who are willing for a long internship to avail extra benefit of the industry exposure would be greatly helped by this model. This could add to their chances of employability and enhance their qualifications while being in the process of completing the course from the institution.

Presently the courses in IITs are bound by number of years and are divided into six-month- long semesters which binds the students to complete the course in a stipulated time period. But this new system can break the barrier and help dilute the rigid complacency in the courses and allow the students to complete the courses in upto eight years.

After studying the best practices of top 20 universities in the world, the team of professors from the IIT Kharagpur has finally devised this pattern of credit-based system that would allow 'room for everyone'. IIT Kharagpur has also proposed to start student mobility across all the IITs, so that every IIT student can get an option to spend a particular course period in any of their chosen IIT in the nation.

IIT-B to get indoor and outdoor sports complexes

<http://www.asianage.com/mumbai/iit-b-get-indoor-and-outdoor-sports-complexes-676>

In a bid to better its sports facilities, the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) has decided to develop an indoor and outdoor sports complex.

According to IIT-B officials, while the institute has provided ample opportunity to students to excel in academics and cultural activities, there is a need for a dedicated space for sports.

“IIT-B is all set to augment its sports facilities this year by creating an additional indoor and outdoor sports complex at the gymkhana measuring 55,000 and 42,000 sq ft area, respectively. The new sports facilities will house two indoor courts for basketball, three indoor courts for volleyball, three indoor cricket pitches, a table tennis hall, squash courts, multi-stationed gym etc. These facilities are likely to be completed by the end of this year,” said a senior IIT-B official.

Aman Mantry, a third-year student, welcomed the move and said, “The existing facilities are good but with the student base increasing, there was need to increase the facilities. Hence, when the students were asked to give feedback on infrastructural facilities, a large number asked for more sports facilities.”

The existing facilities include, swimming pool, gymkhana ground, badminton, cricket ground, football ground, hockey ground, lawn tennis court, table tennis court, squash, volleyball court and weight lifting room.

Additionally, a new hostel capable of housing up to 1,044 students will become functional soon. The senior IIT-B official said that with the central government increasing the intake capacity of the IITs, it was deemed necessary to have additional hostels to house the large student community and hence, hostel 16 with a capacity of 1,044 students would be soon started.

With regards to technological advancements, the official added that while the official IIT-B website was being made user friendly, informative and interactive for those visiting it, plans were also afoot for the launch of a mobile app to ease on-campus navigation for students and visitors.

“Specially designed for first-time visitors as well as new students, instiMAP helps you navigate through the IIT Bombay campus with ease. We are working towards including the 'you are here' feature as well as the A to B search, and are hopeful of incorporating those in the upcoming versions of the app,” said Prof Mandar Rane, faculty member of the industrial design centre, IIT-B and head of team Design Labs.

New PhD regulations on anvil

— By [Atul Gautam](#), August 04, 2014 12:34 am <http://freepressjournal.in/new-phd-regulations-on-anvil/>

Indore : Getting a PhD degree may go tougher as the University Grants Commission (UGC) is bringing in regulations which are said to be stricter than the ones released in 2009.

In its recent meeting, the UGC tabled the draft of the UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of MPhil/PhD) Regulations, 2014.

The meeting decided that a committee consisting of Prof H Devaraj, Dr VS Chauhan and Dr MM Ansari may examine the matter in its entirety and submit its recommendations for consideration of the UGC. The Commission did not make the draft public as yet but insiders claimed that the new regulations are tougher than the previous ones. At present, UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of MPhil/PhD) Regulations 2009 are in being.

Through the regulations-2009, the UGC based admissions in MPhil and PhD programmes on entrance test.

Besides, mandatory six-month coursework was made a pre-requisite for registration of PhD.

The UGC Regulations-2009 had come into existence in June 1, 2009 but the Madhya Pradesh adopted them about two-and-a-half later on January 16, 2012.

The delay jeopardised career of thousands of candidates who registered for PhD programmes between June 1, 2009 and January 16, 2012.

And now when just one-and-a-half has passed for the state to adopt Regulations-2009, the UGC is ready with draft of Regulations-2014.

IIMB joins edX, to offer MOOCs

Will leverage new technologies and deliver education via MOOCs (massive open online courses) as IIMBx

BS Reporter | Bangalore

August 4, 2014 Last Updated at 20:29 IST

http://www.business-standard.com/article/management/iim-b-becomes-first-b-school-to-join-edx-114080400930_1.html

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) is India's first B-school to join [edX](#) as a new contributing member. As IIMBx, the B-school will leverage new technologies and deliver education via [MOOCs](#) (massive open online courses) to a larger population of learners from around the world.

EdX, a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based non-profit enterprise created by founding partners Harvard varsity and MIT, offers interactive online classes from the world's best varsities. It was created for students and institutions that seek to transform themselves through cutting-edge technologies, innovative pedagogy, and rigorous courses.

"We're gearing up to create the capability to teach differently and edX is a great platform to extend IIM Bangalore's educational impact across the globe," said IIMB director Sushil Vachani. "We are honoured to welcome IIM Bangalore to edX," said Anant Agarwal, CEO, edX. "IIMB will deliver high-quality courses and new perspectives to the edX learning community and reach learners around the world," Agarwal added.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for IIMB. In addition to delivering top-quality management education on campus to small classes of students chosen through our highly competitive admissions process, as we have done since the institute's inception, we will use technology to provide selected management courses to a much larger population in India and the world over," said Vachani.

Vachani, who took over as director of IIMB on July 1 reiterated that IIMB will embrace and leverage technology to create a social impact. "At IIMB," he added, "we recognise that the way in which education will be delivered will be radically different in future thanks to technology".

Pioneer ND 5/08/2014 P-1

UPSC puts its foot down, Aptitude Test intact

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

Twenty hours before the NDA Government came out with a piecemeal solution to resolve the CSAT row, the full bench of the UPSC on Sunday decided against scrapping the CSAT examination scheduled for August 24. The Commission was of the view that any tapering of the existing system at this stage would invite a plethora of litigations, which may further complicate matters for all stakeholders, including the aspirants.

However, as a sop to the aspirants, the Commission agreed to give another chance to those who had exhausted their attempts before 2011 when the new CSAT format was introduced.

In the full-bench meeting, attended by the ten members and chaired by Commission's Chairman Prof DP Agrawal, it was agreed that being an autonomous body, the Commission should not be "submissive" to the Government.

Sources said that Agrawal was later praised by the members for his "tough" stand on the matter. Incidentally, he is due to retire as Chairman of

WON'T PLAY BALL

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The Commission opposed any move to either postpone or cancel the Preliminary Exam scheduled on August 24 as this would adversely impact majority of the over nine lakh applicants

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the UPSC next week, on the day the Parliament session concludes.

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institutes. "The new format has been in existence for the last four years without any trouble. These protests on the streets smack of vested interests," said a UPSC source.

The Commission opposed any move to either postpone or cancel the Preliminary Exam scheduled for August 24 as this would adversely impact majority of the over nine lakh applicants. This would also affect three (CSAT-Prelims; Main and Interview) stages of the 2014 examination cycle.

"The entire process — from submission of forms till declaration of results — involves 18 months. Further delays would have changed the cycle for successive years, creating a huge problem where age and chances of attempts means a lot," sources said.

Following the report submitted by the Arvind Verma headed three-member panel last week, the DoPT had sought the UPSC's response, whether the CSAT preliminary could be postponed by a month if not scrapped.

The UPSC had replied that postponement "at this stage" was difficult due to huge logistical problem in conducting the exam.

Continued on Page 4

UPSC puts its foot...

Students have been objecting to the level of aptitude and English language questions being asked in the examination, claiming they are much above the standard prescribed for the examination. The students have been demanding that the pattern of CSAT be changed to give a level-playing field to those coming from rural areas. There are two compulsory papers of 200 marks each in the preliminary examination. These papers are also known as CSAT-I and CSAT-II. The CSAT-II paper carries questions on comprehension, inter-personal skills including communication skills, logical reasoning and analytical ability, decision-making and problem-solving, general mental ability, basic numericals, and English language comprehension skills.

CSAT stays, but English loses the 'mark'

Candidates who appeared in 2011 to get another chance; aspirants want scrapping

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday tried to defuse the escalating row over the UPSC-conducted CSAT for all-India civil services by excluding gradation of English from the merit list and giving another attempt to those who had exhausted their chances when the new format was introduced in 2011.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh informed Parliament that English marks in CSAT-paper II would not be included for gradation or merit and candidates who exhausted their attempts in 2011, when the new format was introduced, would get a second chance to appear for the test in 2015 CSAT.

"The Government is of the opinion that in the Civil Services Preliminary examination, Paper-II, the marks of the question section on 'English Language comprehension skills' should not be included for gradation or merit. Further, candidates, who appeared in Civil Services Examination 2011, may be given one more attempt in 2015," Singh said in a brief statement made in both Houses of Parliament.

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NOT SATISFIED

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The civil services preliminary examination will now be held as scheduled for August 24

Not satisfied with the "cosmetic" changes announced by the Government, the agitating civil services aspirants vowed to continue their fight for "complete scrapping" of the CSAT paper and decided to shift their agitation to Jantar Mantar

Immediately after the statement by Singh in the Rajya Sabha, BJD member B Mahtab and SP's Dharmendra Yadav stood up demanding a clarification whether CSAT had been done away with

AIADMK and other Opposition parties sought to know if the civil service aspirants would be able to write the examination in native languages

Trouble broke out over Singh's remark that: "We have made it language-neutral. What is the confusion?"



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While the students have been agitating over the new format, Parliament too has witnessed repeated uproars and several adjournments in the past few days over the issue.

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cation whether CSAT had been done away with.

Singh stood up to say that he had said whatever he wanted to. This further infuriated the members. AIADMK and other Opposition parties sought to know if the civil service aspirants would be able to write the examination in native languages. Trouble broke out over Singh's remark that: "We have made it language-neutral. What is the confusion?"

Singh's statement could not pacify agitating members from the Congress, CPI, DMK, Trinamool and AIADMK. They kept on demanding clarifications and wanted to know what Singh meant by "language-neutral." Deputy Chairman P J Kurien ruled that there cannot be any discussion on the statement.

However, this did not sat-

isfy the members and amid din Kurien briefly adjourned the House. When it reassembled, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Minister's use of the phrase 'language-neutral' has further complicated the entire thing. To this, Singh said he meant that the Government had "removed the bias".

Parliamentary Affairs Minister M Venkaiah Naidu also intervened saying the sensitive matter involves a few lakh aspirants and a solution has been reached at in consultation with various stakeholders, including the students.

As the din continued, Kurien adjourned the House to reassemble at 5 pm which was again adjourned for the day following an uproar and AIADMK members trooping into the Well of the House.

Data transfer clocks record speed

Experts Transmit Files Over A Single Optical Fibre @ 43 Terabits/Sec

London: Danish researchers claim to have set a new data transfer world record by transmitting over a single optical fibre at an incredible speed of 43 terabits per second. Researchers at Technical University of Denmark (DTU) used a new type of optical fibre to claim the world data transfer record.

The team has eclipsed the record that was set by researchers at the Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie, by proving that it is possible to transfer fully 43 terabits per second with just a single laser in the transmitter. This is an appreciable improvement on the German team's previous record of 32 terabits per second. The worldwide competition in data speed is contributing to developing the technology intended to accommodate the immense



© Turbo/Corbis

TECH VISION: Competition in data speed is contributing to developing the technology intended to accommodate the immense growth of data traffic on the internet, which is estimated to be growing by 40-50% annually

growth of data traffic on the internet, which is estimated to be growing by 40-50% annually.

What is more, emissions linked to the total energy consumption of the internet as a whole currently correspond to more than two per cent of the global man-made carbon emissions — which puts the internet on a par with the transport industry (aircraft, shipping etc), researchers said.

However, these other industries are not growing by 40% a year. It is therefore essential to identify solutions for the internet that make significant reductions in energy consumption while simultaneously expanding the bandwidth. This is precisely what the DTU team has demonstrated with its latest world record. Researchers have previous-

ly helped achieve the highest combined data transmission speed in the world — an incredible one petabit per second — although this involved using hundreds of lasers.

The researchers achieved their latest record by using a new type of optical fibre borrowed from the Japanese telecoms giant NTT.

This type of fibre contains seven cores (glass threads) instead of the single core used in standard fibres, which makes it possible to transfer even more data. Despite the fact that it comprises seven cores, the new fibre does not take up any more space than the standard version. The researchers' record result has been verified and presented in what is known as a 'post deadline paper' at the CLEO 2014 international conference. PT

Times of India ND 5/08/2014 P-17

'Impossible' space engine works: Nasa

Washington: In a breakthrough in space propulsion, Nasa researchers have found that 'impossible' microwave thrusters that require no propellant may actually work.

Researchers at Nasa's Johnson Space Center in Houston have found that a microwave thruster system that requires no propellant does indeed generate a small amount of thrust. The technology could make spaceflight far cheaper and speed-


ier, potentially opening up much of the cosmos to exploration, experts say.

"Test results indicate that the radio frequency resonant cavity thruster design, which is unique as an electric propulsion device, is producing a force that is not attributable to any classical electromagnetic phenomenon and, therefore, is potentially demonstrating an interaction with the quantum vacuum virtual plasma," the Nasa team said. PTI

CAT Roadmap

With the country's premier management institutes, the IIMs, announcing major changes to CAT 2014, the entrance test to business schools could turn out to be quite a challenge. **Sreeradha D Basu** gives you the low-down on what you can expect this year.

CHANGES IN FORMAT

	CAT 2014	CAT 2013
Overall time	170 mins	140 mins
Number of questions	50 in each section	30 in each section
Flexibility to switch from one section to another during the exam	Yes	No 
Tutorial before exam	No	Yes

Other changes

	CAT 2014	CAT 2013
Agency conducting CAT	TCS	Prometric
Number of cities	99	40
Testing window	2 days	20 days
Tutorial before exam	No	Yes



THE CHALLENGE

67% MORE questions, 21% more time. Less time per question. This time round, time management skills will be crucial and students need to practice thoroughly to build endurance



MBA COACHING experts are divided on the difficulty of the exam. Some feel the IIMs won't compromise; others believe it will be a simpler paper, now that the number of questions has increased

THE OPTIONS of being able to switch between sections can be a bonus since one gets extra time to tackle the more tricky sections. However, a candidate could be tempted to linger over a particular section. Remember: IIMs still have individual cut-offs for both the sections besides the

MORE TEST TAKERS LIKELY

After hitting a seven-year low in CAT 2013, the number of CAT aspirants is expected to see a marginal rise this year. Here's why:

1 **CAT 2014** will start a month later (November) as compared with last year. Experts anticipate that with an extra month at their disposal for preparations, some candidates who would otherwise have put off the exam till next year, may give it a shot

2 **THE POSITIVE** sentiment in the economy

3 **THIS YEAR'S CAT** will be conducted in 99 cities across India, compared to 40 last year. This may attract a section of students in those cities

WHY THE CHANGES?

"**WE WANTED** to have a simple process and allow the candidates to switch between sections based on their competence. It will be a good competition based on candidate strengths," says CAT 2014 convenor Rohit Kapoor of IIM Indore, which will be conducting the CAT for the

MBA COACHING: THE PLAYERS

CAREER LAUNCHER, **TIME** and **IMS** are among the leading players in the MBA coaching business, apart from smaller regional institutes. Many serious CAT contenders sign up at more than one centre, taking the classroom module in one and the mock tests or correspondence course from others



OVERALL, THE changes will be good for students, says Ramnath Kanakadandi, course director, CAT, **TIME**. "We are changing the format of the mock tests according to the new format. Once students start taking tests in the new pattern, we will guide them to make course corrections accordingly," he says. **TIME** papers include all levels of difficulty, he adds. Around 70% of **TIME** students enrol for classroom coaching, while nearly 20% sign up for the all-India mock tests

CAREER Launcher has already launched its test series in the new pattern. Depending on the student category, external candidates have to pay between ₹1,000 and ₹3,000 for the new 20-test series

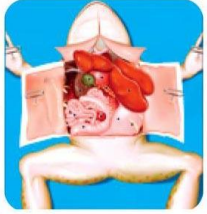
THE EXAM suffered earlier because it was conducted over several slots – for instance, 40 last year, says Gautam Puri, vice chairman & MD, CL Educate (Career Launcher). "Since 40 papers could not be at the same level, it involved normalisation. Doubts were raised from some quarters about the reliability of scores. The IIMs must have faced some issue which is why they reduced the number of papers from 40 to a

TCS, WHICH has taken over as the CAT testing agency this year, has the capacity of conducting a far greater number of tests per day, compared with the earlier agency. With fewer papers, it is easier to maintain an equal level of difficulty," says Puri. Also, according to him, earlier, with fewer questions, even a single question could affect the percentile. That, he feels, was also partly the rationale behind introducing

UGC imposes complete ban on animal dissection

— By [Our Staff Reporter](#), August 04, 2014 12:33 am

<http://freepressjournal.in/ugc-imposes-complete-ban-on-animal-dissection/>



Indore : Cruelty on helpless species in labs has moved the University Grants Commission (UGC) and it has completely banned dissection of animals and experiment on them in zoology and life science departments.

Three years ago, the ban was imposed on dissection of animals at undergraduate level but now it has been extended to postgraduate level also.

The UGC has recommended for use of methods like computer simulations, interactive CD-ROMs, films, charts in place of experiment on living animal.

In a recently-held meeting, the higher education regulator accepted the draft notification on minimising dissection and animal experimentation in zoology/life sciences and allied disciplines in universities and other higher educational institutions with the observations that the provisions for undergraduate should also be extended to postgraduate programmes and that no animal from any species shall be dissected either by teachers or students for any purposes at these levels.

The new guidelines will shortly be sent to universities and colleges for adoption.

Previously, the UGC in 2011 had disallowed undergraduate students from doing any dissection, but their faculty have right to use one species for demonstration purposes.

At the post-graduate level, students have the option of dissecting select species. Now, the PG students would also not have permission to dissect animals. The institutions have been advised to work on development of computer simulated as an alternative.

To encourage simulation of experiments in the institution of higher education, the UGC would allocate funds during the XII Plan for developing alternative methods of experiments.

The universities would also suggested setting up dissection-monitoring committees not only in university teaching department but also in affiliated colleges.

The ban came following concerns expressed time and again by academic community and the public about torture of animals in labs.

Maneka Gandhi citing the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, has sought a complete ban on dissection of animals.