

Newspaper Clips

January 25, 2012

A cultural symphony

Shilpa Raina (TOI, Jan 25, 2012)

Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan's compositions enthralled the audience at the inaugural session of Spic Macay's festival series at the IIT, Delhi. The perfect synchronisation of chords and strings with equal support from the tabla, led to a series of thumris, taranas, Raag Saraswati and even the devotional song "Vaishnav Jan To".

The Padma Vibhushan winner, who kept filing his nails during the three hour long concert, said, "To bring out human expression through music, I have to file my nails after every act because finger-nails produce different sound than fingers." And while the compositions kept flowing one after another, he regularly interacted with the audience and informed them about various aspects of music. "All over the world, music speaks only one language – the language of seven notes. So, whether you hear a good song or a bad one, the basic remains the same, the seven notes," he said.

The festival series that celebrates classical music, dance and folk will take place in various cities till April. According to Parikshit Sharma, secretary, Spic Macay, IIT Delhi, the series is all about promoting and educating college students about the rich Indian culture. Hence the focus always remains on India's rich culture and heritage. "It is a part of our policy that the festival inauguration should only be opened by a Padma award winner. We are very clear that the entire 10-day festival should be a holistic experience of knowing various aspects of our culture. So, the first five days of the fest have intensive vocal events, followed by a movie screening, then crafts or dance workshop, concluded by a trip to a remote place," Sharma said.

Fics: Dinesh Bhatt



Ustad Amjad Ali Khan

RV Shevgaonkar Najma Heptulla

Sandhya Times Delhi 24.01.2012 P-3

IIT दिल्ली की फेसबुक से आंख मिचौली

अमित मिश्रा। लगता है भारत के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज सोशल साइट्स के साथ आंख मिचौली का खेल खेलते रहते हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली में फेसबुक पर समय समय पर रोक लगती रहती है। अभी कुछ दिन पहले आईआईटी मद्रास ने भी कैंपस में सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट फेसबुक पर बैन लगा दिया और तर्क यह दिया कि ऐसा नेटवर्क ओवर लोड से बचने के लिए किया गया है।

दिल्ली आईआईटी स्टूडेंट अभय का कहना है कि यह सब चलता रहता है और ऐसा नहीं है कि सिर्फ फेसबुक से ही कॉलेज का सर्वर डाउन हो जाता है। और अगर ऐसा होता है तो कॉलेज के

- ◆ आईआईटी दिल्ली में भी होता रहता है फेसबुक बंद
- ◆ प्राक्सी लगा करते हैं लॉगइन, आईआईटी देता है रिसोर्स की दुहाई
- ◆ ओवर लोड के कारण बंद होता है फेसबुक

रिसोर्स बढ़ाने चाहिए। यह ओवर लोड का लॉजिक समझ के परे है। आईआईटी अगर रिसोर्स का रोना रोएगा तो फिर बाकी कॉलेजों का तो भगवान ही मालिक है।

इसके अलावा आईआईटी दिल्ली में शायद ही कोई स्टूडेंट हो जो प्राक्सी साइट्स के जरिए फेसबुक न खोल लेता हो। आईआईटी को अगर किसी खास साइट पर रोक लगानी ही है तो वह

उसके कोई और ही तरीके खोजे तो ज्यादा अच्छा है। वैसे भी अब सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट केवल टाइम पास का अड्डा नहीं रह गई हैं। कई अलग अलग तरह के कंपटीशन भी स्टूडेंट्स को अपडेट रखते हैं।

आज कल फेसबुक पर एक खास प्रोग्रामिंग कंपटीशन चल रहा है, जिसमें दुनिया भर के प्रोग्रामर भाग ले रहे हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के ही

आकाश का कहना है कि हमें दुनिया भर में मौजूद अपने दोस्तों से करियर से जुड़ी मदद और सलाह भी मिलती रहती है और आईआईटी जैसे इंस्टीट्यूट में नेट 24 घंटे ऑन रहना चाहिए। अभी आईआईटी में रात 12 से सुबह 6 बजे तक इंटरनेट की सुविधा रोक दी जाती है।

No room(s) on campus

**PART 6:
IIT-JODHPUR** IIT-Jodhpur intends to make its 800-acre permanent campus an eco-friendly site, but the present, temporary property does not even have hostel facilities

HT Education Correspondent

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Though IIT-Jodhpur officially opened in 2008, classes were initially held on the campus of its mentor institute, IIT-Kanpur. Last year, the students were moved to a transit campus in Mugniram Bangur Memorial Engineering College of

Jodhpur. The campus does not have hostels, and the residential faculty and students have been housed in private apartments, about 12 kilometre from the college. The institute has organised buses for students to travel to and from the college.

"Around 800 acres of land have been allotted a few kilometres from Jodhpur for the campus. We are finalising the

master plan and the construction will start in a few months," says Vivek Vijay, assistant professor, IIT-Jodhpur. "One of our aims is to make sure that there is no wastage of energy or water on our new campus. Students have already started working on those projects. The institute has also installed solar panels on the roof of the temporary campus."

BASIC FACTS

- Opened in: 2008
- Highest rank to gain entry this year in the general category: 2000
- Lowest rank to gain entry this year in the general category: 3500
- Seats: 160 seats
- Previous years' vacancies: None
- Students: 557; 60 girls, 497 boys
- Teacher-student ratio: 9 to 1
- Placements: The first batch of students is now in the fourth year. Campus recruitments started last month, with over 20 companies including Microsoft and Infosys visiting the campus.

INFRASTRUCTURE

■ **Campus:** The permanent campus building, which will be 18 kilometres from Jodhpur, will be ready in three years. Until then, IIT-Jodhpur is housed in Jai Narayan Vyas University's engineering college. The institute has a modern computer centre, presently running on a gigabit LAN with 100 Mbps internet bandwidth. The academic area is wi-fi enabled and, in the near future, the centre will host a high performance computing cluster for scientific research. The central library is functional in the camp office located in MBM Engineering College campus. It supports teaching-learning and research activities and currently boasts of around 5000 books,



IIT-Jodhpur conducts an inter-college sports competition called Varchas every year

including e-journals from Elsevier's Science Direct, Springer Link, and Scopus database.

■ **Hostels:** The residential area is located on the outskirts of the city, on New Pali Road. The area is divided into several blocks for the students. The faculty also stays in the same residential area. The hostels also have courts for indoor and outdoor sports.

■ **Mess:** Two – one in the residential area and the other on the academic campus

■ **Laboratories:** IIT-Jodhpur has 20 laboratories, one each for chemical biology, microscopy, chemistry, energy, language, robotics, CAD/CAM, etc.

These laboratories are also affiliated with research institutes and universities in other parts of India and around the world, such as the Riken Brain Science Institute in

Japan.

■ **Sports facilities:** In addition to courts for indoor and outdoor sports, IIT-Jodhpur has active clubs for chess, carrom, skating and adventure sports.

STUDENT LIFE

■ **Annual festival:** Taksh is the annual socio-cultural fest at IIT-Jodhpur, with social initiatives, business-related events, a treasure hunt and other cultural competitions. IIT-J also conducts Varchas, an inter-college sports competition, with events in table tennis, badminton, athletics, cricket, lawn tennis, football, volleyball, etc.

■ **Clubs:** Active clubs include those for music, dance, drama, web design, animation and photography.

NEXT WEEK: IIT-GANDHINAGAR

Times of India Chennai 24.01.2012 P-4

IIT alumnus shows natural way to process waste water

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

L R Shankar

It is a simple technology that ranks high on sustainability. Soil Bio Technology, a recycling technology featured at the Municipalika 2012 exhibition uses fundamental natural processes such as photosynthesis, soil respiration and mineral weathering to purify waste water.

Avinash Kadam, who holds a PhD in waste water treatment from IIT-Bombay, came up with the technology which has been patented by the institute and is marketed by his company Sugam Paryavaram Vikalp.

His system consists of a waste water tank, bioreactor containment and a treated water tank along with the associated piping and pumping mechanisms. "The system is sustainable as it uses locally available geological materials to purify water. This means the construction of a recycling plant will differ from state to state," says Kadam. "In Tamil Nadu, we would probably use laterite blocks to build the plant as laterite soil is naturally a good filter," he says. The water is not



CLEAN AND GREEN: Avinash Kadam talks about his system

potable but can be used for gardening, construction and washing.

The system pumps the waste water over the bioreactor which consists of layers of geological media and microbial culture. When it trickles through the layers, it gets purified and treated water gets collected in the clean water tank. Typically, a garden can be grown over the bioreactor.

Kadam says he has installed the Soil Bio Technology plant in more than 60 projects all over the

country, including in university campuses, government buildings and airports. "This technology is being used in Bangalore to clean sewage water before it is discharged into lakes. We are setting up plants at seven lakes," he says.

Initial costs are high and a plant with a capacity of purifying 10 lakh litres a day will cost ₹1.2 crore to ₹1.5 crore. However, maintenance and operating costs are low. "It costs approximately ₹4 to purify 1,000 litres," said Kadam.

Times of India ND 25-Jan-12

p-6

Varsity inks research pact with DRDO

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Research in Delhi University will no longer be confined to departments and faculties. DU has initiated a number of programmes for undergraduate students and teachers.

It has tied up with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for setting up a centre of excellence in DU by 2015. The university has also invited proposals for funding innovative projects in its colleges.

DU and DRDO signed a memorandum of understanding for joint collaboration on research and development on Monday. The idea is to identify core research areas of mutual interest and work towards establishing a centre of excellence through funding from DRDO within three years. This collaboration will enable the centre to take up joint sponsored projects.

Meanwhile, for the first time, DU is introducing trans-disciplinary research projects for college students. The students will be led by three faculty members and will be guided in each project by an erudite figure from outside the colleges. Students who propose innovative research projects, that are not linked to their syllabi, will be given a grant of up to Rs 10 lakh to execute the project within a year. The fund will be divided into Rs 3 lakh for equipment, Rs 2 lakh

for outstation field trips and Rs 1 lakh for local trips, among others.

“Undergraduate students have the best mindset and can think out of the box to come up with innovative ideas. This is one of the most ambitious projects by the university to involve undergraduate students in serious research.

The idea behind the collaboration is to identify core technology research areas of mutual interest and work towards establishing a centre of excellence at DU through funding from DRDO within three years

The idea is to get students excited about what they are studying during their three years of college in DU. Moreover, along with students, teachers will also get involved,” said V-C of DU, Dinesh Singh.

The project proposals have to be prepared by a team of 10 undergraduate students from at least two departments. The team should also have three faculty members of different departments. Students working in the selected project will get a stipend of Rs 1,000 per month, while the advisor will be eligible for a one-time honourarium of Rs 25,000.

Economic Times ND 25/01/2012 P-1

SLOWDOWN FEARS ECLIPSE BRIGHT CAREERS

IIM-Indore Looks 'Out' for Job Placements

MAHIMA PURI
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institutes of Management, which sit at the top of the business education totem pole, can normally rely on the power of the IIM brand to land their wards well-paying jobs year after year. But as this year's placement season looms, some are being forced to do the unthinkable — seek outside help — in the process, painting a sorry picture of the economy where slowing growth is forcing companies to cut back on hiring.

IIM-Indore, a relatively new member of the IIM fraternity that was set up in 1996, plans to partner with some placement firms to make sure that all 450 students in the current batch receive offers. The institute is in talks with around five agencies.

"We are trying to help our students get good placements," said N Ravichandran, director of IIM-Indore. "At this point, we have to keep the names of these agencies confidential," he said.

Other IIMs may go down the same path. Sunil Goel, director at Global Hunt India Pvt Ltd, said apart from IIM-Indore, Calcutta and Lucknow had also contacted the firm. Tier-II and III B-Schools are also likely to feel the slowdown pinch.

"We are in discussions with some of the institutes, but nothing is finalised as yet. We may help them with some form of consulting if the need be," Goel said. But both the older IIMs — Calcutta was set up in 1961 and Lucknow in 1984 — denied they had sought help from external agencies for placements.

Final placements at Indore may begin in February, with about 60 companies. The 2011 batch had an average salary of about ₹14 lakh in 2011, up 27% on the previous year's level of ₹11 lakh.

Average Salary may Get Hit >> 23

IIM-Indore may partner placement firms to avail jobs to 450 students in current batch

Average Salary may Get Hit

>> From Page 1

IIM-Indore had not used external agencies in 2009, the toughest year in recent memory as it followed the financial crisis of 2008. The batch size that year was 180 and the institute was able to place all. This year the external agencies will carry on a parallel placement process, once the institute receives a definite number of offers by itself, a placement coordinator said in a mail to ET.

Officials say that given the large batch size — 450 is the biggest among all the IIMs — the average salary is likely to take a hit. This is because as the placement season draws to an end, the quality of job offers, both in terms of salaries and job profiles, gets affected. "These firms will help us in bridging the gap for the last 100-150 students," said a senior official from the institute's placement committee, who did not wish to be named.

The thinking is that these agencies will function independently of the IIM Indore placement cell and will provide opportunities to the participants beyond the existing pool of recruiters.

The IIMs were set up at the initiative of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to train managers that were to run factories and businesses of a fast-industrialising nation. The ones at Ahmedabad and Calcutta were set up in 1961, while the business schools at Bangalore and Lucknow came up in 1973 and 1984, respectively. Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Bangalore, the big three, sit at the apex of Indian business school rankings, with Ahmedabad traditionally occupying pole position. Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode — the last-named also opened its doors to students in 1996 — invariably feature in the top 15.

Whether the firms will get paid for their services to IIM-Indore is not clear. "We have not yet decided on how the institute will compensate these firms or what will be the payment structure. But we will choose only those that bring the best job profiles from their clients. We will also give them a threshold figure for salary packages depending on which sector the job offer is coming from," the official pointed out.

The lateral placement process (meant for candidates with work experience) has already begun at campus and the institute has been able to place more than 100 students so far. The process is likely to conclude in another week or so. Saral Mukherjee, chairperson of the placement committee at IIM-A, said the situation is not as bad as it was in 2009. "There was panic in 2009, but things are not as bad this year. In 2009, many companies had put a hiring freeze, but this year, we have not seen even one recruiter who said it is not hiring. There could be some firms hiring lesser number of people, but the quality of jobs has not gone down as yet. We shall get a clearer picture during the final process."

The idea of engaging any external agency for placements did not seem very prudent to him. "When the institute and recruiters form a partnership, the engagements are on a much higher level. There is a constant dialogue between the two parties. Thoughts and expertise are shared on a regular basis. The relationship goes much beyond recruitment alone. External firms can not bring that on the table. They could be useful only in a few cases, for instance, tapping a new geographical location."

Times of India ND 25-Jan-12 p-18

When SCIENCE goes boink

SCIENCE & TECH | India needs to improve its standard of science education and invest more in R&D

Arun Ram | TNN

In one of Bill Watterson's inimitable Calvin & Hobbes comic strips, the perennially six-year-old brat says, "In my opinion, we don't devote nearly enough scientific research to finding a cure for jerks." It would do well to discuss Calvin's concern when more than 15,000 scientists and students meet sometime early next year in Kolkata for the 100th Indian Science Congress.

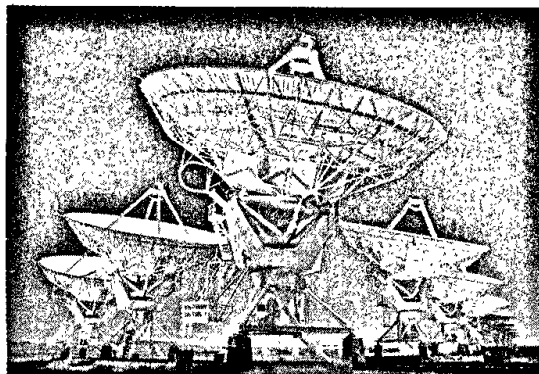
India has 260 central laboratories, 300 universities, 20,000 colleges and three million scientists — the third largest in the world — yet just one Indian citizen, C V Raman, has ever won the Nobel Prize in science. As India celebrates Republic Day, it totters on the edge of great scientific ideas but is unable to convert its gigantic mass of mediocrity into excellence.

There are not many takers for basic sciences which are taught in the most uninteresting way in schools and colleges. Good universities yearn for funds, while bad ones fritter away resources. There is no effective way to identify and

promote original scientific work. The result is that we have few scientists who are exceptional and many who are extremely bad. "There is tremendous mediocrity," says P M Bhargava, founder director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh partly acknowledged this while speaking at the 99th Indian Science Congress in Bhubaneswar recently. He said that India's relative position in the world of science has been declining and we have been overtaken by countries like China. He said public investment in R&D has been growing at more than 20%. What he didn't say is that this investment is just 0.91% of our GDP, while that of China's is 1.46%. He said scientific publications by Indian scientists in India has grown at 12% against the global average of 4%. What he didn't say is that India published only 2.3 lakh scientific papers in 2010 compared to 9.7 lakh by China.

"It's so important to overtake China," says Bhargava. "Once we do it, we are as good as any nation in science and technology." There



is consensus that India needs to spend at least 2% of its GDP on R&D. But how and where should these resources be used?

C N R Rao, honorary president of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, roots for what he calls 'small science'. "Real progress in science occurs through research by small science in labs in universities. We should not be obsessed with big agencies such as atomic energy and space," says Rao.

Bhargava disagrees. "A major part of our R&D should go to such high-end research as space science," he says. Such prioritisation is not an easy task, says Satish R Shetye, director of National Insti-

tute of Oceanography, Goa. "This is because the fruits of investment in R&D are often unpredictable and take time. To develop applications like, say, keeping our coastal ecosystem healthy, there is a necessary component that involves 'pure science'. This includes laborious field and lab studies," says Shetye.

But there is unanimity that India had made significant progress in space, nuclear energy and biotechnology. Despite the pressure of US sanctions, Indian scientists mastered the art of satellite launch. Also, our scientists' works on isotopes, and vaccines such that for Hepatitis B are world-class. Today, pathbreaking work by the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting

and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, has applications in forensics, parentage testing, revival of lost species and cancer biology.

Inversely proportional to such achievements is the standard of our science education. Rao says: commercialization of higher education and dearth of good teachers are the primary reasons for the rot. "We should make teaching a more respectable profession," says Rao.

Bhargava feels the problem is deeper: "Education today is directed only towards market economy. The standards of many of our universities are so low that they don't merit partnerships with central laboratories or industry," he says.

His solutions: Introduce a central schooling system with higher standards than CBSE and NCERT. Implement the Yash Pal Committee report which recommended upgradation of 1,500 best colleges into universities with functional autonomy and constitution of a National Commission for Higher Education and Research. Bring up a new crop of science managers who are more excellence-driven. Give more resources to performing institutes and universities.

Till then, we won't have scientists who are as smart as Calvin who makes his own 'duplicator' and 'transmogripher'. Instead, our status may remain like the 1991 cover of Bill Watterson's creation: *Scientific Progress Goes Boink*.

Deccan Herald ND 25/01/2012 P-1

Cool discovery

Scientists find way to cut heat in comps

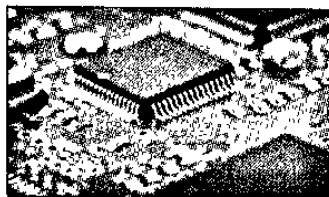
Kalyan Ray

NEW DELHI: In a finding that may lead to development of better-performing laptops, iPods or cellphones in future, material scientists have found a novel way to remove the heat generated in those devices by too many chips being packed in them to make them run faster and perform better.

The scientists' finding has the potential to create "wonders for the electronics world" if researchers can successfully upgrade their project to the industrial scale. The electronics industry follows the empirical Moore's Law, which suggests processing speed of computer doubles in every 18 months. In every one and a half years, engineers find out ways to pack larger number of integrated-circuits (IC) onto a single chip to enable computers process

more and more data efficiently. As processing speed increases, removal of heat – generated by all these processors – from computers becomes an acute problem. If kept in the system, the heat will damage the machine. At the moment, heat is drained out by a small fan. But this low-cost option would not work beyond a point if the number of ICs on a chip become too many. This is where the new discovery would come handy.

Exploiting graphene – the thinnest material known to science – the scientists have found a unique way to drain away the excess heat from computers. "If the packing density of chips increases substantially, conventional cooling systems used on chips such as fans or heat spreaders cannot handle this heat. The solution could lie in heat pipes to effi-



ciently dissipate heat from the chip. Our technology could significantly improve the performance of such heat pipes for computer and other applications," team member Nikhil Koratkar, a professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, told *Deccan Herald*. The findings were published in "Nature Materials" on January 22.

The researchers utilised a nano-material called graphene, which is an one atom-thick sheet of carbon packed like a honey-comb. Because of its many interesting properties, graphene is one of the hottest areas of research and being

used extensively in nanotechnology. Koratkar, Pulickel Ajayan from Rice University and their colleagues successfully created those nano heat-pipes by coating copper, gold and silicon with graphene. "This is more useful for laptops, cellphones and iPod where lots of data is stored in a small space," said Koratkar.

While they overcame several difficulties in the process, translating the technology for industrial production would pose its own challenges. "Upscaling the formation of graphene monolayers from research laboratories to the industrial scale is always important. Graphene monolayers when deposited uniformly over metal surfaces will create wonders for the electronics world," said Sayan Bhattacharya, materials sand assistant professor at IISc.

DH News Service

Business Line ND 25/01/2012 P-23

Delhi engineer's vehicle promises safer rural travel than 'jugaads'

Indo Asian News Service

New Delhi, Jan. 24

India's rural mobility scenario could soon see a much-awaited change with a Delhi engineer's indigenously developed vehicle set to give the locally made but accident-prone 'jugaads' a run for their money — that is, as soon as he gets funds for commercial production.

Mr Abhinav Das, a 26-year-old mechanical engineer from Delhi's Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University is confident that if and when he gets the funds, his Rural Utility Vehicle (RUV) will prove to be a boon for rural dwellers.

"I had designed a vehicle for an inter-college off-road contest while in college but soon realised that if properly modified, it would be perfect for off-road and no-road conditions in rural India," Mr Das

said. The annual off-road event, the Baja Rally, is organised by the Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE) at Indore and serves as a stage for young engineering students to showcase their designing and manufacturing talents.

After a stint at the International Centre for Automotive Technology and automobile parts major Sona Koyo, Mr Das left for the Incubation Centre at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, where he got funds to further develop his idea.

After three years of struggle, the first prototype of his RUV is ready and all he needs is some investors.

"Its innovative chassis design means the structural strength of the RUV is better than the mini trucks plying on Indian roads and three to four times stronger than the three-

wheelers," he said, adding the RUV can be legally used on the road and is less polluting than the 'jugaads'.

Jugaads are locally made vehicles used mostly as a means of low-cost transportation in rural areas. With poor brakes, agricultural pump engines, faulty structures, they are often overloaded.

Powered by a Greaves Cotton 600 cc diesel engine, Mr Das' RUV would have a top speed of 50 to 60 kmph. "Couple of years down the line, depending on customer demands, the RUV can be adapted to run on green fuels like CNG or electricity too," he says.

"An average jugaad costs around Rs 1.25 lakh. At Rs 1.5 lakh, a finished RUV will cost only Rs 25,000 more and would in turn provide a much safer ride," he said.

Times of India ND 25-Jan-12 p-23

Ray of light: Stem cells may help the blind see

In A First, Embryonic Cells Are Used For Transplant

London: For the first time, scientists have used embryonic stem cells to improve the sight of two almost blind women, a breakthrough which they say raises the hope of a cure for age-related vision loss.

The landmark study, published in *The Lancet*, involved one elderly patient with dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and a younger patient with Stargardt's disease, the leading cause of macular degeneration in young people.

The transplants appeared safe after four months, and both patients had some improvement in vision. The future goal will be to treat patients earlier in the disease process, in order to boost the prospects of improving or retaining sight in new patients, the researchers said.

"It has been over a decade since the discovery of human embryonic stem cells (hESC). This is the first report of hESC-derived cells ever transplanted into patients, and the safety and engraftment data to-date

In the study, each patient had a single eye injected with about 50,000 retinal pigment epithelium cells that had been derived from embryonic stem cells

looks very encouraging," said study co-author Dr Robert Lanza from Advanced Cell Technology in Marlborough, USA.

"Though several new drugs are available for the treatment of the wet type of AMD, no proven treatments currently exist for either dry-AMD or Stargardt's disease.

"Despite the progressive nature of these conditions, the vision of both patients appears to have improved after transplantation of the cells, even at the lowest dosage.

"This is particularly important, since the ultimate goal of this ther-

apy will be to treat patients earlier in the course of the disease where more significant results might potentially be expected." In the study, each patient had a single eye injected with about 50,000 retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells that had been derived from embryonic stem cells. Both the patients received low-dose immunosuppression therapy that doctors began to taper off after six weeks. After surgery, structural evidence confirmed cells had attached to Bruch's membrane — the blood-retina barrier that separates the RPE cells of the retina from the choroid — and survived throughout the study period.

No safety concerns emerged in the four months and there were no signs of rejection or abnormal cell growth. The authors said: "Study is designed to test the safety and tolerability of hESC-RPE in patients with advanced-stage Stargardt's macular dystrophy and dry age-related macular degeneration." ■

आईआईटी मुंबई के पास आउट तीन छात्रों ने तैयार किया है यह पोर्टल

अब विकीपीडिया की तर्ज पर आया 'नेतापीडिया'



● अमित त्यागी

नोएडा। इंटरनेट पर किसी भी तरह की जानकारी के लिए विकीपीडिया का इस्तेमाल होता है। 'नेतापीडिया' को ही तर्ज पर अब राजनेताओं का सारा हिसाब-किताब बताने के लिए नेतापीडिया आया है। इसे आईआईटी मुंबई के तीन छात्रों ने मिलकर तैयार किया है।

इस पर सभी सांसदों की शिक्षा, कानूनी रिकॉर्ड, उनके पक्ष में पड़ने वाले वोट से लेकर चल-अचल संपत्ति और

अपने क्षेत्र में किए गए विकास का ब्यौरा मिलेगा।

'नेतापीडिया डॉट इन' को आई आई टी मुंबई के पास आउट प र म जी त कुमार, सिद्धार्थ मिश्रा और गौरव शाह ने चार

मौजूदा छात्रों के साथ मिलकर तैयार किया है। इसे तैयार करने का मकसद नेता और मतदाताओं के बीच जानकारी के अभाव को खत्म करना है। सांसदों की

ये है नेतापीडिया पर

सांसदों की सूची व ब्यौरा होगा। टॉप-7 नेताओं की सूची है। 'क्या आप जानते हैं' कॉलम में संसद, चुनाव और नेताओं से जुड़ी दिलचस्प जानकारियां हैं। सांसद का वोटिंग ग्राफ और उनके क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए जारी होने वाली रकम का आंकड़ा भी पोर्टल पर है।

पूरी जानकारी इस पर अपलोड कर दी गई है। पोर्टल के संस्थापक परमजीत कुमार ने बताया कि दूसरे चरण में राजस्थान विधानसभाओं की जानकारी जुटाई जा रही है। अपनी तरह का एक और नया फीचर अगले माह तक इस पोर्टल पर जारी कर दिया जाएगा। धीरे-धीरे इसमें किसी भी सांसद विधायक या प्रत्याशी का पूरा ब्यौरा व

परिणाम उपलब्ध कराने की योजना है। इस फीचर में सांसद द्वारा किसी भी मुद्दे पर पिछले छह माह में दिए गए बयान देखे जा सकेंगे।

नेता और मुद्दे के नाम से ये सब सर्च किया जा सकेगा। नेता पर सरकार द्वारा होने वाला खर्च और उसकी ओर से समाज के लिए किए गए खर्च का विश्लेषण भी पोर्टल पर दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए आरटीआई की मदद ली जाएगी। खास बात ये भी है कि इसे गैर मुनाफे वाले संस्थान के तौर ही चलाया जाएगा। इस पोर्टल पर वही कंटेंट जारी किया जाएगा जो आधिकारिक हो। विवादास्पद कंटेंट से दूरी बनाने के लिए भी टीम जिम्मेदारी से काम करेगी।

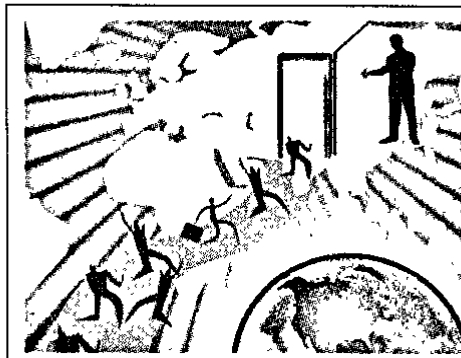
Nav Bharat Times ND 25/01/2012 P-2

डीटीयू : बीटेक में इस बार 1400 सीटें

भूपेंद्र ॥ नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली टेक्नॉलॉजिकल यूनिवर्सिटी (डीटीयू) सेशन 2012-13 में बीटेक कोर्स को करीब 1400 सीटों पर स्टूडेंट्स को एडमिशन मिल सकेगा। वाइस चांसलर प्रो. पी. बी. शर्मा ने बताया कि एआई ट्रिपल ई मेरिट लिस्ट के आधार पर स्टूडेंट्स का सिलेक्शन होगा। मई में डीटीयू में एडमिशन प्रोसेस शुरू होगा। डीटीयू में बीटेक लेवल पर 15 कोर्स हैं। वीसी का कहना है कि बीटेक लेवल पर काफी कोर्स शुरू किए जा चुके हैं और अब पीजी कोर्सेज की संख्या को बढ़ाया जाएगा।

डीटीयू ने पिछले साल ऑनलाइन एडमिशन प्रोसेस को अपनाया था। वीसी का कहना है कि ऑनलाइन एडमिशन पूरी तरह से सफल रहा है। स्टूडेंट्स को फॉर्म लेने और जमा करवाने के लिए यूनिवर्सिटी आने की जरूरत ही नहीं है क्योंकि ऑफलाइन प्रोसेस खत्म कर दिया गया है। रजिस्ट्रेशन से लेकर सीट अलॉटमेंट का पूरा प्रोसेस ऑनलाइन होगा। जब यूनिवर्सिटी की वेबसाइट पर मेरिट लिस्ट जारी होगी और जिन स्टूडेंट्स का नाम उस लिस्ट में होगा, वही एडमिशन के लिए सीटें यूनिवर्सिटी आएंगे। यूनिवर्सिटी का प्रॉस्पेक्टस भी ऑनलाइन देखा जा सकेगा। डीटीयू में 85 पर्सेंट सीटें दिल्ली के स्टूडेंट्स के लिए होती हैं, जबकि 15 पर्सेंट सीटों पर दिल्ली के बाहर के स्टूडेंट्स को एडमिशन मिलता है। बीटेक के हर कोर्स में सिंगल गर्ल चाइल्ड के लिए एक सीट रिजर्व होगी। इसके अलावा एनआरआई व फॉरेन नैशनल के लिए भी 5 पर्सेंट सीटें



होती हैं। ये सीटें 1400 सीटों से अलग होंगी।

यूनिवर्सिटी में बीटेक के जिन कोर्सेज में एडमिशन होता है, उनमें इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड कम्प्यूटेशन इंजीनियरिंग, कंप्यूटर इंजीनियरिंग, इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग, मिकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग, सिविल इंजीनियरिंग, प्रॉडक्शन एंड इंडस्ट्रियल इंजीनियरिंग, एनवायरमेंटल इंजीनियरिंग, पॉलिमर साइंस एंड केमिकल टेक्नॉलजी, इन्फर्मेशन टेक्नॉलजी, बायो-टेक्नॉलजी, सॉफ्टवेयर टेक्नॉलजी, इंजीनियरिंग फिजिक्स, ऑटोमोबाइल इंजीनियरिंग और इलेक्ट्रिकल एंड इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स शामिल हैं। ये सभी कोर्स चार-चार साल के हैं। बीटेक लेवल पर मैथमैटिक्स एंड कंप्यूटिंग का कोर्स पिछले साल शुरू किया गया था और इस कोर्स को लेकर स्टूडेंट्स के बीच कड़ा मुकाबला देखने

एआई ट्रिपल ई मेरिट लिस्ट के आधार पर होगा सिलेक्शन

मई में शुरू होगा एडमिशन प्रोसेस, बीटेक के 15 कोर्स हैं

यूनिवर्सिटी में 85 फीसदी सीटें दिल्ली के स्टूडेंट्स के लिए

एडमिशन के लिए मेरिट लिस्ट वेबसाइट पर जारी होगी

को मिला। डीटीयू में वही स्टूडेंट्स अप्लाई कर सकते हैं, जिन्होंने एआई ट्रिपल ई का एग्जाम दिया होगा। इस रैंक के आधार पर डीटीयू में मेरिट लिस्ट तैयार होगी और फिर काउंसलिंग शुरू होगी।

इस बार डीटीयू में प्लेसमेंट के भी नए रिकॉर्ड बने हैं। यूएसए बेस्ड सॉफ्टवेयर कंपनी ने डीटीयू के तीन स्टूडेंट को 40-40 लाख रुपये के पैकेज का ऑफर लेटर दिया है। इन तीनों स्टूडेंट को अमेरिका में पोस्टिंग मिली है। कुछ स्टूडेंट्स को तो एक से ज्यादा कंपनियों से भी ऑफर मिले हैं। यूनिवर्सिटी का कहना है कि इस बार सभी स्टूडेंट्स को प्लेसमेंट के ऑफर मिलना तय है। अभी कंपनियों के आने का सिलसिला जारी है और ज्यादातर स्टूडेंट्स को ऑफर हो चुकी है।

Amar Ujala, ND
25/01/2012

P-7

गुरु द्रोणाचार्य संस्थान को मिला एजुकेशनल एक्सीलेंस अवार्ड



अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी, इंजीनियरिंग एवं मेडिकल प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी कराने वाले प्रसिद्ध कोचिंग संस्थान गुरु द्रोणाचार्य को अपनी उच्च स्तरीय शिक्षा पद्धति, रिसर्च बेस्ड स्टडी मैटीरियल, छात्रों के सेलेक्शन की दर, शिक्षित एवं अनुभवी शिक्षकों, हाईटेक सुविधाओं, बेहतर इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एवं साल दर साल बढ़ रही सफलताओं के चलते राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर संचालित एनजीओ 'के. आर. डी. डब्ल्यू. जी.' ने गुणवत्ता को प्रमाणित करते हुए आईआईटी नई दिल्ली में गत 21 जनवरी को आयोजित एक समारोह के दौरान गुरु द्रोणाचार्य संस्थान को 'एजुकेशनल एक्सीलेंस

अवार्ड 2012' से सम्मानित किया। आईआईटी दिल्ली के मैनेजमेंट विभाग के हेड प्रो. एसके जैन, एनसीईआरटी की हेड एवं प्रोफेसर डॉ. अनिता जुल्का, डॉ. किरण बेदी द्वारा संचालित 'नवज्योति इंडिया फाउंडेशन' संस्था की कार्यकारी निदेशक चांदनी बेदी एवं इग्नू नई दिल्ली के प्रो. मनोज कुलश्रेष्ठ आदि द्वारा गुरु द्रोणाचार्य संस्थान के संचालक विजय अरोड़ा एवं अजय अरोड़ा को 'एजुकेशनल एक्सीलेंस अवार्ड 2012' प्रदान किया गया। गुरु द्रोणाचार्य मेरठ का पहला कोचिंग संस्थान है जिसे हर क्षेत्र में गुणवत्ता बनाए रखने के लिए 'एजुकेशनल एक्सीलेंस अवार्ड 2012' से सम्मानित किया गया है।

Let's believe in **INDIA** (TOI, Jan 25, 2012)

On January 26, 1950, we the people of India made a pact with ourselves — to achieve liberty, equality and justice for all its citizens. Much has been achieved in the past 62 years, though there is still a long way to go before we call ourselves a developed nation. There is hope and self-belief among the young, as our special Republic Day survey shows. How can we make India a better country by the end of this decade?

A P J Abdul Kalam

I have seen three Indias in my life. The first one was the country of my childhood — a nation ruled by a foreign colonial power. It was a country struggling for independence. That country had a vision for independence which was led by great mass leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

After we got independence in 1947, I witnessed another India. That India was independent but it still strived for recognition as it recuperated from the injustices of the colonial rule that lasted for more than a century. It was an India of hopes and dreams. It was an India that dreamt of having self-sufficiency in food, a strong economy and a position of respect in the international arena, which it really deserved. Many leaders, scientists, servicemen and social reformers worked very hard to build the newly independent nation through economic development coupled with social equity and democracy.

Then I saw the third phase of India, an era which belongs to present-day youth. Now, India is a land of opportunities, growth at previously unimaginable rates, a strong workforce and technological leadership. Six decades back, few would have dared to imagine that a nation of such diversity — often termed by some as an experiment in democracy — would eventually find its place amongst the top economies of the world. Who would have imagined that one day India would have worldclass [educational institutions](#) and it would be the first country to discover water on the lunar surface.

The three Indias I have lived in and witnessed are quite different from each other. We have come a long way since 1950, when we became a republic. Of course, there are still many important issues such as poverty, illiteracy and corruption that need to be addressed.

The Indian economy was growing at an average of 9% per annum till 2008. In 2009-10, our economy was affected by global economic turbulence, but still it managed to grow at more than 7% at a time when many other countries were facing recession. Even in the last quarter of 2011, with the economic scenario in the US and Europe looking quite bleak, India grew at 7%. In the present circumstances, I often ask myself what type of innovation is needed to enrich the Indian economy and make other world economies better. I have been talking about this important issue with many experts including those from the Indian [Institutes](#) of Management.

On the basis of these discussions, I believe that our economy will not be affected by the current financial crisis. India will escape this turbulence because of the following reasons:

The liberalization process in India has its checks and balances which are consistent with the unique social requirements of the country

The Indian banking system has always been conservative which has protected from the global crisis The Indian psyche is generally savings oriented and living within one's means is part of our mindset The purchasing power of the 350-millionstrong Indian middle class While developed nations are in turmoil, in India sectors such automobile, cement and financial services have been posting significant gains. We have reached a level of development where innovation has become part of our thinking. Now we need to apply this thinking to rejuvenate the agricultural sector. It's time to make value addition to the agriculture sector and to small- and

mediumscale industries and enterprises so that they can all make greater contribution to India's growing GDP.

I foresee tremendous possibilities for creating new markets and jobs. This can be done by tapping the potential of the rural population and by creating more employment in the countryside. There is huge potential for what I call public-private-citizen (PPC) partnerships and international cooperation in these areas.

India's performance in information [technology](#), pharmaceuticals, small-scale industries and infrastructure has given a new dimension to our economy. With a credible legal framework, robust banking and financial system, skilled manpower and a dynamic 600-million-strong workforce, India has become an attractive proposition for the global order.

At the domestic level, India is focusing on bringing sustainable development to its people through rural and urban infrastructure, quality [education](#), healthcare, environmental upgradation, efficiency in public [institutions](#) for better and enhanced delivery of essential services on time, reforms in the financial system for better global integration and a proactive regulatory system.

All this is critical to India becoming a truly global player. More than 60 years of democratic vibrancy — which has provided good leadership to the nation -- gives us confidence to manage socio-economic turbulence. It also helps us in providing leadership to 1.2 billion people in a democratic, multicultural, multi-linguistic and multi-religious environment.

With such a positive outlook, here is how I visualize India in the year 2020. Eight years from now, India will be a nation, where

The rural-urban divide is reduced to a thin line

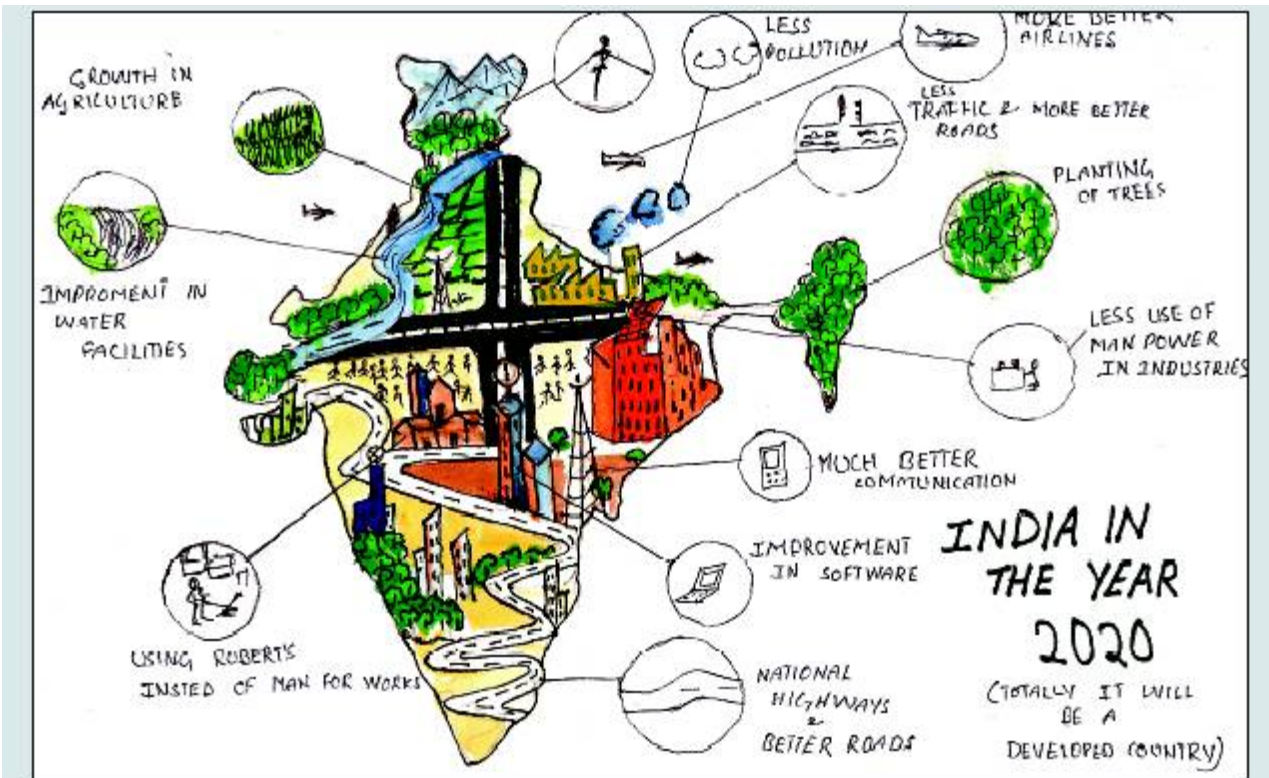
There is equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water

Agriculture, industry and service sectors work together in symphony

[Education](#) is not denied to any meritorious candidate because of social or economic discrimination

The writer was President of India from 2002 to 2007. He is the author of 'India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium'





A YOUNG CITIZEN'S IDEA OF INDIA At a painting competition in 2007, where school children were asked to imagine 'India in 2020', R Dhanush, a student of a Mysore school, saw it as a "totally developed country"

SURE, WE CAN (TOI, Jan 25, 2012)

Republic of HOPE

Most young Indians feel patriotic about the Parade, bullish about the country's future and confident about themselves. But some problems of the present need fixing, finds our survey

Shankar Raghuraman / TIG

India's metropolitan youth are gung-ho about the country's future and that's largely because of their immense belief in themselves. That's the clear finding from an eight-city poll conducted exclusively for TOI in the run-up to Republic Day.

Almost three-fourths of all those polled felt India would be a developed country by 2020, or in less than a decade. With 61% also saying that the country's biggest strength was its "youth power", it's evident what this optimism is based on.

The belief that India would be developed by the end of the decade was particularly strong in cities like Chennai and Ahmedabad, understandable perhaps given the fact that they are in states doing much better than the national average. Against the overall figure of 73%, 90% in Ahmedabad and 86% in Chennai felt India would be a developed nation by 2020. At the other end of the spectrum, only 43% of Delhi's respondents held that view.

There were differences across cities also on the issue of which is India's biggest strength. While 61% overall picked youth power, 16% each opted for "emerging economy" and "democracy" and 7% for "soft power". In Kolkata, however, the biggest chunk felt democracy was the nation's key strength. Chennai had 24% saying the economy was the crucial factor, a larger proportion than in any other city.

How about the biggest weakness? Predictably, given the mood of the moment, corruption emerged as easily the biggest, with 60% citing it. The large population was seen by 25% as the most serious concern, poor education standards by 10% and poor infrastructure by 6%. While the cities by and large agreed on the rankings of these weaknesses, a much larger number of people in Kolkata saw poor standards of education as the worst problem.

Given this view on what is the biggest weakness, it is perhaps not very surprising that Anna Hazare should have emerged as the leading response when asked who people saw as the "ideal citizen". An impressive 41% picked him. Even an icon like Sachin Tendulkar came a distant second with only 17% choosing him, an indication also perhaps of the disillusionment with our cricketing stars given the disappointing performance during the ongoing tour of Australia.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh can draw heart from the fact that he was in third place with 8% and the only politician to figure in the top five. The others in that exclusive club were businessmen N R Narayana Murthy and Mukesh Ambani, both getting 7% of the respondents voting for them.

On what constitutes the biggest threat to India's democracy, views across cities were more sharply divided than on any of the other questions posed in the survey. Overall, 44% saw dynastic politics as the bane, 31% picked money and muscle power as the biggest threat, 15% cited attacks on civil society and 10% pointed towards attempts to muzzle the freedom of expression.

In Delhi (44%) and Chennai (45%), however, the use of money and muscle power was seen as the most serious threat and the national capital also saw attacks on civil society as the second biggest danger. Interestingly, among Mumbai respondents an unusually high 64% were most worried about the spectre of dynastic politics.

If you thought the Republic Day parade is a spectacle that has lost its sheen, think again. Asked how they respond to

the parade an amazing 88% of all those polled said it makes them feel proud to be Indians, only 6% said it is a waste of money and a similar proportion said they see it as just another holiday.

This was a question on which the degree of unanimity across cities was particularly high. In none of the eight cities did less than 73% of the respondents say the parade made them feel proud to be Indians, while the highest proportion of 95% was in Pune.

The poll was conducted exclusively for TOI by Ipsos, a leading global market research agency, in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune, the only cities in India with populations above 5 million.

Those polled were from the socioeconomic categories (SEC) A and A-plus and were in the age group 18 to 35. Men and women were equally represented in the sample of 813 respondents, which included at least 100 from each of the eight cities covered by the poll.