

Newspaper Clips January 14, 2016

IISc comes out with water-purifier membrane

Bengaluru: Jan 14, 2016, DHNS:



<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/522940/iisc-comes-water-purifier-membrane.html>

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a membrane which can remove bacterial contamination from water, while at the same time preventing bio-fouling or the accumulation of micro-organisms on the membrane.

Dr. Suryasarathi Bose, Assistant Professor, Department of Materials Engineering, IISc, one of the authors of the study said: “This technology would be very useful for commercial use because the methodology adopted here and the technology employed in preparation is industrially viable and does not require intensive infrastructure. More importantly, they are eco-friendly.

The added advantage is that polyolefins are chemically inert and hence these membranes can be used in various industries, especially in the food or dairy industries”.

The newly designed membrane has a matrix made of polyethylene, the same material that is used to manufacture plastic bags.

It is a preferred choice to make such membranes due to its low cost, strength, durability and stability. The paper appeared in the journal ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering.

While bacterial contamination of water is a major health concern, bio-fouling accounts for almost half of the cases of membrane fouling, a process whereby a solution or a particle is deposited on a membrane thereby degrading it. It also it can block the filtration process, cause damage to the membrane and increase the cost of purification process.

This is a major problem in the use of technology. The advantages of this technology in comparison to the previously reported technologies for water purification is that it involves less cost and can be scaled-up without the need for extensive infrastructure. This membrane might be very useful as a pre-filter to extend the life time of commonly used RO (reverse-osmosis) membranes, said a release from the IISc.

IIT Kanpur ties up with Keonics

Kanpur, January 13:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/iit-kanpur-ties-up-with-keonics/article8102862.ece>

In view of the increasing rate of cyber crimes in the country, IIT Kanpur is set to establish a 'Cyber Security Centre' in Bengaluru along with Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (Keonics).

According to IIT (K) Director, Indranil Manna, IIT and Keonics agreed to be strategic partners in this regard and official documents will be signed on January 31. The decision was taken after talks between Keonics Chairman UB Venkatesh and Managing Director Rajkumar Srivastava.

Hindustan Times ND 14/01/2016

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Pro-NET protestors start postcard campaign, to send them to Smriti Irani

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Students protesting the Centre's decision to discontinue non-NET scholarship started a countrywide campaign, as part of which they are sending postcards to Union human resource development minister Smriti Irani demanding restoration, increase and expansion of research scholarships.

Students from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia and Ambedkar University under the 'Occupy UGC' banner met human resource development officials on Wednesday — the 85th day of their protest.

"The HRD minister did not meet us. We met the education secretary and other officers. They gave us reassurances that



■ Students protest the discontinuation of non-NET scholarship. HT FILE

the ministry would consider the students' opinion. Until a concrete written assurance is given to us, we will not sit at ease. We will also make one final attempt to meet the review committee on January 16," said Shehla Rashid Shora, vice-president of Jawaharlal Nehru University

Students Union (JNUSU).

UGC had resolved to discontinue the scheme of non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowship, which is provided to those undertaking research in central universities across India, in a meeting held on October 7, citing shortage of resources.

But following protests by students, the HRD ministry last week appointed a five-member panel to review the research grants offered by UGC. The ministry also asked UGC to continue all existing grants.

Sucheta De, national president of the Left leaning All India Students Association (AISA) said they started a postcard campaign which will continue for a week and then all postcards will be submitted to the HRD minister, who has to take a final decision, based on the review committee's report and the ongoing student protests.

"The campaign has been kicked off in various states, including Hyderabad, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi and it will be started in other states soon," said Ashutosh Kumar, Delhi state secretary of AISA.

Indra Nooyi becomes Yale B-School's biggest alumni donor

First woman to endow deanship at a top B-school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, January 13

The prestigious Yale School of Management will name its deanship in honour of PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi, as she gifted an undisclosed amount to her alma mater, becoming its biggest alumni donor and the first woman to be endowed a deanship at a top B-school.

Yale did not disclose the

amount gifted by Nooyi, but said her "landmark gift" to endow the deanship of the school and inaugurate an innovation fund has made her the "most generous graduate" of Yale School of Management, in terms of lifetime giving to the school.

60-year-old Nooyi is also the first woman to endow the deanship at a top business school, the school said in a statement.

The PepsiCo Chairman, who graduated from the school in 1980, credited her experience at the school for "forever alter-



Indra Nooyi

ing the course" of her life and said her gift pales in comparison with the gift that Yale gave her — the fundamental understanding that leadership requires an expansive worldview and a deep appreciation

of the many points of intersection between business and society."

"Business issues are never just business issues, and my most ardent hope is that this endowment will teach future generations of leaders that the most successful companies of tomorrow will do more than make money," she said in a statement. "They will make a difference and create shareholder value by improving the quality of life in every market in which they operate."

Nooyi joins several prominent persons of Indian-origin

who have donated generously to US universities.

In October last year, Nooyi's sister and Grammy-nominated musician Chandrika Tandon and her husband Ranjan made a \$100-million dollar gift to the New York University's School of Engineering, one of the largest philanthropic gifts by a member of the Indian-American community. In 2010, Harvard Business School had received a gift of \$50 million from Tata Companies. Industrialist Ratan Tata had attended the school's Advanced Management Programme in 1975.

Nooyi's gift will also be used to inaugurate the Fifth Decade Innovation Fund, named in recognition of the fact that the first class entered the Yale School of Management in 1976. The fund is an ambitious initiative designed to advance the school's aim of developing leaders with a broad global mindset and multi-disciplinary approach to business. It will be open to additional substantial contributions that can help the school develop the technology and other infrastructure to support these and future initiatives.

UNIVERSITIES NEED TO SPEND A LOT MORE ON RESEARCH

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

It is deplorable to know that only a miniscule proportion of the budget is spent on research projects by universities in the state ('Only 0.01% of budget spent on research', January 13). Research is such an important subject; it raises the standard of living and improves the image of a nation in a globalised world. Foreign universities spend a huge amount on research projects, with financial help from state governments and corporates. In our universities, students are not trained well to carry out research. It should also become the backbone of the 'Make in India' plan, as better researched products will have a better market in the world.

IT'S TIME FOR NOSTALGIA

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

This weekend, KGPIans from around the world will converge at their alma mater for the 13th alumni meet

This weekend, IIT Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) would be hosting its 13th Annual Alumni Meet, one of the largest alumni meets in the country. The meet will see over 350 of the nation's most successful engineers, entrepreneurs and businessmen on the same stage.



Participants at the alumni meet last year.

IIT Kharagpur has a rich history of producing the best brains in the country. The list of alumni invited includes Google CEO Sundar Pichai and chief minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal.

The meet will also feature several titans of Indian, as well as foreign industry, like Vinod Gupta, ex-CEO and chair man of infoGROUP, and Arjun Malhotra, founder of HCL Technologies.

This year, members of the first graduating batch of 1955, the Golden Jubilee batch of 1966, the Ruby Jubilee batch of 1976 and the Silver Jubilee batch of 1991 are the special guests of honour.

The 1955 batch is also the first batch of IITians India has ever produced. Set up in 1951, IIT Kharagpur is first among the 18 IITs of India.

“Every year, we welcome the golden batch, the ruby batch and the silver batch. This year is the diamond jubilee year of our first graduating batch. So, we have invited them also. Considering that all of them are now in their 80s, what is exciting is that age has not been a deterrent for some of them and they have confirmed participation,” said professor Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, dean of alumni affairs and international relations.

The meet gives the alumni the chance to return to the fun-filled times of their college life, after such a long period of time.

“The alumni from the first batch will talk about their experience at KGP and would also talk about what they feel about what IITs stands for today,” said Mridul Pant, student member of the students alumni cell office of alumni affairs and international relations.

As a tribute to the first IIT graduates of the country, the current students of IIT-KGP will host an illumination event popularly known as ‘Illu’, a celebration unique to IIT-KGP.

The students will set up several hundred diyas in the form of a giant mural for taking the visiting alumni’s back to their time in IIT. ‘Illu’ has been one of the most hotly contested events at the institute.

“Several events have been arranged for the alumni, including a campus tour and department visit, to demonstrate how the institute has developed over the past few decades,” said Ankit Sharma, media coordinator of students alumni cell office of alumni affairs and international relations. Any visit to the alma mater is incomplete for the alumni without dropping by the departments and visiting the classrooms where they were nurtured by some of the most revered teachers and the laboratories that ignited their scientific minds.

The halls of residents where the KGPIans spent some of the most important years of life is also on the list of must visit check list of the alumni. A tour across the campus would apprise the alumni of the changes the institute had undergone over the years.

Musical evening will feature the popular band ‘Indian Jam Project’ as the highlight, with the alumni also expected to join in the festivities. At Entertainia, Biswa Kalyan Rath, of ‘Pretentious Movie Review’ fame, will take centre stage. What will make the event doubly special to the alumni is that Biswa Kalyan Rath is himself an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur.

Over a period of six decades, the institute has experienced alumni engagement at various levels. The latest initiative is the MN Faruqui Innovation Centre supported by Shri Arjun Malhotra, which will be showcased to the visiting alumni.

The centre will serve as a hub for students to pursue innovation projects and promote innovation culture among them eventually leading to high-end research and entrepreneurship.

The alumni contribution started from doling out scholarships to students. The institute stepped into a new era with alumnus Shri Vinod Gupta setting up the first management school in the IIT system – the Vinod Gupta School of Management, ranked among the best B-schools in India. It was only the beginning then.

Today, the institute has several other schools and centres funded by alumni – GS Sanyal School of Telecommunication by Arjun Malhotra, co- founder, HCL and Headstrong, Ranbir and Chitra Gupta School of Infrastructure Design and Management funded by Ranbir Gupta, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law partially funded by Vinod Gupta, Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship by Devendra Mishra and Amarendra Mishra, PK Sinha Center for Bio-Energy by P K Sinha along with Advanced VLSI Laboratory, Batch Endowment programme, Faculty Awards by several alumni contributing collectively.

Enriched by the contributions of its alumni, the alma mater of some of the finest brains in the country is currently gearing up to host its old pupils.