Newspaper Clips

March 2, 2012

Asian Age ND
2/03/2012 P-4

IIT MADRAS STUDENTS TO SIGN 'HONOUR CODE'

N. ARUN KUMAR
CHENNAI, MARCH 1

In a first of its kind move, over 7,000 Madras IIT students studying various courses and staying in 17 hostels will have to sign an honour code. The honour code makes students take a written pledge that they would attend classes regularly, study well, be friendly with others, maintain personal hygiene and cleanliness.

Speaking to this newspaper on Thursday, Prof. L.S. Ganesh, dean (students), IIT-Madras, said that the institute plans to introduce "honour code" for its students on the lines of medical practitioners who take a pledge.

The institute discussed the proposal in its board of students meeting held on February 29 and it would be tabled in the ensuing senate meeting to ratify it.

Indian Express ND 02-Mar-12
p-2

Aakash tablet project goes to IIT Bombay

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

THE government has decided to hand over its ambitious Aakash tablet project to IIT Bombay. Fed up with the constant and unsavoury bickering between IIT Jodhpur and Datawind over various aspects of the $35 Aakash tablet, a high-powered committee met last week and decided to officially divest IIT Jodhpur and its Director Prof Prem Kalra from the project, highly placed sources confirmed.

The HRD Ministry will now also monitor the project more closely.

The issue is learnt to have caused a stir in the Board of Governors of IIT Jodhpur, which met a few days ago to take stock of the situation. Disturbed over the reports on IIT Jodhpur's role in the controversy over Aakash tablet, the board had asked Kalra to make a presentation and explain the situation. The board had decided that it was best to return the project to the ministry.

The contract for procuring 1 lakh Aakash tablets will now be taken over by IIT Bombay.

P&B Daily ND 2/03/2012 P-3

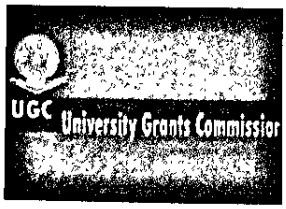
Use of term 'university' by unrecognised institution punishable

PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

THE Delhi High Court has upheld a lower court order imposing a fine of ₹500 on an unrecognized institution for using word "University" for itself, saying it had violated the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act.

"Reading of the sections makes it amply clear that a university means one established or incorporated by a Central Act or a State Act or the one which is declared by the Central Government on the advice of the UGC by way of a notification in the official gazette. The petitioner's does not fall in any of the categories



specified," Justice Mukta Gupta said.

Justice Gupta upheld the lower court's decision by which petitioner J K Soni, who was running an institute with the name of "Commercial University Limited" at Daryaganj here, was acquitted of the charges of cheating the students, but was convicted and fined ₹500 for violating the UGC Act.

It rejected the plea of Soni against the fine imposed on him for using word "University" for his unrecognised institute which runs courses like typing and shorthand."During the course of trial, witnesses were examined both by the prosecution and the defence. The UGC has stated that the petitioner's company is neither recognised by the UGC nor established by the Legislature.

Mail Today, ND 2/03/2012 P-18

Ray of sunshine for a green Delhi

By **Bhuvan Bagga**
In New Delhi

THE Capital is turning green with a vengeance. After promoting the use of electric cars and the use of green technologies, Delhi will soon see the solar-powered rickshaws on its roads.

Around 1,000 of these rickshaws, which come in three variants, will be introduced in different parts of the Capital by June. Senior officials of the Delhi government's environment department said the final plan is to increase the number of such rickshaws, also called soleckshaws, to at least 10,000.

The plans also include allowing the use of these rickshaws by licensed operators at key archaeological sites, education institutions, corporate campuses, for waste disposal and in carrying goods in old, congested markets such as Chawri Bazaar, Chandni Chowk and Sadar Bazaar.

Thousand rickshaws to ply by June

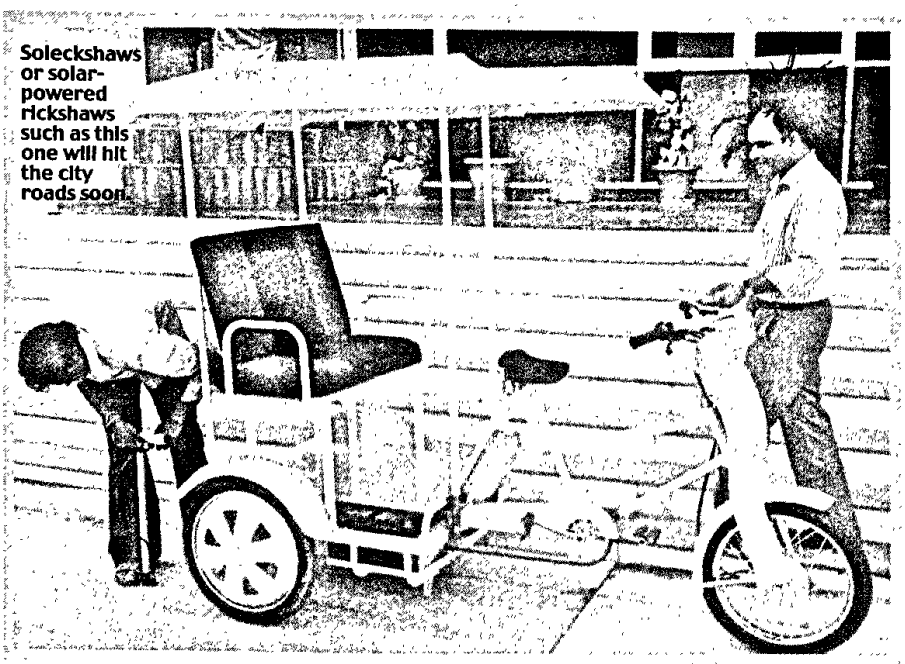
The state government's environment department is considering a subsidy proposal to these solar-powered (battery fitted) rickshaws that can attain a maximum speed of up to 25 km/hr.

"We already provide subsidies to green, battery-powered vehicles that operate in the city. Such vehicles get a 15 per cent subsidy on base price, VAT exemption and road tax refund. A similar proposal is under consideration for these rickshaws," a senior officer of the state environment department said.

The licences of these rickshaws have been approved by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi which will also select the routes (or areas) where they will operate. Government officials said areas where these rickshaws will be introduced in the first phase are Dwarka, Delhi University, Rohini, Pitampura and trans-Yamuna areas (East and North-East Delhi).

These rickshaws have been designed and developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) with the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI). These designs are now being manufactured by six manufacturers selected by the government.

The rickshaw's three variants are: ₹45,000 (for a metal frame body), ₹75,000 (for a plastic frame) and ₹85,000 (plastic frame with a better battery). The range for the basic variant is 40km per charge.



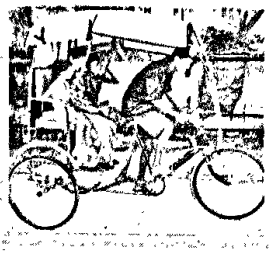
Soleckshaws or solar-powered rickshaws such as this one will hit the city roads soon

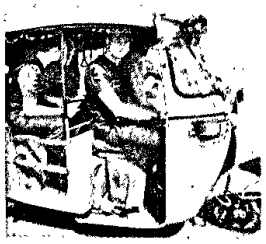
SOLECKSHAW EQUATION

Cost ₹10,000 (normal rickshaw), ₹45,000 onwards (solar rickshaw), ₹1.5 lakh approx (autorickshaw)

Return on investment 855%, 478%, 178%

Yearly revenue ₹87,600 at 30 km /day, ₹2.04 lakh at 70 km/day, ₹3.06 lakh at 120 km/day





A CLEAN FUTURE

- As many as 1,000 solar rickshaws or soleckshaws to be introduced in Delhi by June
- Delhi government's environment department may subsidise these rickshaws
- The number of such rickshaws could go up to 10,000 in future
- These rickshaws could also be introduced in public spots such as zoos, archaeological sites, educational and corporate campuses and congested market areas
- Their max speed is 25 km/hr and come in three variants — ₹45,000, ₹75,000 and ₹85,000
- They were initially developed by government research institutes

It will take four to six hours to charge a battery. The plastic frame rickshaw will run 80km per charge, while the top of the line model will run a 100km per charge.

Harish Kumar, managing director of Green Wheels India — one of the firms which will supply these rickshaws across the Capital said the preparations were in full swing.

"We intend to meet the target by June this year. We are already interviewing the rickshaw-pullers. Those selected will be given basic training. We will also be transferring the licenses to them. They already pay around ₹40-50 per day for each rickshaw to the mafia. They will pay a similar EMI to us but end up owning the rickshaw," Kumar said.

He said his firm was already in the process of setting up solar panels all over the Capital, where the rickshaws could be recharged. Talks were also on with a leading petrol pump chain to set up charging stations, Kumar added.

Other than being eco-friendly, efficient and faster, government officials feel these soleckshaws will also be a great help to the old and the weak — who too work as rickshaw pullers in the city.

These licenses will be valid for the next three years. Manufacturers and government officials said that once the concept becomes popular and more of these rickshaws are introduced, their manufacturing cost will come down.

THE SIX-MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

Like Steve Austin in the 1970s sci-fi show, it is now possible to implant microchips into the body to control everything from weapons to wheelchairs. But is it the start of a sinister new era in science?

JEREMY LAURANCE

FORTY years ago, the first bionic human Steve Austin featured in the hit US TV science-fiction series *The Six Million Dollar Man*. Today, he has become science fact. New technologies that "intervene" in the brain, building superhuman capabilities and enabling users to operate weapons or wheelchairs with the power of thought alone, are on the market or under development.

Electrodes implanted deep in patient's brains have been shown to stabilise the shaky movements of Parkinson's disease and "creativity caps" that deliver magnetic pulses to the head are in use to boost memory and mathematical ability.

Scientists have demonstrated how a person in New York with a device implanted in their nervous system can control a robotic arm in the UK, moving it around and sensing the position of objects just by thinking about it.

But the rapid advance of the research is raising concerns that meddling with the brain could change people's personalities, create bionic supermen for military applications or be used to control minds with disturbing implications for society.

Today, the Nuffield Council for Bioethics launches a consultation on the ethics of the new technolgies, the global market for which it says is worth $8bn and "growing fast."

"Intervening in the brain has always raised hopes and fears. Hopes of curing terrible diseases and fears about trying to enhance human capability beyond what is normally possible," said Thomas Baldwin, Chair of the Study and Professor of Philosophy at the University of York. "This challenges us to think what makes us human and why we think and behave in the way we do."

The most advanced technology is deep brain stimulation — the implanting of electrodes in the brain — which has shown dramatic results in improving movement control in Parkinson's disease. But some patients have developed severe side effects, including personality changes, increased sexual urges and criminal behaviour. One study found half of those treated reported a deterioration in their marriage or relationships. "If that is replicated in further studies that will be alarming," said Professor Baldwin.

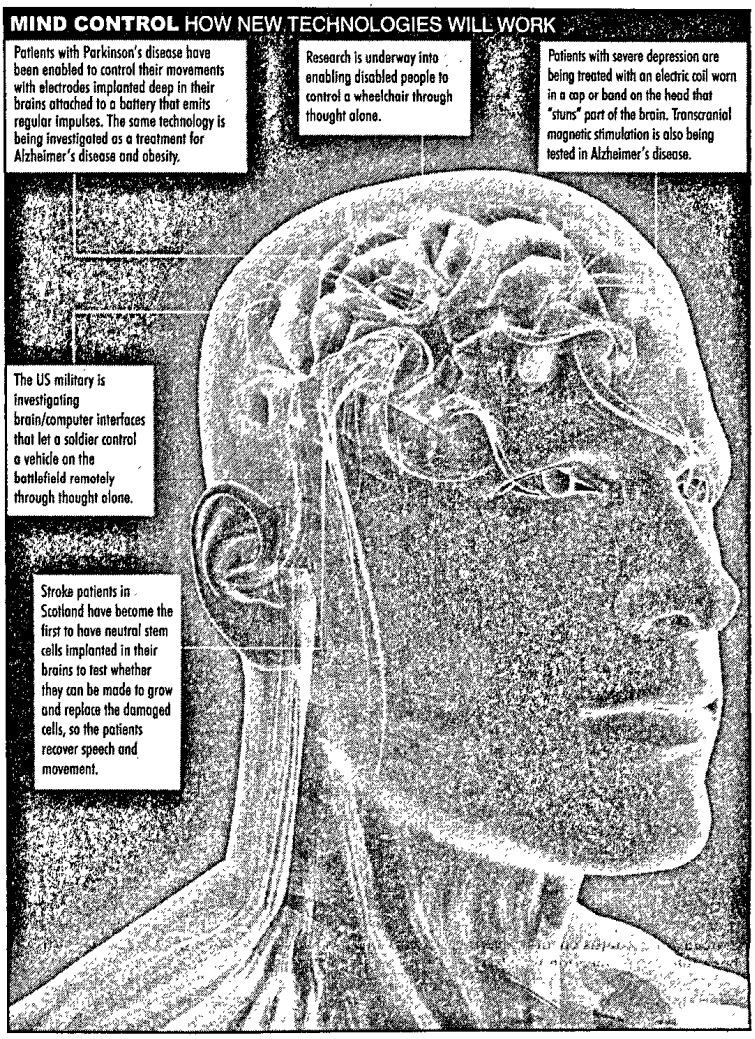
An electric coil worn in a cap or attached to the head with a band which delivers magnetic pulses to the brain has been shown to relieve the symptoms of severe depression in patients and boost mental performance in young adults. Known as the "creativity cap" and employing a technology called transcranial magnetic stimulation, it is available from online retailers. It suppresses some brain activity enabling the individual to focus on a particular task.

Alena Buyx, of the Nuffield Council, said: "A trial in the UK showed it improved performance in maths and there have been calls for it to be introduced for children in education. We know of children prescribed ritalin (a drug for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) to boost their school performance. Should we try to create individuals with superhuman abilities?"

In Scotland, doctors have launched the first trial in the world of neural stem cells injected into the brain to replace damaged brain cells as a treatment for strokes. But there are fears the therapy could lead to brain tumours or changes in mood, behaviour and ability.

"Do these technologies alter our notions of personal responsibility? If someone is caught shoplifting, can they claim their brain implant made them do it?" said Dr Buyx.

Kevin Warwick, Professor of Cybernetics at the University of Reading, who has used himself as a guinea pig for implants in his nervous system with which he has controlled remote devices, said: "Military applications are being tested but are not yet in use. They involve remote control of vehicles and weaponry with the soldier in a safe location and the weapon in the battlefield. It blurs the distinction between man and machine. Who is making the decisions, who is responsible?"



The rapid advance of the research is raising concerns that meddling with the brain could change people's personalities, create bionic supermen for military applications or be used to control minds with disturbing implications for society

The development of the technologies for use in warfare might be troubling for some. But the potential to help sufferers from diseases, including Alzheimer's and other brain disorders, is huge. "This is a big problem area and there is the possibility of helping an enormous number of people in different ways," Professor Warwick said.

CASE STUDY: 'Spike' in the brain helped to beat paralysis

Matthew Nagle was paralysed from the neck down after a knife attack severed his spinal cord.

The 21-year-old from Massachusetts in the US was left unable to move or breathe on his own. But in 2004, three years after the attack, he had an electrode array implanted in the surface of his brain — with each electrode "spike" penetrating 1.5mm below the surface.

The implant enabled him to pick up objects, open emails, change television channels and play computer games. The electrodes were linked to the outside of his skull, where they were connected to a computer which was programmed to recognise his thought patterns and translate them into movements he was trying to achieve.

He operated a cursor on the computer screen and succeeded in moving it to switch buttons on and off. He was also able to control a prosthetic arm. The results were published in the scientific journal Nature. The implant was removed after a year, in accordance with the protocol for the trial. Matthew Nagle died in 2007.

A second patient, aged 55, who had been paralysed since 1999, also had the implant but was less successful at operating devices remotely.

At least a dozen companies in the US are working on brain-computer interfaces, many for the US military.

Although there are hopes the technology could help people whose brains are damaged by illness or injury, there are also fears implants might be used to control challenging behaviour in patients with Alzheimer's disease or mental problems, by inhibiting antisocial tendencies and programming in "acceptable" responses.

— *The Independent*

Dainik Jagran ND 02-Mar-12 p-12

शोध की सुध, बढ़ेगा खर्च

नई दिल्ली, जागरण ब्यूरो : उच्च शिक्षा में कानूनी सुधार के एजेंडे पर सरकार के लिए बीता साल भले ही बहुत खराब रहा हो, लेकिन बाकी मोर्चों पर कुछ बेहतर करने की उसकी कोशिशें जारी है। बड़ा सवाल गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा व योग्य शिक्षकों का है। शोध को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कदम उठेंगे। खास फोकस व्यावसायिक शिक्षा पर भी होगा। साथ ही सूचना व संचार तकनीक के बेहतर इस्तेमाल की भी तैयारी है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने वैसे तो 12वीं योजना का खाका तैयार कर दिया है। अलबत्ता उसे मंजूरी मिलने में देर है। आगामी सालाना बजट में इसकी झलक मिलनी तय है। 11वीं योजना का पूरा फोकस उच्च शिक्षा के विस्तार पर था। बीते वर्षों में तो दर्जनभर से अधिक नए केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के अलावा तमाम आइआइटी, आइआइएम, एनआइटी, ट्रिपल आइटी और राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं शोध संस्थान (आइआइएसईआर) खुल चुके है। इसके बावजूद देश में उच्चस्तरीय शोध को लेकर तमाम सवाल है। लिहाजा बड़े पैमाने पर उच्च स्तरीय शोध के लिए बजट बढ़ सकता है। रिसर्च पार्क बनाने जैसा प्रस्ताव भी सरकार के विचाराधीन है। मुनाफे में चल रहे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (पीएसयू) से कम से कम दो प्रतिशत धन शोध के मद में लेने की भी योजना पर काम चल रहा है।

सरकार का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा फोकस माध्यमिक से उच्च शिक्षा के स्तर पर कौशल विकास (स्किल डेवलपमेंट) के मद्देनजर व्यावसायिक शिक्षा पर है। सरकार ने नेशनल वोकेशनल एजूकेशन क्वॉलिफिकेशन फ्रेमवर्क नाम से पढ़ाई की एक नई धारा को मंजूरी दी है। इसी के मद्देनजर ही कम्युनिटी कालेज भी खोलने की योजना है। आगामी बजट में इसके लिए भी खास प्रावधान किया जाएगा। साथ ही सूचना व संचार तकनीक के इस्तेमाल को और बढ़ावा देना है। ज्यादातर विश्वविद्यालयों को ब्रॉडबैंड से जोड़ा जा चुका है। अब इसका और विस्तार करना है। इसलिए बजट में उसे भी तवज्जो मिलेगी। बजट में वृद्धि का मामला बहुत कुछ वित्त मंत्री पर निर्भर करेगा। धन की कमी से निपटने के लिए सार्वजनिक व निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी (पीपीपी) मॉडल को भी अपनाने पर जोर होगा।

प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों को पढ़ाई के और बेहतर मौके दिए जाने के लिए उनकी और मदद पर फोकस तय है। उसके तहत उन्हें पढ़ाई के लिए सस्ते कर्ज, और आकर्षक ब्याज व प्रभावी छात्रवृत्ति योजना का लाभ मिलेगा। सरकार मानकर चल रही है कि उच्च शिक्षा में सकल दाखिला दर (जीईआर) को बढ़ाकर 30 प्रतिशत के लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए यह कदम अभी से उठाने होंगे। उच्च शिक्षा में यह दर 11वीं योजना के अंत (मार्च 2012) तक 21 प्रतिशत होने का अनुमान है।

सरकार ने चालू वित्त वर्ष 2011-12 के लिए उच्च शिक्षा में 13,103 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया था। इसमें से 5,660 करोड़ तकनीकी शिक्षा, 5252 करोड़ रुपये विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग और 943 करोड़ रुपये सूचना व संचार प्रौद्योगिकी मिशन पर खर्च होने थे।

सूरत-ए- हाल

- सूचना व संचार तकनीक का बेहतर उपयोग

व्यावसायिक शिक्षा को रफ्तार

नई दिल्ली, जागरण ब्यूरो : स्कूली बच्चों को अनिवार्य व मुफ्त शिक्षा का कानूनी अधिकार दे चुकी सरकार इस एजेंडे और प्रभावी बनाएगी। इस कानून के अमल पर देर से ही सही, लेकिन राज्यों के हरकत में आने के बाद अब केंद्र भी उत्साहित है। इसलिए इस बार भी सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के बजट में खासा वृद्धि के संकेत है। माध्यमिक शिक्षा में संसाधनों के विस्तार की योजना भी इस बार परवान चढ़नी है, क्योंकि इसमें व्यावसायिक शिक्षा का अहम पहलू होगा। स्कूली शिक्षा में छह से चौदह साल तक के बच्चों के लिए शिक्षा का अधिकार कानून के अमल में आने के पहले साल में राज्यों ने उसे बहुत तरजीह नहीं दी। सरकार ने पिछली बार इस अभियान के लिए बजट 40 फीसदी बढ़ाकर 21 हजार करोड़ रुपये किया था।