Newspaper Clips

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Dainik Bhaskar ND
16/12/2011 P-2

पर्यावरण के लिए काम करेगी आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली . पर्यावरण में सुधार और उसे बेहतर बनाने के लिए अब आईआईटी दिल्ली ने एक कदम आगे बढ़ाया है। आईटी के क्षेत्र में ऊर्जा को बचाने के लिए काम करने वाले वैश्विक समूह ग्रीन टच के साथ मिलकर आईआईटी दिल्ली अब ऊर्जा के बेहतर और अधिकतम प्रयोग के लिए तकनीकी स्तर पर काम करेगी। ग्रीन टच समूह में दुनियाभर की कई इंडस्ट्री, विवि व शोध संस्थान शामिल हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक प्रो. आरके शिवगांवकर का कहना है कि आईआईटी दिल्ली का मकसद है कि आईटी की दुनिया में ऊर्जा का बेहतर इस्तेमाल हो। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे पर्यावरण को काफी फायदा होगा, ऐसे में जरूरी हो जाता है कि इसके लिए लगातार प्रयास किए जाएं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के ग्रीन टच के संयोजक सुब्रतो कर का कहना है कि इस समूह में शामिल होने से हम पर्यावरण को उम्दा बनाने की कोशिश को बेहतर तरीके से अंजाम दे सकेंगे।

Hindustan ND16/12/2011 P-5

पर्यावरण के लिए आगे आया आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली। पर्यावरण को बेहतर करने के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली ने ग्रीन टच से करार किया है। इसके तहत आईआईटी ऊर्जा का बढ़िया और अधिकतम प्रयोग के लिए तकनीक स्तर पर काम करेगा। ग्रीन टच वैश्विक स्तर पर आईटी के क्षेत्र में ऊर्जा को बचाने के लिए काम करने वाला समूह है। इस समूह में दुनिया भर की कई इंडस्ट्री, विश्वविद्यालय और शोध संस्थान शामिल हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक प्रो. आर. के. शिवगांवकर का कहना है कि आईआईटी दिल्ली का मकसद है कि आईटी नेटवर्क की दुनिया में ऊर्जा का बेहतर तरीके से इस्तेमाल हो। इससे पर्यावरण को काफी फायदा होगा। पर इसके लिए लगातार प्रयास करने की आवश्यकता है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के ग्रीन टच के संयोजक सुब्रतो का कहना है कि इस समूह में शामिल होने से पर्यावरण को उम्दा बनाने की कोशिश को बेहतर तरीके से कर सकेंगे।

Hindustan Times ND 16-Dec-11
P-11

B-schools oppose new AICTE test

DOUBLE TROUBLE Claim announcement came late, but AICTE continues to insist on CMAT score for seat allotment

ht SPECIAL

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NEW DELHI: After creating confusion over admissions in business schools, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), in a major goof-up had to withdraw a wrong sample paper on Thursday for its first Central Management Admission Test (CMAT) to be held in February 2012.

The AICTE last week had announced CMAT to replace state-level entrance examination for management schools to reduce stress on students, thereby increasing the number of all India entrance examinations for management schools to five. Combined Admission Test (CAT), Management Aptitude Test (MAT) and Xavier Admission Test are among popular admission tests.

As many as 1,500 B-schools have already opted for the more credible admission tests saying the AICTE announcement came very late and the test was similar to CAT. The online computer-based test will be held from 20-28 February in 61 cities, which is too late as most B-schools close their admission by end of March.

But, the AICTE has made it clear that only CMAT score will be used for allotment of seats in the council's approved institutes. "It will create confusion for students and admission problems private institutes," protested H Chaturvedi, alternate president of Educational Promotional Society of India, an apex body of private education providers. The All India Management Association (AIMA), which conducts MAT, said conducting a common test of this nature in an only online format will widen digital divide. Over 90% of MAT students opt for paper-based test, AIMA said.

AICTE, which has partnered with private organisation to conduct CMAT, had to face embarrassing situation as it placed a sample paper for the test on its website.

The paper placed on the council's CMAT site on December 14 was related to corporate finance, which is not related to four set of questions for the AICTE's first national test.

Receiving rebuke from the management institutes, the council on Thursday removed the trial paper and asked the students to wait till December 18 to try the CMAT format.

AICTE chairperson SS Mantha did not reply to text messages or calls. Rajender Kumar, director in-charge of CMAT, was also not available for comments.

HindustanTimes
Title : No plan to screen social media content, says govt
Author :
Location : NEW DELHI:
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No plan to screen social media content, says govt

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Going against its earlier proposal to "pre-screen" content on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, the government stated on Thursday that it had no plan to censor Internet, even as it sought the help of social media companies to reach out to people.

Communications and IT minister Kapil Sibal held meetings with representatives of various Internet platforms, including Google, Facebook and Twitter on Thursday.

"There is no question of censoring Internet. Whatever law has to be made is already in place. The government is committed to abiding by whatever is included in the Constitution, which is freedom of speech and expression. We protect that with a lot of energy," said Sachin Pilot, minister of state for communication and IT, after the meeting.

SIBAL MEETS FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND GOOGLE OFFICIALS, SAYS DIALOGUE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA FIRMS NEEDED

Last week, Sibal had said that objectionable material should not be posted on Internet and wanted the content to be "pre-screened" by companies that provided social media platforms. Sibal, who left the meeting after 30 minutes, said the government wanted an open dialogue between social media companies and various government departments, including the external affairs ministry and the department of information technology.

"How does the social media use its own platform to ensure that the voice of the marginalised is heard by the government, which otherwise, sometimes, is not heard," said Sibal. "So, we want a constructive dialogue that helps them to empower us when we move forward in our decision-making," he added.

The meeting also discussed the use of social media platforms for disaster management.

The Tribune ND 16/12/2011 P-14

HAS SCIENCE FOUND THE GOD PARTICLE?

Maybe, say nuclear scientists ... but if we could just have a few months to make sure

STEVE CONNOR

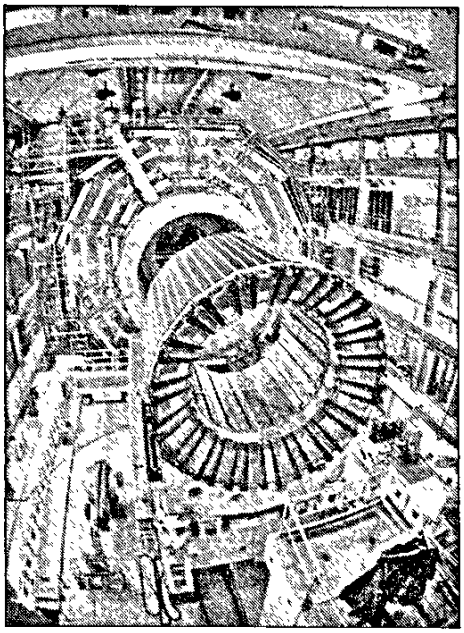
EUROPEAN nuclear research scientists say they are close to discovering the elusive Higgs boson, the "God particle" that confers mass on matter and is thought to be one of the building blocks to the universe. But they are still some way from confirming the existence of a sub-atomic particle that is one of the cornerstones of modern physics.

Despite excited reports on the BBC that the particle has been "glimpsed", the Cern laboratory in Geneva merely confirmed that measurements by its £5bn Large Hadron Collider have come closer than previous searches to detecting the sub-atomic particle whose existence was first hypothesised in the 1960s.

Scientists said they had eliminated 95 per cent of the energy range where the Higgs might have been hiding, but were not yet ready to exclude the possibility that what they had detected was merely background noise rather than the real thing. They said that final, definite proof would now have to wait until 2012.

Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer, head of Cern, urged: "Please be prudent. We have not found it yet. Stay tuned for next year." Professor Themis Bowcock, head of particle physics at the University of Liverpool, said: "If the Higgs observation is confirmed, this really will be one of the discoveries of the century."

Dr Stephen Haywood, head of the Atlas Group at the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, said: "This is what many of us have been working towards for 20 years. This is just the start."



The Cern laboratory in Geneva merely confirmed that measurements by its £5bn Large Hadron Collider have come closer than previous searches to detecting the sub-atomic particle whose existence was first hypothesised in the 1960s

THE STRANGE SUB-ATOMIC WORLD

Q. What is the Higgs boson?
A. It is a sub-atomic particle, or "boson", that was first proposed theoretically in the 1960s by Professor Peter Higgs of Edinburgh University. He suggested that in order for matter to have mass, it must be influenced by a hypothetical particle that creates a field, called the Higgs field, which spreads throughout the Universe. No one, however, was able to detect the Higgs boson because of the energy levels needed to collide other sub-atomic particle together in order to winkle it out.

Q. How does the Higgs work?
A. The most celebrated analogy is to compare the Higgs particle to a party activist as a famous politician, perhaps a former female Prime Minister, moves through a room full of activists all wishing to see or talk to her.

The movement of the politician is influenced by how many other people cluster around her. The Higgs particles are like these party activists and the former Prime Minister is like matter itself. The more interaction there is between the Higgs particles and matter, the more mass that this particular matter possesses — and the heavier it is in gravity.

Q. Why is the Higgs particle so important?
A. To try to understand what is going on at the sub-atomic level, physicists have come up with a theory called the Standard Model. It explains three of the fundamental forces that interact at the nuclear level: the electromagnetic force, the strong nuclear force and the weak nuclear force. The Higgs particle is part of this Standard Model, which is why it was proposed in the first place. Frustratingly, though, it is the only boson or particle predicted by the Standard Model that has not so far been detected. This may be because it is difficult to detect (which is undoubtedly is) or that it doesn't exit.

Q. Why is the Higgs particle so difficult to find?
A. To find sub-atomic particles, it is necessary to collide other particles together at high energies using a machine such as the £5bn Large Hadron Collider, which accelerates sub-atomic particles called hadrons at 99.9999991 per cent of the speed of light. Sensitive detectors at the sites where the hadrons collide are then designed to monitor the tell-tale signs of a Higgs particle. There are two detectors or experiments trying to find the Higgs, one is called Atlas the other is called CMS and both are searching at similar energy levels. Unfortunately, there is a lot of "noise" coming from other particles and collisions that can mask the existence of the Higgs. Sophisticated statistical analysis is the only way of improving the certainty that a Higgs has truly been detected.

Q. What if the Higgs does not exist?
A. Then it would mean that the Standard Model is not correct, or at least not correct in the way it has been understood. Failing to find the Higgs has been said by CERN scientists to be an even more intriguing event than actually discoving its existence — although particle physicists would say that given that they have built a hugely expensive machine largely on the belief that it exists. The non-existence of the Higgs would mean that physicists would have to go back to the drawing board in terms of trying to understand what is going on at the sub-atomic level. — *The Independent*

Hindustan Times ND 16-Dec-11 P-18

Supernova gives glimpse of creation of life

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LONDON: The spectacular explosion of a star in a distant galaxy has given astronomers a rare glimpse of how supernovae blast the basic ingredients for life into the cosmos.

Scientists captured images of the colossal detonation in the Pinwheel galaxy 21 million light years away within hours of the burst of light from the explosion reaching Earth.

The supernova, called SN2011fe, was the result of a thermonuclear explosion that tore the parent star apart, converting carbon and oxygen into heavier elements, such as nickel, in the process.

Nasa's Swift space telescope turned its sensors towards the exploding star moments after observations began at three powerful ground-based telescopes. "We caught the supernova just 11 hours after it exploded, so soon that we were later able to calculate the actual moment of the explosion," said Peter Nugent at the US department of energy's Berkeley Lab in California.

Watching the star explode gave scientists a unique insight into how elements created in the supernova spewed out into space in the expanding fireball. The telescopes recorded oxygen, magnesium, silicon, calcium and iron being flung out at 16,000 kilometres a second, around 5% of the speed of light.

"Understanding how these giant explosions create and mix materials is important because supernovae are where we get most of the elements that make up the Earth and even our own bodies. For instance, these supernovae are a major source of iron in the universe. So we are all made of bits of exploding stars," said Mark Sullivan at Oxford University.

The observations gave scientists fresh details of what triggers this class of stellar explosion, known as a type Ia supernova. This kind of supernova is important because it always produces the same amount of light. Monitoring their brightness has allowed astronomers to calculate the rate of expansion of the universe. gns

• An image of the host galaxy of SN 2011fe, the Pinwheel Galaxy (M101) taken before the supernova explosion by the Hubble Space Telescope (right) and the supernova at maximum brightness. AFP

The Tribune ND 16/12/2011 P-14

Greenland hardest hit by climate change

AN unusually hot melting season in 2010 accelerated ice loss in southern Greenland by 100 billion tonnes, according to new findings by American researchers, indicating the impact of climate change.

Large portions of the island's bedrock also rose an additional quarter of an inch in response to the heat, according to data collected from a network of nearly 50 GPS stations planted along the Greenland coast to measure the bedrock's natural response to the ever-diminishing weight of ice above it.

Every year as the Greenland Ice Sheet melts, the rocky coast rises, explained Michael Bevis, Ohio eminent scholar in geodynamics and Professor in the School of Earth Sciences at Ohio State University.

Some GPS stations around Greenland routinely detect uplift of 15 mm or more, year after year. But a temperature spike in 2010 lifted the bedrock a detectably higher amount over a short five-month period — as high as 20 mm in some locations.

In a presentation at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, Bevis described the study's implications for climate change.

"Pulses of extra melting and uplift imply that we'll experience pulses of extra sea level rise," he said. "The process is not really a steady process," Bevis, also the principal investigator for the Greenland GPS Network (GNET), said.

Because the solid earth is elastic, Bevis and his team can use the natural flexure of the Greenland bedrock to measure the weight of the ice sheet, just like the compression of a spring in a bathroom scale measures the weight of the person standing on it.

Bevis is confident that the anomalous 2010 uplift that GNET detected is due to anomalous ice loss during 2010.

"Really, there is no other explanation. The uplift anomaly correlates with maps of the 2010 melting day anomaly. In locations where there were many extra days of melting in 2010, the uplift anomaly is highest," he said.

In 2010, the southern half of Greenland lost an extra 100 billion tons of ice under conditions that scientists would consider anomalously warm.

Southern Greenland stations that were very close to zones of heavy ice loss rose as much as 20 mm over the five months.

Even stations that were located far away typically rose at least 5 mm during the course of the 2010 melting season. But stations in the North of Greenland barely moved at all. — PTI