

Newspaper Clips

January 11, 2011

Hindustan Times ND 11/01/2011 P-17

UN must prepare for alien visitors: Scientists



Evolution on alien worlds is likely to be Darwinian, which may mean extraterrestrials share our tendencies for violence and exploitation.

Alok Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: World governments should prepare a co-ordinated action plan in case Earth is contacted by aliens, according to scientists.

Scientists argue that a branch of the UN must be given responsibility for "supra-Earth affairs" and formulate a plan for how to deal with extraterrestrials, should they appear.

The comments are part of an

extraterrestrial-themed edition of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* published on Monday.

In it, scientists examine all aspects of the search for extraterrestrial life, from astronomy and biology to the political and religious fallout that would result from alien contact.

"Will a suitable process based on expert advice from proper and responsible scientists arise at all, or will interests of power and opportunism more proba-

bly set the scene?" asked Professor John Zarnacki of the Open University and Dr Martin Dominik of the University of St Andrews in the introductory paper. "A lack of co-ordination can be avoided by creating an overarching framework in a truly global effort governed by an international politically legitimated body."

The pair argue that the UN has a ready-made mechanism for such a forum in its Committee on the Peaceful Uses

of Outer Space (Copuos).

Member states of Copuos should put "supra-Earth affairs" on their agenda, say the scientists, and establish structures similar to those proposed for dealing with threats from near-Earth objects, such as asteroids, that might be on a collision course with our planet.

According to Simon Conway Morris, a professor of evolutionary palaeobiology at Cambridge University, anyone planning for alien contact should

prepare for the worst.

Evolution on alien worlds, he said, is likely to be Darwinian in nature. Morris argues that life anywhere else in the universe will therefore probably have important similarities with life on Earth — especially if it comes from Earth-like worlds that have similar biological molecules to ours. That means ET might resemble us, warts and all, with our tendencies towards violence and exploitation.

THE GUARDIAN

Times of India ND 11-Jan-11 P-17

How far does your sneeze go? Study to tell

Singapore: Ever wondered how far your sneeze goes? Or if you can stop germs from spreading by cupping your mouth with your hand when you cough?

With a giant mirror and high-speed camera, scientists in Singapore are trying to find out how airborne transmission of flu viruses takes place, or if it happens at all. The equipment allows them to observe real-time a person's spray of minute liquid droplets when

coughing, sneezing, laughing and talking, and they hope the results can be used to make better guidelines for infection control.

"It's really to inform infection control teams, because there is controversy now about which pathogens, eg flu, are airborne and if so, how significant this route is compared to others, such as direct contact," said team leader Julian Tang, a virologist and

consultant with Singapore's National University Hospital. While it is likely a flu sufferer can infect others by coughing or sneezing, little is known about the distances a cough or sneeze travels and the volume of air — and viruses — packed into it.

In their \$833,000 study, Tang and colleagues designed a large concave mirror, akin to those used in astronomical telescopes.

Along with a camera that can capture up to 250,000 frames per second, the experts can observe the aerosol, or spray, produced by a cough or sneeze across the mirror. Using volunteers, Tang and his colleagues will study the velocity and distance of exhaled airflows, or plumes, produced by coughs and sneezes, and even laughing, crying, singing, whistling, talking, snoring and breathing. REUTERS

Hindustan Times ND 11/01/2011 P-10

MORE ENROLMENTS

Women engineer a crack in academic glass ceiling

COURSING THROUGH

- 276,806 women enrolled in engg and technology course in 2009-10
- In 2000-01, the figure was 124,606
- The arts, however, remain the most popular stream for women — the number at the start of the 2009-10 session was over 10 times the number enrolled in engg.



ILLUSTRATION: JAVANTO

Charu Sudan Kasturi
charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Women have broken yet another glass ceiling — one of the most resilient ones in India academics. The number of women enrolling across the country's engineering colleges over the past decade has doubled, the latest University Grants Commission statistics show. A total of 276,806 women were enrolled in engineering

and technology courses at the start of the 2009-10 academic session as compared to 124,606 in 2000-01.

"This is an unprecedented jump in enrolment and one that bursts the myth that women do not take up engineering..." an HRD ministry official said.

Number of women enrolling have also increased across all other streams — management and commerce (by 68%), education (223%),

law (33%), arts (62%), sciences (72%), medicine (89%), agriculture (74%) and veterinary sciences (29%).

Number of women enrolled in higher education at the start of the 2009-10 academic session was 5,649,102 — 70% higher than the 3,325,927 at the start of the 21st century.

The arts however remain the most popular stream for women — the number of women enrolled in humanities courses at the start of the

2009-10 session was over 10 times the number enrolled in engineering.

But the gender gap is far from closed. Women students constituted 41% of the total higher education enrolled student body of India in 2009-10, as opposed to 39% in 2000-01. "...There is still some way to go before we reach a near 50:50 scenario..." a researcher at the National University of Educational Planning and Administration said.

Times of India ND 11-Jan-11 P-17

Fear dentist's drill? Filter it out

New Device Camouflages Whirr While Not Blocking Other Sounds

London: In what could spell the end of people's anxiety about trips to the dentist, scientists claim to have invented a gadget which camouflages the whirr of the doctor's drill.

The device plugs into an MP3 or mobile and uses a filtering technique to cancel out the high pitched buzz of the drill—but still allows the patient to listen to music and hear what the dentist is saying, say the scientists from Kings College, Brunel University and London South Bank University.

Studies have shown that for many people it is the sound of the drill that causes the most anxiety about visiting the dentist, and the scientists hope that the device could encourage more people to get necessary treatment.

Containing a microphone and a chip that analyses soundwaves, it plugs into the MP3 or mobile ahead of the headphones, and uses adaptive filtering to mask only the disturbing sound of the medical equipment, such as the drill and suction pipes, the Daily Tele-



SILENT TREATMENT: Studies have shown that for many people it is the sound of the drill that causes the most anxiety about visiting the dentist

graph reported.

The device was created by a team led by Brian Millar of King's College, who drew in-

spiration from carmaker Lotus, which has developed a system to remove road noise while allowing drivers to hear emergency sirens. A prototype of the drill has already been built and successfully tested, and King's is seeking an investor to bring it to the open market soon.

Millar said, "Many people put off going to the dentist because of anxiety associated with the noise of the dentist's drill. But this device has the potential to make fear of the drill a thing of the past."

"The beauty of this gadget is that it would be fairly cost-effective for dentists to buy, and any patient with an MP3 player would be able to benefit from it, at no extra cost."

"What we need now is an investor to develop the product further, to enable us to bring this device to as many dental surgeries as possible, and help people whose fear of visiting the dentist stops them from seeking the oral health care they need," he added. □

Times of India ND 11-Jan-11 P-16

Scientists are developing technology that will prevent inebriated drivers from starting their cars

None for the road

On the heels of New Year's revelries comes news of an automobile technology being developed that checks drivers for alcohol content. Located in contact points across a car, this measures the alcohol its driver has consumed. The vehicle goes into 'lock-down' mode if this quantity is found to exceed a legal limit.

The innovation comes as a breath of fresh air. In America, in 2007 alone, more than 30% of all fatal accidents occurred because of drunk driving. In Britain, 400 deaths happened in 2008 due to 'driving under the influence'.

And in India, an estimated 40% of accidents are linked to intoxicated driving.

In recent years, startling cases of drunk driving have occurred. Many remember the infamous 'BMW case' involving Sanjeev Nanda who, driving drunk down Delhi's Lodhi Road on January 10, 1999, killed three pedestrians and three policemen. On January 30, 2010, Nooriya Havelivala roared down Mumbai's Marine Drive, killing two policemen and wounding four others. Upon examination, the alcohol content in her blood was

apparently nine times over the legal limit.

These cases hit the headlines; however, there are several instances of 'tipsy' drivers let off by police once money crosses hands. The weakness of law enforcers should not mean pedestrians and other drivers are subjected to danger from those irresponsible about their indulgences. In this scenario, a car that

■ TIMES VIEW ■

can judge a driver's capacity is timely technology, forcing the intoxicated to take alternative transport or sleep it off. Everyone wins; the sober are safer while those on a high can enjoy themselves without worrying about navigation or police checks. Technology is about enhancing our quality of life. A car that cannot be bribed or cajoled is an excellent apparatus. Arguing against it is a waste of time. And lives.

Technology corrodes responsibility

Implementing technology that prevents drunk driving poses a danger to society because it corrodes human agency—the idea that people can make their destinies. Human agency implies that it's up to human beings to act responsibly. In other words, the ability to behave ethically is being threatened by technology and the divestment of ethics

car's sensors fail to work and seize even when the driver is sober?

Transferring responsibility—and the onus for maintaining it—out of human hands produces a society of childlike people. Freed from the responsibility of making decisions, they will also lose the ability to act ethically. Furthermore, being technologically astute, but lacking the ability to differentiate between responsibility and irresponsibility, what is to stop people from mani-

■ COUNTERVIEW ■

Deep K Datta-Ray
pulating technology for irresponsible ends? The concerns we face today, from drunk-driving to environmental issues such as excessive CO₂ production and overfishing are due to the irresponsible use of technology. It undeniably produces opportunities, but these are limited to the mundane, to helping us do routine tasks more easily, from writing to travelling. Technology also increases the opportunities for doing those tasks in an irresponsible way. The solution then is a renewed emphasis on ethics. Not the other way around.

We must drive responsibly. However, since some choose to be irresponsible, society set up enforcement agencies, thereby making the authorities responsible for ensuring laws are enforced. None of this can be outsourced to machines. Since no technology is perfect and a car is a very personal object, it should be controlled by its driver, not the other way round. What happens, for instance, if the



Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 11, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 14;

HC to TN: Don't hand out doctorates like freebies

Chennai: Three days after the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University conferred honorary degrees on seven doctors, including the CM and Governor's physicians, the Madras High Court has questioned the manner in which authorities have decided to award the honour according to their own "sweet wish".

The first bench comprising Chief Justice M Yusuf Eqbal and Justice T S Sivagnanam made the observation when a public interest writ petition filed by advocate G Velu came up for admission on Monday. "Merely because one person is a private physician of the governor or a private physician of chief

minister, he cannot be awarded the degree. We can't accept that," Chief Justice Eqbal observed. Now that the degree has already been awarded, the judge asked advocate S Prabakaran, counsel for the petitioner, to modify the plea. The petition should be for cancellation of the honorary doctorate, he said. The matter is coming up for further hearing on Wednesday.

Prabakaran said that in the case of Dr S Sabaratnavel, the personal physician at the Raj Bhavan, rules were violated and his name was included as a recipient of the honour in a hurried manner. **TNN**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 11, 2011; Section: Editorial; Page: 16;

Scientists are developing technology that will prevent inebriated drivers from starting their cars



None for the road

On the heels of New Year's revelries comes news of an automobile technology being developed that checks drivers for alcohol content. Located in contact points across a car, this measures the alcohol its driver has consumed. The vehicle goes into 'lock-down' mode if this quantity is found to exceed a legal limit.

The innovation comes as a breath of fresh air. In America, in 2007 alone, more than 30% of all fatal accidents occurred because of drunk driving. In Britain, 400 deaths happened in 2008 due to 'driving under the influence'. And in India, an estimated 40% of accidents are linked to intoxicated driving.

In recent years, startling cases of drunk driving have occurred. Many remember the infamous 'BMW case' involving Sanjeev Nanda who, driving drunk down Delhi's Lodhi Road on January 10, 1999, killed three pedestrians and three policemen. On January 30, 2010, Nooriya Havelivala roared down Mumbai's Marine Drive, killing two policemen and wounding four others. Upon examination, the alcohol content in her blood was

apparently nine times over the legal limit.

These cases hit the headlines; however, there are several instances of 'tipsy' drivers let off by police once money crosses hands. The weakness of law enforcers should not mean pedestrians and other drivers are subjected to danger from those irresponsible about their indulgences. In this scenario, a car that

can judge a driver's capacity is timely technology, forcing the intoxicated to take alternative transport or sleep it off. Everyone wins; the sober are safer while those on a high can enjoy themselves without worrying about navigation or police checks. Technology is about enhancing our quality of life. A car that cannot be bribed or cajoled is an excellent apparatus. Arguing against it is a waste of time. And lives.

■ TIMES VIEW ■

Technology corrodes responsibility

Implementing technology that prevents drunk driving poses a danger to society because it corrodes human agency – the idea that people can make their destinies. Human agency implies that it's up to human beings to act responsibly. In other words, the ability to behave ethically is being threatened by technology and the divestment of ethics

car's sensors fail to work and seize even when the driver is sober?

Transferring responsibility – and the onus for maintaining it – out of human hands produces a society of childlike people. Freed from the responsibility of making decisions, they will also lose the ability to act ethically. Furthermore, being technologically astute, but lacking the ability to differentiate between

■ COUNTERVIEW ■

Deep K Datta-Ray

to machines will only exacerbate social problems.

We must drive responsibly. However, since some choose to be irresponsible, society set up enforcement agencies, thereby making the authorities responsible for ensuring laws are enforced. None of this can be outsourced to machines. Since no technology is perfect and a car is a very personal object, it should be controlled by its driver, not the other way round. What happens, for instance, if the

responsibility and irresponsibility; what is to stop people from manipulating technology for irresponsible ends? The concerns we face today, from drunk-driving to environmental issues such as excessive CO₂ production and overfishing are due to the irresponsible use of technology. It undeniably produces opportunities, but these are limited to the mundane, to helping us do routine tasks more easily, from writing to travelling. Technology also increases the opportunities for doing those tasks in an irresponsible way. The solution then is a renewed emphasis on ethics. Not the other way around.



MINT ND
11/01/2011 P10

Gujarat plans tie-ups with global varsities

BY SOUMITRA TRIVEDI
soumitra.t@livemint.com

.....

AHMEDABAD

As many as 27 international educational institutes and universities signed in-principle agreements with Gujarat-based universities and the state government on Monday for a range of tie-ups from faculty and student exchanges to setting up knowledge centres.

The memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the international roundtable of academic institutions held in Gandhinagar as part of the 5th Vibrant Gujarat global business meeting.

Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi has been promoting Vibrant Gujarat 2011 as a knowledge-sharing platform rather than an event only intended to attract investment to the state, which has 28 universities. The previous editions of Vibrant Gujarat, held biennially, were more focused on corporate investments.

The main Vibrant Gujarat event will be held on 12-13 January.

Among the global institutes that signed MoUs on Monday were 11 US-based universities including University of Oklahoma, Pepperdine University, University of Maryland, University of South Carolina, Texas A&M University, University of Southern California and University of California.

Financial Express ND 11/01/2011 p-5

Gujarat institutes tie up with foreign varsities, cos for R&D

fe Bureau

Ahmedabad, Jan 10: Eleven educational institutes and universities based in Gujarat signed MoUs with foreign universities, companies and research institutes at the first pre-summit session of 'Vibrant Gujarat 2011 — the International Roundtable of Academic Institutions' on Monday.

Seventy six MoUs were inked at the signing ceremony presided by Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and the state's education principal secretary Hasmukh Adhia at the Pandit Deendayal Petrole-

Research is the essence for future development. I assure you that Gujarat has a society that will offer an ambience of risk-taking and entrepreneurship so that the fruits of research is enjoyed by common man

— Narendra Modi, Gujarat chief minister



um University, Gandhinagar. "Research is the essence for future development. I assure you that Gujarat has a society that will offer an ambience of risk-taking and entrepreneurship so that the fruits of research is enjoyed by common

man," Modi told the delegates. The MoUs broadly deal with establishing centres of excellence and R&D centres, economic research, student and faculty exchange and research activities, technology commercialisation, teacher's

training, research in sustainability in energy & environment, placements, visiting faculty, PG education, establishing a chair professor, curriculum development & joint utilisation of infrastructure.

Among the foreign universities that signed MoUs were the universities of California, Pennstate, Western Ontario, UCLA, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan (Canada), Kansas, Manuela Bertran, Thames Valley, Maryland and Papperdine.

Among the state universities, PDPU and Gujarat Technological University both signed 14 MoUs each.

Indian Express, ND 11/01/2011

p-7

Ministries clash over common medical test notification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

EVEN as the Medical Council of India (MCI) remained silent on its tussle with the Union Health Ministry on the recent notification announcing common entrance test for undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses, the ministry sent a note to the Urban Development Ministry (UDM) saying that their "carelessness" has embarrassed the government. The MCI had issued a notification on National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), replacing all other medical entrance in December last year. The Health Ministry announced it invalid, as according to them the MCI issued it without the ministry's approval.

In a letter to his counterpart Navin Kumar in UDM, Health Secretary K Chandramouli is learnt to have complained that the notification was issued "without authentication" by his ministry which has left the Health Ministry "embarrassed."

The UDM, it is learnt, held an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the issue and fix responsibility. Officials said the Department of Publication under the UDM is responsible for publishing the Gazette notifications, which become authorised legal document of the government, containing the mode of operations under the law. All such notifications issued by departments or ministries have to be signed and authenticated by an official at the level of Joint Secretary. In this case, the Health Ministry claims that it was not signed by anyone from the ministry, and the notification on NEET was sent by the MCI directly to the UDM. The Health Ministry struck down the notification last week and has asked the UDM to withdraw it.

Meanwhile, the MCI board of governors had a meeting on Monday and discussed the issue. "The issue will be resolved during the state health ministers' conference," sources said.

Business Line ND 11/01/2011 P5

Now, Crisil goes for B-school rating

Our Bureau

Mumbai, Jan. 10

To provide transparency and benchmarks in the education sector, Crisil announced its new offering for grading of educational institutions, on Monday.

To begin with, Crisil has released grades for 24 management programmes covering 20 institutes from Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Gurgaon, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, Noida and Pune.

The institutes include Alard Institute of Management Sciences, Pune-MBA, Asia-Pacific Institute of Management, New Delhi- PGDM (IB) and (Marketing), Galgotias Business School, Greater Noida- PGDM.

The rating agency claims to provide an all round assessment of an institute's ability to impart quality

education and achieve desired student outcomes through the graded programmes.

Beginning with the business school segment, the rating agency is also working on providing similar grading to engineering, medical, undergraduate and primary education programmes over a period of time, Crisil's Managing Director and CEO, Ms Roopa Kudva, told newsmen.

"It's an in-depth and interactive evaluation exercise which will classify management education programmes on an eight-point scale from 'A***' to 'B'," she said.

The programmes have been evaluated on national level as well as on State level.

This, Ms Kudva said, will provide practical decision-making to both students and recruiters, who may

wish to study in or recruit from specific geographic areas.

The exercise will be on a voluntary basis, which means an institute will have to come forward to get its programmes evaluated.

"We will be charging Rs 3 lakh as fees per institute, which is lower than what a student pays as his or her fees for a programme," said Ms Kudva.

The business development and analytical teams have been kept separate to ensure transparency in the grading process, she said.

A comprehensive report on each graded programme with insights into student and faculty profile, curriculum, and best practices adopted by the institute will be available free of charge on Crisil's Web site, said a statement from Crisil.

Hindu ND 11.01.11 p-12

Health Ministry wants MCI notifications withdrawn

They were printed without authentication, Urban Development Ministry told

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has asked the Union Urban Development Ministry to withdraw the notifications of the Medical Council of India (MCI) on common entrance tests for graduate and post-graduate courses, as they have been printed without authentication. The two gazette notifications were printed on December 21 by the Department of Publications that comes under the Urban Development Ministry. All such notifications are published by this department and printed by the Govt. of India Printing Presses.

A gazette notification is an authorised legal document of

- The notifications were printed on December 21
- Urban Development Ministry to look into issue

the government containing the mode of operations under the law of the land.

In a letter to his counterpart in the Urban Development Ministry, Union Health and Family Welfare Secretary K. Chandramouli on Friday last sought to know how the notifications were published and printed without authentication by the Ministry as required under rule. He pointed out that the notifications were neither vetted nor authenticated by the Joint Secretary concerned in the Ministry, and that the "mis-

take" of the Department of Publications had "left us [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare] embarrassed" and should be withdrawn.

The Urban Development Ministry, on its part, informed the Health Ministry that the issue would be looked into. The notifications were signed by the Additional Secretary of the MCI when sent for printing.

It may be mentioned that the publication programme is executed as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) issued from

time to time by the Cabinet Secretariat. For any gazette notification to be published and printed, the notification has to be authenticated by a joint secretary-level officer of the Ministry concerned along with a covering letter. In the case of the two MCI notifications, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was not even aware of the notifications until the newspapers reported it. The Ministry subsequently declared the two notifications as "invalid" as these were not issued as per law. The Department of Publications is headed by the Controller of Publications with the assistance of two Assistant Controllers, one financial officer and an assistant director.

Hindu ND 11.01.11

17/1/2011

p-20

Baldev Raj is INAE's new chief



Dr. Baldev Raj

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Baldev Raj, Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in Kalpakkam has been elected president of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE).

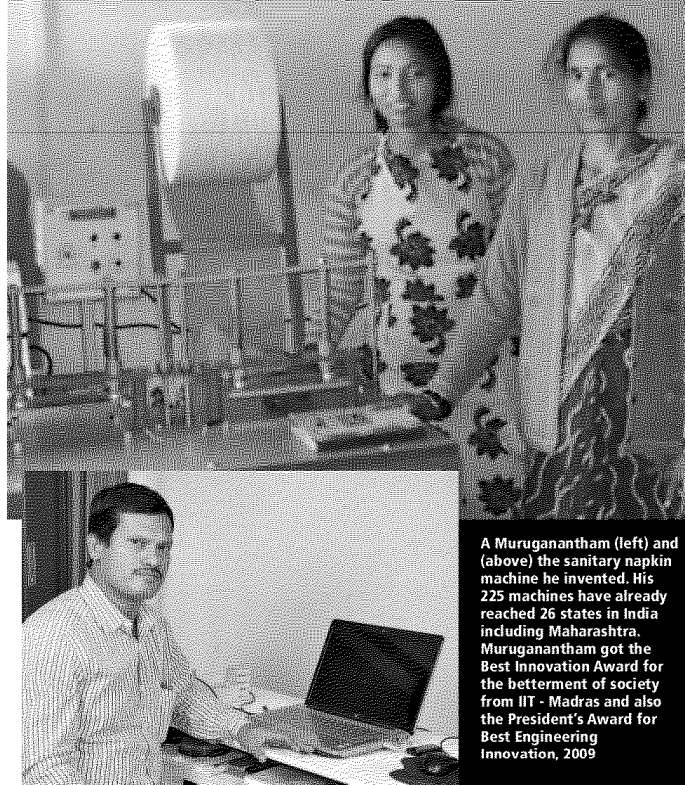
The academy is a peer body of distinguished engineers, scientists and technologists covering the entire spectrum of engineering disciplines.

It provides considered opinion on policy matters in domains of higher education, energy, heritage and industry either on request from the government or on the basis of the need envisaged, said a release.

Pune Mirror 10.01.11 p-5

IIT-B fest honours rural entrepreneur

Innovations 2011 honoured A Muruganantham whose sanitary napkin machine has provided a self-employment opportunity to many rural women



A Muruganantham (left) and (above) the sanitary napkin machine he invented. His 225 machines have already reached 26 states in India including Maharashtra. Muruganantham got the Best Innovation Award for the betterment of society from IIT - Madras and also the President's Award for Best Engineering Innovation, 2009

ARUNDHATI RANADE

Innovators from a range of technology sectors presented their ideas and products in the fifth edition of the annual event, 'Innovations 2011'. But it was an innovator with minimum education and a rural background who caught everyone's eyes. A Muruganantham, who hails from a small village in Tamil Nadu, has invented a sanitary napkin machine to operate on a small scale. Moreover, he is delivering these machines to rural women to run their own business based on it, saying, "Women in rural India have become capable of competing with multi-national giants like Johnson and Johnson with this machine."

Innovations is an event organised by the Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay) Alumni Association's Pune chapter each year. This year, they shortlisted 14 innovations from all across India and these were showcased on Saturday, in Pune. Muruganantham's innovative machine was one of them.

A Muruganantham, son of a handloom weaver in Tamil Nadu, has studied till Class X. His mother is a worker in a farm. The meagre educational background didn't prove an obstacle to his innovation, even as his social entrepreneurship business model is now being appreciated by premium institutes like IIM. Contrary to large scale production models of sanitary napkin making machines, which require a minimum initial investment of Rs

3.5 crore, Muruganantham developed his machine to allow small players to enter this business. The machine costs not more than Rs 75,000. He said, "In India, although the sanitary napkin is not a new thing, existing players have only reached the urban market which is just 15 per cent of women in the country. Because of the affordability factor, rural women opt out of its usage and have to rely on unhygienic options." Muruganantham is quite firm about his marketing USP as well. "The napkins made by MNCs talk about increasing comfort levels but nobody talks about hygiene and affordability, which is the basic minimum requirement in an Indian scenario."

Interestingly, the idea came to Muruganantham when he was making a sanitary napkin for his wife. He then started making machines and giving it to rural women to develop businesses. "I didn't know words like social entrepreneurship or rural marketing when I started out. It was only when my innovation was recognized that I learnt these terms used in big B-schools," he quips. His 225 machines have already reached 26 states in India including Maharashtra, bringing self-employment to hundreds of rural women. He says his machine has received enquiries from Nigeria, Ethiopia, Nepal, Kenya and more. Muruganantham has already achieved the Best Innovation Award for the betterment of society from IIT - Madras and also the President's Award for Best Engineering Innovation, 2009. He has obtained a patent for this remarkable innovation.

ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

10.01.11 P-1

IIT-G authorities' decision hailed

GUWAHATI, Jan 8 – The All North Guwahati Students' Union has welcomed the move of the organising committee of Alcheringa – the annual fest of IIT-Guwahati, for dropping programmes leading to degeneration of culture from the schedule of the festival. In a statement the student body said the IIT-G authorities have given a written statement assuring that events like disco-nite and groove have been cancelled and the fashion show would also be organised in a decent manner. – Staff Reporter