

Newspaper Clips

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IIMs trash HRD suggestions on teaching hours, smaller boards

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: The faculties of the Indian Institutes of Management have trashed the HRD ministry-appointed committee reports on the new governance structure and teaching load, saying that they are based on incorrect data.

Faculty bodies at IIM-Calcutta and IIM-Bangalore have passed unanimous resolutions to set aside the reports which suggest reducing the size of IIM boards and societies and asking each faculty to teach for 160 hours a year. Other IIMs are likely to follow suit seeking broader consultation on the proposed reforms.

“We believe that these recommendations are the outcome of several wrong assumptions and incorrect data and would not allow IIMs to become global leaders. These

The IIM faculty has now called for a fresh panel involving alumni and eminent academics to create a governance structure for the long-term development of IIMs

changes, if implemented, will have a negative impact on the morale of the faculty,” IIM-B faculty said in a memorandum submitted to board of governors chairman Mukesh Ambani last week. They have now called for a fresh panel involving alumni and eminent academics to create a governance structure for long-term development of IIMs.

A five-member committee headed by IIM-Ranchi chairman R C Bhargava had rec-

ommended reducing the size of the IIM boards and societies by almost half, and allowing corporate bodies, individuals and alumni to become members of the IIM society by paying Rs 20 crore, Rs 5 crore and Rs 3 crore respectively. The IIM-B faculty rejected the idea, saying “this will lead to a major structural change in the ownership of IIMs and would be completely against public interest. We believe that contribution for the society should be more in the nature of developing institutions rather than owning the institutions”.

The dons at the elite B-schools have also taken exception to the HRD ministry’s decision to fix a minimum teaching load for faculty which will be the same for all IIMs.

Times of India ND 17/02/2011 p21

Spiders that like smelly socks to fight malaria?

Human Scent To Help Attract Mosquito-Eating Arachnid

London: The stinky smell of sweaty socks may force you out of a room, but scientists have found that the odour enthralls a spider that preys on malaria-carrying mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*.

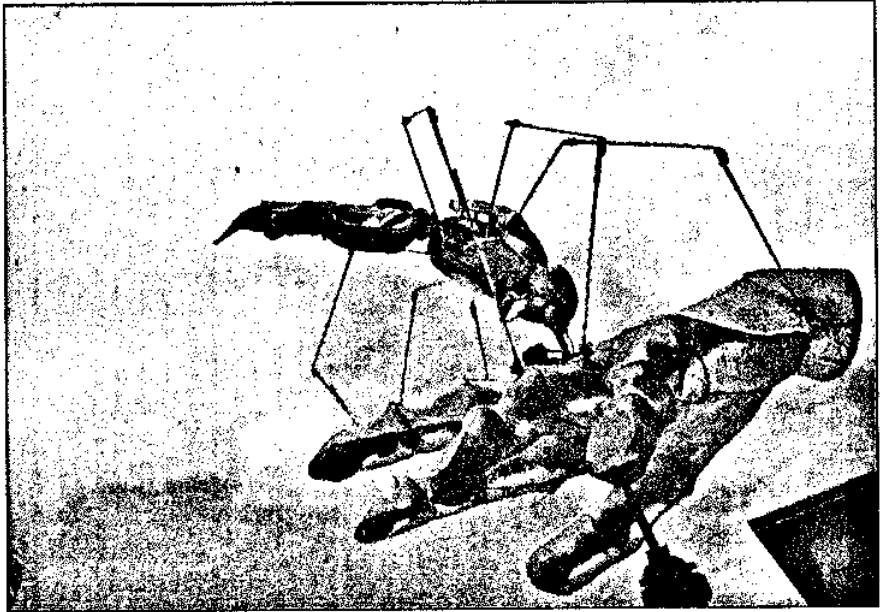
Researchers who made this amazing discovery said their findings could lead to novel ways to combat malaria that kills thousands of people every year.

In an experiment, the scientists used worn socks to find out if the East African jumping spider, *Evarcha culicivora*, was attracted to human odours like its prey.

It was found that the spider has evolved an affinity for smelly human feet in order to help find its prey — *Anopheles gambiae* that, according to past research, is also attracted to the scent of humans.

It may be a rather ugly, blood-thirsty little creature, but *Evarcha culicivora* could help in the ongoing and complex battle against malaria, the researchers said.

"It's something that's there in the environment for free," study author Fiona Cross from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, told BBC News.



LONG-DRAWN BATTLE: A sculpture of a mosquito on a hand, entitled 'X Ray Ted Golf Bug' and made out of recycled materials, on display in Liverpool

"So why not do what we can to find out about this remarkable predator?" asked Cross who carried out the study along with Robert Jackson from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya. The researchers, who reported their findings in the

journal *Biology Letters*, said they were interested in this species as it is the only known predator that specifically preys on blood-carrying mosquitoes. Cross said: "We had a suspicion that human odour was attractive to the spiders before we even ran the experiment." ❧

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Hot tip on beating common cold: Take zinc supplements

London: Taking zinc supplements can help cut the severity and duration of the common cold, a review by Indian researchers has claimed. The review on the ability of zinc to prevent and treat colds, published in The Cochrane Library, was carried out by a team at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh.

The team, which analyzed data from 15 trials involving 1,360 people, found that those who received zinc supplements within 24 hours of the onset of cold symptoms and continued to take them for a minimum of five days were more likely to recover within a week than those given placebos. "This review strengthens the evidence for zinc as a treatment for the common cold," lead researcher Meenu Singh said, according to BBC News.

"However, at the moment, it is still difficult to make a general recommendation, because we do not know very much about the optimum dose, formulation or length of treatment." She stressed

© Michael A. Keller/Corbis



SURE CURE: Those who took zinc supplements within 24 hrs of the onset of a cold got better in a week, says study

that their review looked at only zinc supplementation in healthy people. "But it would be interesting to find out whether zinc supplementation could help asthmatics, whose asthma symptoms tend to get worse when they catch a cold," she said.

According to scientists, adults catch between two to four colds a year and children up to 10 a year and there is little a person can do to avoid these infections because the viruses responsible are so commonplace. p71

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'Fair treatment for TVU students'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As the Tri-Valley University issue continues to generate heat over shabby treatment of Indian students, US ambassador to India Timothy Roemer on Wednesday assured "fair and appropriate" handling of Indian students of the 'sham' university. Roemer also affirmed US commitment to welcoming Indian and other foreign students and helping them make "best" educational choices.

"We are working closely with the Indian government on the issue of Tri-Valley University and ensuring fair and appropriate treatment of Indian students. Moreover, there are many resources publicly available to help students educate themselves on the dangers of predatory visa fraud rings and to protect them from committing visa fraud," Roemer said, adding that visa fraud had universally harmful effects, whether it was committed by Americans or Indians, and could diminish opportunities for other aspiring students.

"It is wrong to fraudulently exploit the hopes and dreams of young students for financial gain and it is important that all prospective students take advantage of the free resources offered to



“ We are working closely with the Indian government on the issue of Tri-Valley University and ensuring fair and appropriate treatment of Indian students ”

Tim Roemer | US ENVOY

them by the embassy and fully research the academic options available to them," he said. The remarks came close on the heels of foreign minister S M Krishna taking up the issue with US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who assured India of solving the issue.

Noting that US was very proud to host more than 100,000 Indian students, Roemer said they were an important and contributing part of the American academic community.

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Go easy on ayurved med ban: India to EU

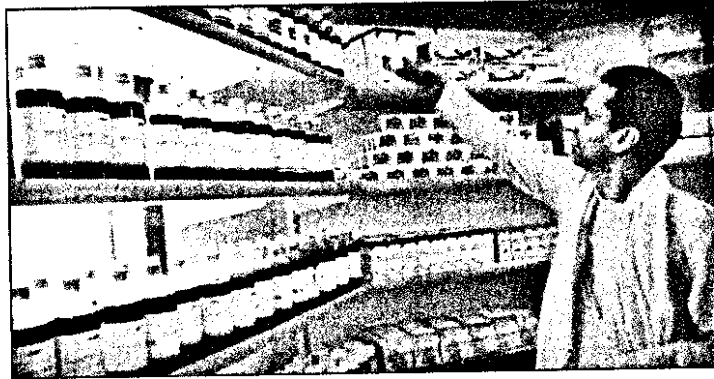
Ayush Delegation Urges Bloc To Put Off Curbs By Another 10 Years

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: India is not taking European Union's ban on the sale of its over-the-counter ayurvedic and herbal drugs across Europe from May 1 lying down.

A delegation of officials from India's department of Ayush and commerce visited Brussels in end-January to persuade EU to relax its decision by another 10 years.

According to EU's Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive (THMPD), companies making herbal products will have to provide clinical data to demonstrate its safety through use of those products within the EU for a minimum of 30 or 15 years within the EU, and 30 years outside the Union. A senior Ayush official told TOI, "We've asked EU to change the clause into 30 years of use anywhere in the world or country of origin. In this way, we can show how ayurveda and herbal products have been used in India for hundreds of years, and are both safe and efficacious."



PUSHING ITS CASE: India has also urged EU to accept ayurveda, siddha, unani and homeopathy pharmacopoeia's specifications and quality parameters

India has also urged EU to accept ayurveda, siddha, unani and homeopathy pharmacopoeia's specifications and quality parameters.

An official said, "Pharmacopoeias are official government publications. It is a comprehensive database on Indian plants in use for their health benefits, which is endorsed by the Union

government. It should be recognised by EU." India has also asked EU to extend the scope of THMPD to include non-herbal ingredients. At present, it deals exclusively with medicinal plants. "In ayurveda, we are also using non-herbal components like honey and ghee. We have asked EU to incorporate non-herbal materials as

they are safe for use," the official said.

He added, "We have told the EU that Indian monographs should be reviewed as an authentic source of information for evidence when assessing applications. Good Manufacturing Practice certificates issued by India should be recognised by EU. We've also asked for a separate legislative framework for Ayush medicines. EU should put in place a simplified application dossier for registration of traditional ayurveda products." THMPD came into force in 2004, but was given a transition period till April 30, 2011. Under this regulation, all herbal medicinal products are required to obtain an authorisation to market within EU. Previously, there was no formal authorisation procedure across EU. Consequently, each EU member regulated these types of products at the national level.

The only herbal medicines exempt from the provisions of THMPD are those unlicensed remedies that are made up for a patient following a consultation with a herbalist.

Times of India ND

17/02/2011 p6

Students write to VC on teachers skipping classes

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: It was a reality check for Delhi University administration on Wednesday when over 1,000 students from across colleges and departments voiced their concern over absentee teachers. The students also raised the problem of inadequate infrastructure and security for women students. According to officials, the university administration received over a 1,200 feedback forms of which nearly 1,000 raised the issues of absenteeism among teachers and inadequate infrastructure.

Vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh had during his interaction with students on January 31 — the first ever in the history of the university — asked the students to fill up a feedback form. In the meeting too, students posed tough questions to the VC on absentee teachers, lack of basic amenities and security.

Students' Union president of IP College, Nikita, said: "Because of teachers' strikes the academic calendar has gone haywire and the syllabi are later completed in a rush, making students suffer. What is the university doing?"



PROBLEMS GALORE

In the feedback forms, the students complained about how the class work was completely disrupted due to teachers' non-cooperation as well as the crumbling infrastructure in many colleges.

They explained in detail how everything right from the classroom to libraries to laboratories was lacking proper infrastructure.

Speaking to TOI, Singh said, "The university did receive feedback forms in which students raised concerns over absenteeism, inadequate infrastructure and security for girls. This is a learning experience for the administration and at least we have initiated a process of dialogue. I met over a 1,000 teachers as well there after and I feel follow-up dialogues will help address most of the concerns."

Business Standard ND 17/02/2011 P14

HRD ministry issues draft Bill for IITs, proposes autonomy, PPP model

PIYALI MANDAL
New Delhi, 16 February

To address the increasing demand for skilled workforce for the Indian information technology sector, the government has come up with a draft Bill proposing to set up more Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) under a public-private partnership.

Besides, the draft "Indian Indian Institutes of Information Bill, 2010" proposes to declare the four existing government institutions - at Allahabad, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram - as institutes of national importance.

The institutes, existing and proposed will all get autonomous status and will be empowered to grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinction.


The Centre has asked for public comments on the draft Bill, after which it is likely to be tabled in the next session of the Parliament. Earlier, this year the directors of all the four IIITs and top officials of the Union human resource development ministry had met in the capital to finalise the contours of the draft proposal.

Conceived with the objective of developing professional ex-

ACADEMIC TAKE-OFF

POWERS THAT THE IIITs MAY GET

- Can hold examinations and grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions
- Can confer honorary degrees or other distinctions
- Can fix, demand and receive fees and other charges
- Can institute and award fellowships, scholarships
- Can receive gifts, grants, donations from government and donations, transfers from donors



pertise and skilled manpower in IT and related areas, the IIITs have so far been functioning as bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act, governed by the regulations and by-laws prescribed there.

Once the Bill is passed, the IIITs will become entities duly approved by the Parliament. Consequently, these centres of excellence will also have the power to frame their own ordinances and statutes.

"It is proposed," went the HRD ministry statement, "that a law be enacted to achieve twin objectives...to declare the four

government institutions as institutions of national importance and allow setting up of institutes in public private partnership mode which can function with complete autonomy."

The Bill has also proposed a Council of IIITs for better coordination with the central government.

Last year, the HRD Ministry had proposed setting up 20 new IIITs in the current, 11th, Plan. The finance ministry had not given clearance, suggesting it could be considered during the 12th Plan, beginning April 2012.

The ministry had earlier pre-

pared a PPP model for setting up 20 new IIITs, under which the expenditure could be shared in the ratio of 85:15 between the government and industry.

However, details of the PPP-model are not shared in the bill. According to sources, the government is going to propose the same break-up between the government and industry.

On incorporation of the institutes, the Bill says, these not-for-profit PPPs shall raise all or a substantial part of its operating (recurring) expenses and are not to be dependent on government grants.

The Director of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee IIT, Gwalior, S G Deshmukh, told *Business Standard*: "This Bill will give a lot of autonomy in financial, academic and financial matters. The proposed IIIT Council is going to help all the IIITs to follow uniform standards." On allowing the PPP mode, he said: "There is a clause which says that it shall be possible for a government institute to move to the N-PPP category and vice-versa. This will motivate competition."

Private participation will also help bridge the gap between what is taught and what the industry requires, he added.

Hindu Nd 17.02.11 p-11

'U.K. universities lack focus on modern India'

An interview with Sunil Khilnani, who has been appointed director of a new 'India Institute' set up by King's College London.

Hasan Suroor

British and European universities have often been criticised for neglecting contemporary India which, critics say, is studied in a somewhat "fragmentary" way with much of what passes for Indian studies being either about ancient India or colonial and post-colonial "stuff."

Now, King's College London, which has old links with India (it proudly lists Khushwant Singh among its famous alumni), has stepped in to plug the gap by setting up an India Institute which it hopes to develop as "a focal point" for an inter-disciplinary study of contemporary India.

It has poached well-known modern India scholar Sunil Khilnani from Johns Hopkins University, Washington, to run the Institute to be formally launched in the summer.

Prof Khilnani, best-known for his 1997 seminal book *The Idea of India*, says that in Britain and Europe more generally there is a lack of focus on contemporary India.

"If you look at British and European engagement with India it is either in terms of Indology or colonialism — the rise of nationalism and the end of the raj, that is, mostly up to independence. There is very little coherence when it comes to engaging with contemporary India. Lots of individuals are doing some good work and you have great university departments working on specific areas such as economic development or strategic studies but the focus on post-1947 India is lacking. We will bring all these strands together to promote an understanding of modern India through cutting-edge research and debate," he told *The Hindu*.

More than just a department

The Institute, he said, would be more than just a university department. It would be a "cross" between a centre of academic study and a think-tank developing links with British and European think-tanks like the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and the India-Europe Futures Forum. The idea behind the Institute derived from the recognition that India had emerged not only as a major economic

power but also as a global player in a whole range of other areas such as environment, security, and democracy.

"It comes from a recognition that India is going to play an increasingly crucial role in years to come and you have to look at India if you want to understand global issues. The institute will be an arena for regular interaction between the scholarly and policy-making community as well as a platform for major India-related events. It will aim to connect Indian questions and subjects to more general academic and policy debates," Prof. Khilnani said.

Multi-disciplinary approach

The approach would be multi-disciplinary involving specialists from diverse fields, including the media. The focus in media studies would be on "reporting India" both as it is reported by journalists in India and by the foreign, especially western, media. His own sense is that India is not reported by western journalists in the "informed" way that China is.

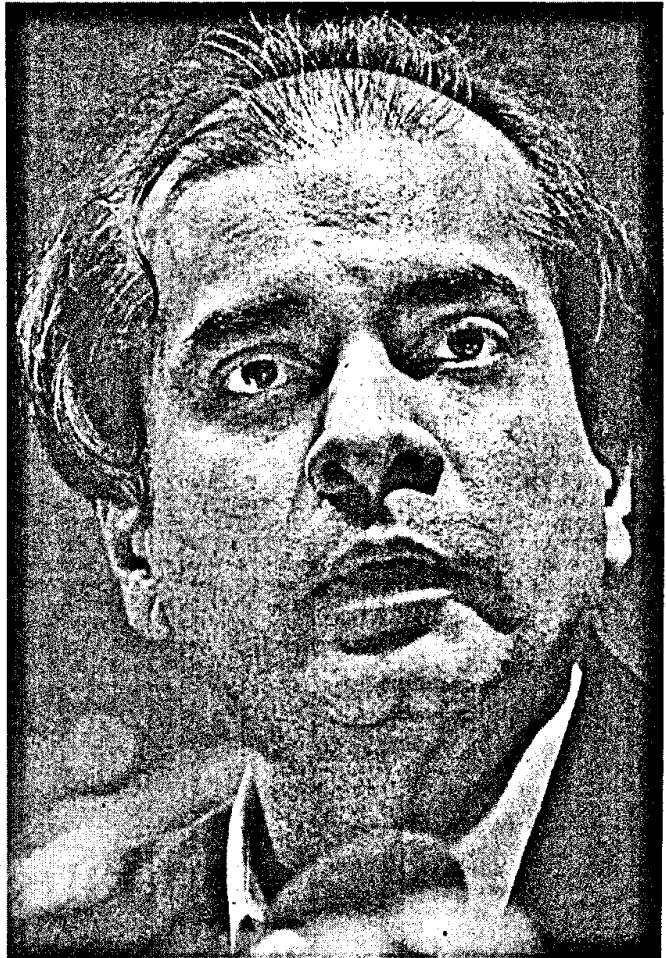
As someone who wears two hats — that of a historian and a political scientist — with strong views on how modern India has developed and where it is going, what does he hope to bring to the programme?

"I will attempt to connect different disciplinary perspectives to understanding India and look at contemporary India in a long historical perspective. If you want to understand the present you have to see where it comes from and where it is going," said Prof. Khilnani who is working on a book on India's global role and prospects.

How much of his own left-of-centre, Nehruvian, position would influence the Institute's programme?

"We are not going to impose any ideological view and would welcome, indeed encourage, diversity of views and debate. You can't keep out ideas. If I disagree with something I would rather have those views debated inside than exclude them."

Meanwhile, at a time when British universities are facing massive spending cuts with some facing closure, the King's move may surprise some. But, according to Prof. Khilnani, if anything, it simply confirms the growing interest in India.



WAY AHEAD: "We are not going to impose any ideological view and would welcome, indeed encourage, diversity of views and debate," says Sunil Khilnani. - PHOTO: MURALI KUMAR K.

"The fact that they are making such a huge investment shows the importance they attach to Indian studies. It is a high priority for King's," he said.

The college would welcome support from the Indian government as well as

private sector so long as it comes without any strings attached to it.

"Our ideas are not for hire. We are very clear on that," said Prof. Khilnani ahead of a visit to India before taking up his new assignment.

Mint ND

17/02/2011 P-13

IIM-A gets HRD nod to cut board size

By **SOUMITRA TRIVEDI**
soumitra.t@livemint.com

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AHMEDABAD

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) is set to cut the number of members on its board of governors by more than one third next month to be able to take quicker decisions.

The business school has already received the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry's approval for the move, and is now awaiting the final nod from its society, said Samir Barua, director of IIM-A.

The final decision to reduce the number of board members to 15 from 25 from is expected on 26 March, he said.

"With the current larger board, decision-taking process becomes lengthy as during board meetings many of the members do not remain present," Barua said at a press briefing at the IIM-A campus on Wednesday. "We have observed that this has resulted in lack of valuable inputs in taking various managerial decisions for the institute." A smaller board will enable the institute to select and appoint its director, a power that currently lies with the society of the institute, he said.

The HRD ministry approved the plan to reduce the strength of the board of governors in November, seven months after IIM-A had requested the change. In 2008, a panel had suggested that the institute cut the number of board members from 24-25 to 11.

IIM-A to do a Harvard, raise funds by selling case studies

to Bureau

Ahmedabad, Feb 16: Taking a leaf from the Harvard Business School in US, the Indian Institute of Management — Ahmedabad is looking to increase its revenue by selling its case studies, a move the institute hopes would help make "about 15% or more of its total revenue".

This marks another area the B-school has learned from Harvard, which charges \$10 per participant per case study and fills up roughly 30% of its coffers this way, said IIM-A director, Samir Barua. IIM-A already follows Harvard's pedagogy system of case studies.

Barua said the institute had not looked into this aspect of revenue generation until recently, but would, however, not look to charge as much as Harvard does.

There are many reasons why IIM-A is looking to increase its revenues. For the past few years, its revenues have been "in the red" mainly because of back-payments of salaries according to the sixth pay commission. There was also a decline in fee revenue due to dwindling demand for its corporate education programmes — companies were largely unable to enroll employees due to the recession.

That has, however, been picking up again post-recession. Recognising this, IIM-A had included 14 new management development programmes (MDPs) in June 2010. Revenue from MDPs — short term courses for work-

THE INSTITUTE HOPES THE STEP WOULD HELP MAKE "ABOUT 15% OR MORE OF IT'S TOTAL REVENUE". HARVARD FILLS 30% OF ITS COFFERS BY SALE OF CASE STUDIES

ing executives — generate about a third of the institute's revenues.

At present, the institute has not received funding from the government for about six years except for extension of hostels and other infrastructure (necessitated by a supreme court ruling), and revenue had been garnered from advisory services, academics and corporate education programmes.

The revenue crunch has had several implications, a major one being the institute has been unable to attract world-class teachers from abroad or even the corporate sector. Another was that with the batch sizes increasing by as much as 50%, there was an acute faculty crunch as strength grew by less than 10% correspondingly.

"It's as simple as this: a world-class academic or corporate leader may say they like IIM-A and consider joining as a faculty with a 50% salary cut. But no one would join with a 90% reduction, which was all we could afford with our revenues in the red," said Barua.

Scientists find mosquito-eating spider likes smelly socks

Press Trust of India

London, Feb. 16

The stinky smell of sweaty socks may force you out of a room, but scientists have found that the odour enthrals a spider that preys on malaria-carrying mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*.

Researchers who made this amazing discovery said their findings could lead to novel ways to combat malaria that kills thousands of people every year.

In an experiment, the scientists used worn socks to find out if the East African jumping spider, *Evarcha culicivora*, was attracted to human odours like its prey.

It was found that the

spider has evolved an affinity for smelly human feet in order to help find its prey - *Anopheles gambiae* that, according to past research, is also attracted to the scent of humans.

It may be a rather ugly, bloodthirsty little creature, but *Evarcha culicivora* could help in the ongoing and complex battle against malaria, the researchers said.

"It's something that's there in the environment for free," study author Fiona Cross from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, told *BBC News*.

"So why not do what we can to find out about this remarkable predator?" asked

Cross who carried out the study along with Robert Jackson from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya.

The researchers, who reported their findings in the journal *Biology Letters*, said they were interested in this species as it is the only known predator that specifically preys on blood-carrying mosquitoes.

Cross said: "We had a suspicion that human odour was attractive to the spiders before we even ran the experiment.

"We generally find these spiders in the tall grass next to houses or other buildings

occupied by people."

To test this suspicion, Cross and her team devised an aroma-based experimental set-up called an olfactometer. They put each "test spider" into a small holding chamber into which air was pumped, either from a box containing a clean sock or one containing a worn (and therefore smelly) sock.

Each spider was able leave its holding chamber at any time and escape into an exit chamber, which did not have sock-scented air pumped into it.

The spiders supplied with the aroma of worn socks always remained in the holding chamber for longer

than those exposed to the freshly washed sock.

Cross said it was "unprecedented that a spider should find human odour attractive". But, she added, the discovery tied in with some of the spiders' remarkable behaviour.

"When they smell blood, they can launch into feeding frenzies where they kill up to 20 mosquitoes in rapid succession, and not necessarily to eat all of them," she explained.

The researchers are now trying to find out what exactly people might be able to do to attract the spiders into their homes, without also attracting the mosquitoes.

Financial Chronicle ND 17-Feb-11 p-10

IndiaCan to train 5 lakh students in next 5 years

S RONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi

INDIACAN, a vocational training company, said it will expand its presence to 300 centres from the present 80 by the end of 2011, enabling it to train five lakh students over the next five years. It is also partnering with the UK-based Edexcel, for international level certification programmes. This is the third such tie-up in this week.

According to IndiaCan's head-vocational business, Srinath Venkatesh, the programme will be developed by the company itself, and will eventually receive Edexcel 'WorkFirst' certification. A WorkFirst certification ensures that quality and proficiency benchmarks are met, enabling learners to find easier acceptability in the job market with greater chances of progress within their market

sector whether it is retail or accountancy.

"In the e-learning programmes, the market is also growing in this segment of learning solutions, especially from the telecom and banking sectors as these two are growing fast in the country," CMO, Tata Interactive Systems, Rajesh Jumanani told FC.

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