

Newspaper Clips **January 7, 2016**

IISc gets Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/IISc-gets-Interdisciplinary-Centre-for-Energy-Research/articleshow/50469905.cms>

BENGALURU: Dr VK Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog, inaugurated the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) and the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on Wednesday. Saraswat, an alumni of the Institute, recalled his student days during which it was a challenge to conduct experiments in combustion. "It was my dream to have a state of the art Combustion Centre, and I am glad we have one today," he added.

The Centre is part of the new Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research at IISc.

R V Ravikrishna, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, and a Coordinator of the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development, said that the Centre would focus on industrially relevant problems and translational research. He also said that the Centre has planned memorandums of agreement with laboratories belonging to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, in order to utilise the complementary strengths. The Combustion research centre also aims to leverage new national initiatives such as IMPRINT in the domains of energy and security & defence.

Prof Anurag Kumar, director, IISc, expressed hope that the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research would work towards developing indigenous technology.

NIT-Silchar joins Modi's Start-up India campaign

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/NIT-Silchar-joins-Modis-Start-up-India-campaign/articleshow/50464811.cms>

Silchar: The National Institute of Technology, Silchar, on Tuesday joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious 'Start-up India' programme that will be launched in New Delhi on January 16.

The programme is aimed at celebrating the spirit of entrepreneurship across the country and among its youth. The NIT-Silchar is one of the 38 institutions of the country to join the programme.

Director of NIT-Silchar NV Deshpande said the institution will establish a start-up centre in collaboration with the Centre's department of science and technology to promote the culture of innovation and start-ups in the northeast. The start-up centre will work as a platform for young entrepreneurs to grow and create employability, said Deshpande.

Relaxation of rules for VC post: Teachers move HC

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Relaxation-of-rules-for-VC-post-Teachers-move-HC/articleshow/50476255.cms>

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Federation of University Teachers Associations (TSFUTA) has moved the Hyderabad High Court against the state government's decision to relax minimum work experience from 10 to five years for appointing new vice-chancellors.

Teachers argue that government's relaxation of minimum work experience as a professor is against the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulation for appointing vice-chancellors. "The government is clearly flouting norms as the UGC regulation stipulates 10 years of experience as a professor for the VC post. The UGC is responsible for maintaining uniformity across the country as far as pay scales, qualifications for recruitments and other university issues are concerned. By omitting the UGC norms, the government has put functioning of universities at stake," said Battu Satyanarayana, president of TSFUTA. The case filed by the association is expected to come for hearing in the next few days.

This is not the first time that a state has flouted UGC norms for appointment of VCs. Incidentally, in states like Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, various reputed universities have flouted the minimum qualification norm for appointment of vice-chancellors. Since many have approached high courts and the Supreme Court, the UGC's hands are tied. "All the cases are pending with respective courts. That is why, the UGC cannot do anything unless the Supreme Court issues its judgement on this matter," H Devaraaj, vice-chairman of UGC, told TOI.

While maximum applications have come from Osmania University, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and Kakatiya University, the government has also received applications from research organisations such as National Institute of Nutrition and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology among many others.

IIT Gandhinagar and Duke University Forge Partnership

January 5, 2016

<https://global.duke.edu/iit-gandhinagar-and-duke-university-forge-partnership>

Palaj, Gandhinagar – Beginning January 5, a contingent from Duke University will visit IIT Gandhinagar (IITGN) for a week of partnership and capacity building events. The partnership is a result of a Joint Declaration of Intent, signed by the U.S. and Indian governments in January 2015, to deepen higher education collaboration.

With funding support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Duke University was selected by IITGN to receive initial support under the agreement. The two schools immediately found common ground for collaborative research, student exchanges, and joint engagement of private sector partners.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the partnership for Duke University, **Larry Carin, Duke's Vice Provost for Research, and delegation lead**, said, "India is a special place for Duke, as seen in the number of students and alumni we have from India, the research collaborations our faculty have there, and our institutional partnerships across India. We are privileged to work with USAID and RTI International – our long standing partner in North Carolina – on this initiative with IITGN."

From January 5-8, a 15-member contingent from Duke and RTI will work with IITGN faculty and staff to develop new research projects, improve IITGN capacity in critical areas, and discuss potential industry partnerships. The week's events have been made open to other IITs through simulcast on the IIT-wide video network.

Welcoming the support and new partnership, **Prof. Sudhir Jain, IITGN's Director**, added, "IITGN has carefully approached strategic global partnerships, seeking out like minded institutions who share our focus on

transdisciplinary learning, student focused pedagogy, and cutting edge research that improves our shared community. Duke is exactly that type of partner.”

Speaking on the support being extended by USAID, **Kathryn D. Stevens, Acting Mission Director, USAID/India**, noted: “USAID and the IITs have a long history of partnership. After supporting India in establishing IIT-Kanpur in 1960s, the governments of both U.S. and India are once again collaborating to build IIT-Gandhinagar into a center of excellence for science and technology. The power of youth, technology and innovation is defining the U.S.-India relationship and igniting a partnership that will advance and sustain prosperity in our two countries.”

- About -

IIT Gandhinagar: The Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, deemed an institute of national importance by an Act of the Indian Parliament, strives to offer the best undergraduate engineering education in India with unmatched innovations in curriculum. The institute promotes critical thinking and an appreciation of the interdisciplinary character of knowledge, with an emphasis on the liberal arts, project oriented learning, compulsory courses in design and the life sciences, diversity and globalization. Its five-week immersion Foundation Programme for all new undergraduate students was recognized with the World Education Award 2013 by the World Education Summit for innovations in engineering education. Nearly a quarter of its undergraduate students receive study abroad experience during their academic career.

Duke University: Younger than most other prestigious U.S. research universities, Duke University consistently ranks among the very best. Duke’s graduate and professional schools — in business, divinity, engineering, the environment, law, medicine, nursing and public policy — are among the leaders in their fields. Duke’s home campus is situated on nearly 9,000 acres in Durham, North Carolina, a city of more than 200,000 people. Duke also is active internationally through the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, Duke Kunshan University in China and numerous research and education programs across the globe. More than 75 percent of Duke students pursue service-learning opportunities in Durham and around the world through DukeEngage and other programs that advance the university’s mission of “knowledge in service to society.”

USAID/India: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies. USAID is an independent government agency that provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. Leveraging India’s growing financial and human resources, USAID is harnessing the strengths and capabilities of both countries to tackle development challenges not only in India, but worldwide. This approach to development capitalizes on the expertise, innovations, and resources of the United States and India to tackle the most pressing challenges of our day, from infectious diseases to food security and climate change. USAID partners with India to address these and other issues through the U.S. Government’s Feed the Future, Global Health, and Global Climate Change initiatives. In all sectors, USAID builds private sector partnerships to foster in-country sustainability and ownership, with a focus on health, urban water and sanitation, food security, climate change, early grade reading, and women’s empowerment as a cross-cutting issue.

RTI International: RTI International is one of the world’s leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Its staff of more than 3,700 provides research and technical services to governments and businesses in more than 75 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory testing and chemical analysis.

CES 2016: IIT alumnus' company showcases 'SuperSuit', a wearable gaming platform

<http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/ces-2016-iit-alumnus-showcases-supersuit-a-wearable-gaming-platform/>

MadRat Games, founded by IIT Mumbai and Carnegie Mellon alumnus Rajat Dhariwal, launched the prototype of "SuperSuit" at CES.

A game design company in the US, founded by an IIT-educated entrepreneur, has showcased a first of its kind wearable gaming platform meant to reduce screen time for children and increase their social interaction and physical activities.

MadRat Games, founded by IIT Mumbai and Carnegie Mellon alumnus Rajat Dhariwal, launched the prototype of "SuperSuit" at the ongoing consumer technology convention in Las Vegas.

SuperSuit is designed as a wearable gaming platform aimed to reduce screen time for kids and increase their social interaction and physical activities.

Dhariwal said SuperSuit is the world's first wearable gaming platform and has been designed to enable children shift from screen dominated games and termed it as the "future of gaming".

"For children, outdoor play is already the favourite mode – they are unable to do that due to shrinking outdoors in cities & urban spaces and restrictions on them due to safety concerns in suburbs. There is a growing feeling of restraint & lack of freedom, and kids can claim that freedom back with SuperSuit," he said in a statement.

SuperSuit comprises two units – a vest and glove. While the vest records hits and displays scores in form of lights, audio and haptic feedback, the glove enables the interactivity between players with triggers to send beams. The suit's accompanying smartphone app also allows parents to monitor their children's fitness data and track their location.

Dhariwal and his wife Madhumita Halder founded Wyoming-based MadRat Games that focusses on building unique puzzles and board games. Their puzzle three-games-in-one Madzzle also recently won the Parents' Choice Award in the US.

Dhariwal had said that Madzzle serves as an educational tool for children and is the world's first jigsaw puzzle that rolls up.

- See more at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/ces-2016-iit-alumnus-showcases-supersuit-a-wearable-gaming-platform/#sthash.pPc809ao.dpuf>

Harvard US-India meet in city this weekend

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/business/harvard-usindia-meet-in-city-this-weekend/article8075372.ece>

A student group from Harvard College is organising its second annual Harvard US-India Conference in Mumbai on January 8 and 9. The conference aims to foster long-term relationships among young leaders around

the globe, create dialogue between students on issues related to India, and provide resources for social entrepreneurship.

This year, delegates will discuss the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, the rise of intolerance in politics and the judiciary's role in protecting national interest, in addition to a range of other subjects relevant to India's economic and social development.

With about 50 members in its organising team, the conference is predominantly managed by students. The team comprises students from Harvard College and other prestigious colleges in both the United States and India, including New York University, Wellesley College, Shri Ram College of Commerce and IIT Kanpur.

Speakers will include Raghuram Rajan, economist and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Shashi Tharoor, MP from Thiruvananthapuram and former Union Minister of State for HRD and External Affairs. Also speaking at the conference are Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State for Power, and Shaheen Mistri, founder of the Akanksha Foundation and CEO, Teach for India.

The conference will be attended by over 375 delegates from various walks of life, comprising young professionals in India, undergraduate and graduate students at various colleges in India and the US, as well as a hundred high school students from across the country.

While the panels enable students to participate in several discussions on critical issues with some of India's best minds and leaders, the conference also features essay sessions, photography, case competitions, and networking events.

"The aim is to push students to think bigger, dig deeper, challenge beliefs, and come out of this conference better informed and prepared to tackle India's problems," says Disha Verma, a former president of the conference.