

Newspaper Clips

March 5, 2011

Pioneer ND 05/03/2011

P-8

MPs favour use of Hindi in IIT exams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members from all parties including the treasury benches on Friday created a furore leading to a brief adjournment in the Rajya Sabha on the issue of using English as medium of examination in the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

The trouble started during question hour when HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said the IITs are autonomous bodies and are free to decide on the language for examination and curriculum. "The Government does not impose decisions on IITs," he said while replying to supplementaries on National Testing Agency for IITs. "It is for IITs governing council to decide what language to use for conducting the examination," Sibal said.

This evoked sharp reaction from both ruling and

Opposition parties. Satyavrat Chaturvedi (Congress) said Hindi is 'Rajbhasha' according to the Constitution and IIT governing council is not above the Constitution. Members from Left, TDP, SP, J-U and BSP joined the protest and demanded use of Hindi and regional languages in IIT examination.

As the din continued, Ansari said if the House wants a debate on the subject, members should give notice but they should not disrupt Question Hour. He asked members to resume their seats and allow the Question Hour to proceed. As the members did not relent, Ansari adjourned the House for 15 minutes.

Earlier, Minister of State for HRD D Purandiswari said the joint entrance examination (JEE) for entry into IITs can be taken both in English and Hindi.

Asian Age
ND
05/03/2011

P-4

Uproar over use of English as medium

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

March 4: The Rajya Sabha witnessed uproar on Friday over the use of English as medium of examination in IITs following which the House was adjournment for 15 minutes. MPs from various parties, including the Congress, criticised human resource development minister Kapil Sibal for being unable to respect the aspirations of regional languages in the country.

The trouble started during Question Hour when Mr Sibal stated that Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are autonomous entities which are free to decide on the language for examination and curriculum. "The government does not impose decisions on IITs. The governing council of IIT decides what language to use for conducting the examination," he said.

The response evoked sharp reaction from both ruling and Opposition parties. Members criticised Mr Sibal for using English to reply, the minister retorted saying they should ensure that the Leader of the Opposition Arun Jaitley also speaks in Hindi all the time.

Indian Express ND 05/03/2011 P10

Congress MP joins Oppn to slam use of English in IIT exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

EXPRESSING dissent with its own government in Parliament is slowly catching up among the Congress MPs. Following an embarrassing protest by ruling lawmakers on the Telangana issue during the President's address, the Rajya Sabha on Friday saw Congress MP Satyavrat Chaturvedi joining the Opposition ranks in criticising the use of English as the only language in IIT exams.

A question by JD(U)'s N K Singh on IIT-JEE reforms quickly turned into a free-for-all on the merits of English as the predominant medium of instruction in higher institutes of learning. The Shiv Sena's Bharat Kumar Raut went on to remark that not just examinations, even "communication skills" had come to mean proficiency only in English language.

While Minister of State for HRD D Purandeswari sought to allay the members' concerns that the government was not imposing any language on any one, Chaturvedi as also several Opposition members stood up in protest. Chaturvedi argued that while Hindi was the official language, the ministry was promoting English.

Amid the din, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal intervened and clarified that the IIT Council was an autonomous body and free to decide which language to conduct the examinations in. Chaturvedi was then heard asking whether the IIT council was above the Constitution. When Sibal started his reply in English, some of the BJP members asked him to speak in Hindi.

Sibal ticked off the BJP members by retorting that the Opposition members must tell the Leader of the Opposition to always speak in Hindi.

**Hindustan
Times, ND
05-Mar-11 p-8**

IIT-JEE TEST IN HINDI EXISTS, MPs FIGHT FOR IT ANYWAY

**Charu Sudan Kasturi and
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NEW DELHI: The government and Rajya Sabha MPs heatedly debated and argued — even forcing an adjournment — on Friday over Hindi speakers increasingly suffering in the Joint Entrance Examination for the Indian Institutes of Technology.

They forgot to check the facts — Hindi test takers have steadily been improving their performance in the test, considered one of the toughest examinations in the world.

MPs across party lines — including Congress leader Satyavrat Chaturvedi — accused the government of a pro-English bias, suggesting that the IIT JEE was increasingly biased against Hindi speakers.

CLUELESS MPS ATTACKED GOVT FOR NOT INCLUDING HINDI AS LANGUAGE OPTION IN IIT EXAMS. THE FACT IS NUMBER OF HINDI TEST TAKERS HAS GONE UP

“My observation is that more and more students from urban areas, more so, who have taken education in English medium, tend to get admitted in the IITs,” argued Shiv Sena MP Bharatkumar Raut. Over 10 minutes into the shouting match, HRD minister Kapil Sibal came to the defense of his deputy D Purandweswari to point out that the IIT-JEE is conducted in both English and Hindi.

But missed in the debate was the silent but definite improvement in performance of those who take the IIT-JEE in Hindi over the past few years.

The fraction of Hindi test takers among those who qualified in the IIT-JEE increased from 1.27% in 2008 to 1.84% in 2009, before taking a massive leap to 5.52% in 2010 — a year in which the JEE was ironically dogged by errors in Hindi question papers.

Out of 8,661 seats on offer in 2008, 110 were taken by those who appeared for the test in Hindi, while the figure rose to 184 out of 9,950 seats in 2009 and 554 out of 10,035 in 2010, according to the confidential JEE reports of the IITs accessed by HT.

Asian Age ND 05/03/2011 P-9

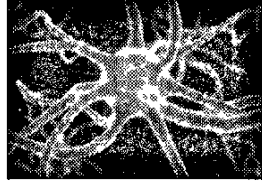
Scientists grow brain cells killed by Alzheimer's

London, March 4: In what's being hailed as a major step forward in developing treatments for Alzheimer's, scientists claim to have grown brain's memory cells that are most vulnerable to attack from the disease.

An international team has turned stem cells derived originally from skin into sophisticated types of neurons in the brain that are critical to memory retrieval

and are killed by the degenerative condition. According to the scientists, the development could lead to the discovery of new drug treatments and even transplantation to repair brain damage.

In early Alzheimer's, the ability to retrieve memories is lost, not the memories themselves and the reason is that cells, called basal forebrain cholinergic neurons, are killed. There is a relatively small population of



the neurons in brain and their loss has devastating effect on ability to remember. The idea is that by reproducing a limitless supply of these cells the scientists can work out a way to

protect them from dying in the first place and lead to transplantation into people with Alzheimer's, the *Daily Telegraph* reported. "Now that we have learned how to make these cells, we can study them in a tissue culture dish and figure out what we can do to prevent them from dying," said Dr Jack Kessler, who led the study at Northwestern University in Chicago. Stem cells are "master cells" which can

become any other cell in the body. Most researchers take them from embryos where they are abundant but increasingly scientists are able to "turn back the clock" of mature cells. In this research, the scientists produced the neurons from both kinds of cells. Dr Kessler and his team spent six years before they eventually came up with the genetic key to produce the new cells.

—PTI

Times of India ND 05/03/2011 P19

Star Trek-type 'teleportation' to be reality soon

London: The 'teleportation' of 'Star Trek' could become a reality soon. Researchers are using a special laser called Bessel which could potentially draw small items towards a target.

Tractor beams in 'Star Trek' have long used a subspace or graviton interference pattern created by two beams to pull in their targets although, being sci-fi, the precise technology has never been clear. The real-life breakthrough came after scien-



FLYING INTO THE FUTURE

tists realised that a tractor beam could be possible using a Bessel laser, which has a specific wavelength pattern that seems to work, the *Daily Mail* reports.

They found that when the target is hit by the beam, some of the incoming light bounces back off in the form of radiation and creates a 'push' towards the source. "Light can indeed pull a particle and this may open up new avenues for optical micro-manipulation... typical examples include

transporting a particle backward over a long distance and particle sorting," scientists from China wrote.

Previous attempts at creating a tractor beam had involved heating the air around the target to get it to move. Another approach was so-called 'optical tweezers' when the target would be trapped in laser beam and moved around. By using a Bessel, however, tractor beam would have one long gradual pull with no interruptions. IANS

Times of India ND

05/03/2011 P19

Bottom-up: That's how ice forms in Antarctica

Oslo: Some of Antarctica's ice sheet is formed by water re-freezing from below not just by snow falling on top as was traditionally thought, findings showed on Thursday that will help scientists project effects of climate change.

Experts are seeking to understand the frozen continent since even a small thaw could swamp low-lying coastal areas and cities. Antarctica contains enough ice to raise world sea levels by about 57 metres if it ever all melted.

A six-nation study of jagged mountain range as high as the

Alps that is buried under ice in East Antarctica found almost a quarter of ice sheet in the area was formed by a thaw and re-freeze of water from underneath. Deep below the surface, ice flowing into submerged valleys often melted because of high pressure and heat from

earth below and re-froze when it was forced up again.

The findings confound a traditional view that ice sheets are almost solely formed by snow that lands on top, gets compressed into ice and flows slowly towards the oceans because of gravity. REUTERS

MYTH BUSTED

Times of India ND

05/03/2011 P19

A human-shaped cellphone with 'skin':

Japanese researchers have developed a mobile phone that resembles a human being, and which has a skin-like outer layer to enable users to feel closer to those on the other end. The Elfoid is a smaller version of the Telenoid R1, the robotic answering machine developed by the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR). Telenoid R1 looked more than a little like a disembodied Casper, and could mimic speech and gestures sent to it by videophone, replicating a distant caller's presence. The Elfoid is the same, but fits in your pocket and tickles you when you've got a call.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Mar 5, 2011;Section: Times City;Page: 5;

HC tells AIIMS to admit PG student

New Delhi: Coming to the help of an MBBS doctor who was denied admission in a postgraduation course in AIIMS due to a change in prospectus by the institute a few days before the counselling date, the Delhi high court has directed it to give him admission in the PG course for the year 2011-2012. A division bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjeev Khanna directed the AIIMS authorities to allot a seat to Varun Aggarwal in postgraduate course in the general category either in Surgery, Gynaecology or Orthopaedics in the next academic session in July 2011. The bench disapproved of the action of the AIIMS management and said it could not change the prospectus in the manner it had done. ▶▶

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Mar 5, 2011;Section: Times Business;Page: 26;

Facebook valued at \$65 billion

Boston: General Atlantic is expected to buy a 0.1% stake in Facebook, an investment which will value the social networking site at \$65 billion. The General Atlantic investment involves the purchase of a block of roughly 2.5 million shares of stock from former Facebook employees, a report said.

While the deal between General Atlantic and the shareholders has been agreed to, it requires the approval of Facebook and so has not yet been closed, the report said. The last major investment in Facebook, made in January, had valued the company at \$50 billion.

The company had said it raised \$1.5 billion in a financing round led by Goldman Sachs and Digital Sky Technologies. The latest investment, which values the company at \$65 billion, means that the social networking site's value has grown by 30% in less than two months. General Atlantic mostly makes investments of \$50 million to \$500 million in private and public companies. The firm has \$17 billion in capital under management. Companies in the firm's investment portfolio include luxury goods seller Gilt Groupe and software company Kaspersky Lab. ▶▶

Times of India ND

05/03/2011 P19

Nasa's earth observation satellite fails to reach orbit

Nasa's earth observation satellite Glory failed to reach orbit on Friday after its protective cover did not detach following its launch, the US space agency said. The satellite, which cost \$424 million to produce, was too heavy to reach orbit with its clamshell-like nose cone cover clinging on and plunged into the south Pacific Ocean, leaving engineers puzzled as to why it failed. A few minutes into the flight, it became apparent that separation had not occurred. "We didn't see the indication of fairing separation," said Nasa launch director Omar Baez. "We failed to make orbit and all indications are that the satellite and rocket are in the southern Pacific Ocean somewhere."

Times of India ND 05/03/2011
P19

Print new kidneys, cut out donors

Long Beach (California): A surgeon specializing in regenerative medicine on Thursday "printed" a real kidney using a machine that eliminates the need for donors when it comes to organ transplants.

"It's like baking a cake," Anthony Atala of the Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine said as he cooked up a fresh kidney on stage at a TED Conference in the California city of Long Beach. Scanners are used to take a 3-D image of a kidney that needs replacing, then a tissue sample about half the size of postage stamp is used to seed the computerized process, Atala explained.

The organ "printer" then works layer-by-layer to build a replacement kidney replicating the patient's tissue. College student Luke Massella was among the first people to receive a printed kidney during experimental research a decade ago when he was just 10 years old.

He said he was born with Spina Bifida and his kidneys were not working. "Now, I'm in college and basically trying to live life like a normal kid," said Massella, who was re-

Key memory cells made in petridish

US researchers have coaxed stem cells into becoming a type of brain cell that dies off early in people with Alzheimer's disease. The new technology would provide a ready supply of cells for use in testing new drugs or even transplants to help restore lost memory, the team reported. While most Alzheimer's research is done in genetically modified mice, the new technique would allow researchers to study a key aspect of the disease in human cells. REUTERS

united with Atala at TED.

"This surgery saved my life and made me who I am today," he added.

About 90% of people waiting for transplants are in need of kidneys, and the need far outweighs the supply of donated organs, according to Atala. "There is a major health crisis today in terms of the shortage of organs," Atala said. "Medicine has done a much better job of making us live longer, and as we age our organs don't last." AFP

Times of India ND 05/03/2011 P19

A car that can read out email, FB updates

After Driver Plugs His Phone Into Charger, Voice Commands Do The Trick

London: Scientists have developed what they say is the world's first "Internet Car" which can read out your emails, Facebook and Twitter updates.

The unique Rinspeed BamBoo car can also help motorists behind the wheel surf the net by using a series of voice commands.

To avail the facilities, drivers only need to attach their smart phones or iPads into a charger in the electric car before they set off, the Daily Mail reported.

Designed by global audio and infotainment group Harman, the vehicle also allows drivers to

search radio stations with voice commands using its special "infotainment" technology.

The car was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show recently. According to Harman, the first cars fitted with the technology could be on the road within 18 months.

Spokeswoman Kay Robinson said, "The technology is designed to prevent the driver being distracted by texts and emails."

"Through voice commands the computer reads a person's messages to them as they drive."

The car is compatible with all smart phones, iPads and Black-

berry devices. Twitter updates, Facebook messages and instant texts can all be accessed by the driver while the car is moving.

It also comes fitted with its own Wi-Fi transmitter allowing passengers to use their laptops or mobile devices

"At the moment, when a driver receives a text or an email or even a Twitter update they have to pull over to read it," said Robinson. "This technology means they can be kept up to date without taking their hands off the wheel or their eyes off the road," she added. PTI



HANDS-FREE TECH

Hindustan Times, ND 05-Mar-11 p-17

TO THE MOON AND BACK!

Moonageddon in two weeks?

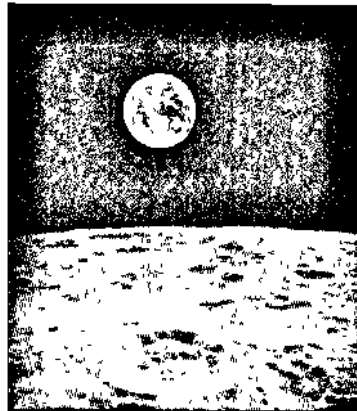
Asian News International

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MELBOURNE: In two weeks, Earth could be headed for a big showdown according to some, for the moon will be at its closest point to Earth in 18 years, an event that is known as a "lunar perigee".

One astronomer, who titled the event 'SuperMoon' has predicted that it may bring worrying disruptions to Earth's climate patterns.

On March 19, the moon will be just 356,577 km away from Earth, an event that



THINKSTOCK

has Internet theorists talking about the possibility of extreme weather, earthquakes and volcanoes.

However, scientists have rubbished the theories.

"There will be no earthquakes or volcanoes unless they are to happen anyway," Pete Wheeler of International Centre for Radio Astronomy, said. "(Earth will experience) just a lower than usual low tide and higher than usual high tide around the time of the event."

Astronomer David Reneke claims there's more cause for alarm about extent of human paranoia than any impending apocalypse.

Hindustan Times, ND 05-Mar-11 p-7

Delhi HC to the help of MBBS student

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: Coming to the help of an MBBS doctor who was denied admission in AIIMS due to change in prospectus by the institute a few days before counselling date, the Delhi High Court has directed it to give him admission in the PG course for the year 2011-2012.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice

The action of the AIIMS... is vitiated and we cannot give a stamp of approval (to it).

DELHI HIGH COURT

Sanjeev Khanna directed AIIMS authorities to allot a seat to Varun Aggarwal in post-graduate course in the general category either in Surgery, Gynaecology or Orthopaedics

in the next academic session.

The bench disapproved of the action of the AIIMS management and said "the AIIMS may have been conferred with the privilege of institutional preference but that would not enable it to change the prospectus in the manner it has been done. Thus, the action of the AIIMS on this score is vitiated and we cannot give a stamp of approval to the action..."

The bench added, "The hopes

and aspirations of students, who came within the zone of merit, cannot be scuttled by changing the prospectus by way of introducing a corrigendum..."

Aggarwal filed a petition alleging AIIMS had failed to follow the procedure and changed the prospectus a few days before the counselling in June 2010.

Hence, he could not get admission in MS (Surgery) despite holding 179th rank in the merit list.

JANSATTA ND 05/03/2011 P7

आईआईटी परीक्षा अंग्रेजी में होने पर राज्यसभा में हंगामा सिब्लल के बयान का विपक्ष ने किया विरोध

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली, 4 मार्च। आईआईटी परीक्षा का माध्यम अंग्रेजी होने को लेकर विभिन्न दलों के सदस्यों के हंगामे के कारण राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही शुक्रवार को प्रश्नकाल के दौरान 15 मिनट के लिए स्थगित करनी पड़ी। सदस्य परीक्षा का माध्यम हिंदी और क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को बनाने की मांग कर रहे थे। हंगामा उस समय शुरू हुआ जब मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्लल आईआईटी के लिए राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी के बारे में पूछे गए पूरक प्रश्नों का जवाब दे रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान स्वायत्तशासी निकाय है और परीक्षा की भाषा और पाठ्यक्रम आदि का फैसला वही करते हैं। केंद्र सरकार उन पर अपने फैसले नहीं थोपती। सिब्लल ने कहा कि परीक्षा कौन सी भाषा में होनी है, यह फैसला आईआईटी की प्रशासकीय परिषद करती है। सिब्लल के इस कथन का सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्षी सदस्यों ने कड़ा विरोध किया। विपक्षी सदस्यों ने सिब्लल पर अंग्रेजी में जवाब देने के लिए कटाक्ष किया, जिसके जवाब में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने कहा कि आप लोग भी अंग्रेजी में बोलते हैं। विपक्ष के नेता भी अंग्रेजी में बोलते हैं। आप यह सुनिश्चित करें कि विपक्ष के नेता अरुण जेटली हमेशा हिंदी बोलें।

कांग्रेस के सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी ने कहा कि संविधान के अनुसार हिंदी राजभाषा है और आईआईटी प्रशासकीय परिषद संविधान से ऊपर नहीं है। आईआईटी की परीक्षा अंग्रेजी माध्यम में लिए जाने को लेकर भाजपा, सपा, बसपा, तेदेपा, शिवसेना, जद (एकी) सदस्यों ने कड़ा विरोध जताया और हिंदी और क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को परीक्षा का माध्यम बनाने की मांग की। सभापति हामिद अंसारी ने कहा कि यदि सदस्य इस विषय पर चर्चा करना चाहते हैं, तो उन्हें अलग से नोटिस देना होगा। उन्होंने सदस्यों से शांत होने और प्रश्नकाल बाधित न करने की अपील की लेकिन हंगामा जारी रहा। सभापति ने कहा कि प्रश्न आईआईटी की परीक्षा के बारे में था, राजभाषा के बारे में नहीं। मैं सदस्यों से प्रश्नकाल चलने देने का अनुरोध करता हूँ लेकिन सदस्यों का हंगामा नहीं थमा और सभापति ने कार्यवाही 15 मिनट के लिए स्थगित कर दी। सदन की बैठक दोबारा शुरू होने पर विपक्षी सदस्यों का हंगामा फिर शुरू हो गया। लेकिन अंसारी के आग्रह पर सदन में कामकाज सामान्य तरीके से चलने लगा।

इससे पहले मानव संसाधन विकास राज्य मंत्री डी पुरंदेश्वरी ने एनके सिंह के पूरक प्रश्न के जवाब में कहा कि आईआईटी संस्थानों में दाखिले के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा हिंदी और अंग्रेजी दोनों ही भाषाओं में ली जा सकती है। पुरंदेश्वरी ने कहा कि छात्रों की बढ़ती संख्या और बढ़ती समस्याओं के कारण कैट की परीक्षा ऑनलाइन करने का फैसला किया गया। उन्होंने ने भरत कुमार राउत के पूरक प्रश्न के जवाब में कहा कि राज्यों पर केंद्र ने कभी अंग्रेजी नहीं थोपी। सरकार सभी क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं का सम्मान करती है। सिब्लल ने कहा कि दामोदर आचार्य समिति ने अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ आईआईटी परिषद की राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी स्थापित करने की सिफारिश की है। समिति की अंतरिम रपट विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के सचिव डा रामासामी की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति के पास भेज दी गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा का आयोजन करने वाले संयुक्त प्रवेश बोर्ड ने सूचित किया है कि भविष्य में आईआईटी-जेईई को ऑनलाइन किए जाने की योजना है।