

Newspaper Clips

May 10, 2013

HT Chandigarh, May 10, 2013

NO DIRECTOR HAS BEEN WITHOUT CONTROVERSY BUT SUNIL PANDEY PERHAPS MOST UNPOPULAR

buckled under the weight of many inquiries.

PANDEY 'THE HATED'

In July 2011, when Sunil Pandey took over, he had good record at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi. In almost 18 months since, the record turned bad, as he appointed deans and department heads by pick-and-choose policy and approved non-sanctioned posts such as associate dean and associate HOD.

Students wrote to the HRD ministry, accusing him of siphoning lakhs of rupees in civil construction tenders; award of

security, housekeeping, mess, and horticulture contracts; and appointments and promotions. The university also has no regular registrar. SP Oswal, chairman SLIET, could not be contacted, in spite of many several attempts to reach him.

SORT IT OUT: STATE GOVT TO HRD MINISTRY

The Punjab government has asked the higher education authorities in the human resource development ministry to sort out the mess at SLIET.

State technical education secretary AR Talwar has orders from chief minister Prakash Singh Badal to take up the matter with the department concerned. He has asked additional secretary of higher education in the central ministry to look into it. Of the students on hunger strike, three, including two girls, have reported low blood pressure.

India fares poorly in QS ranking, IITs and IISc the exception

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 9

THE overall quality deficit of India's education sector has come out clearly in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) global ranking on higher education. In the subject-wise ranking, there is no Indian institute among the top 200 ranks in 11 of the total 30 subjects.

While institutes in China and Brazil have good presence, only IITs and the IISc hold the fort in basic sciences and engineering. In law, medicine, history, philosophy, political and international studies, there is no institute from India in the top 200. In geography, Banaras Hindu University and Delhi University are placed in the 151-200 range.

In its ranking overview, the QS report says that while investments made in higher education in China and Brazil are clearly paying off, India, even among the BRIC nations, is a backbencher with IITs as the only saving grace.

"There are less encouraging signs from the two BRIC nations, India and Russia. The IITs perform reasonably well

in their specialist areas with IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras making it into the top 50 in at least one of the engineering disciplines. Yet there are 11 subjects in which not a single Indian institution makes it to the top 200," the QS ranking overview stated.

In chemical and structural engineering, IIT Madras and Bombay is placed 39th. The

IISc, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharapur and IIT Roorkee come in 51-100 segment and IIT Guwahati is in the 151-200 range.

In computer science and information systems, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur are in the top 51-100. In chemical engineering, six IITs are in the top 200 besides the IISc and the University of Mumbai.

In English language and

literature, Delhi University falls in the range of 51-100 and Jadavpur University in the 151-200 segments. In modern languages, Delhi University stand in the 101-150 segment.

The UK and US varsities top the rankings across 30 subjects. Harvard has 10 top spots. The university that appears in top 10 in 27 disciplines is University of Cambridge.

Times of India Chennai 09-05-2013 P-10

IITs shine in global univ rankings

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: IIT Delhi's electrical engineering department has been ranked the 37th best globally, the highest entry from India across all categories in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world university rankings.

QS is a reputed British education and career advice company, which earlier produced rankings with the Times Higher Education. Since 2010, it has been producing them on its own.

The firm ranked IIT Bombay's civil engineering department 39th and also IIT Delhi's mechanical and aeronautical engineering 43rd. It ranked Indian Insti-



IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras (in pic) are all ranked in the global top 50 in one of four areas of engineering

tute of Science 50th in material science. The IITs have come as the only saving grace for Indian universities, which have taken a mas-

sive beating in the rankings released on Wednesday. Not a single university or department made it to the top 200 in 12 of the 30 disciplines cov-

ered in the rankings.

Important subjects without a single top-200 Indian institute include medicine, law, economics and education.

The best performances from Indian universities came in engineering. The IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras are all ranked in the global top 50 in at least one of the four areas of engineering: civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical.

Delhi University and JNU have made it to the top 100 in the world, for English literature. Chinese universities, on the other hand, have secured 37 top-50 rankings in 23 subjects, compared to just four for India.

Times of India Mumbai 09-05-2013 P-13

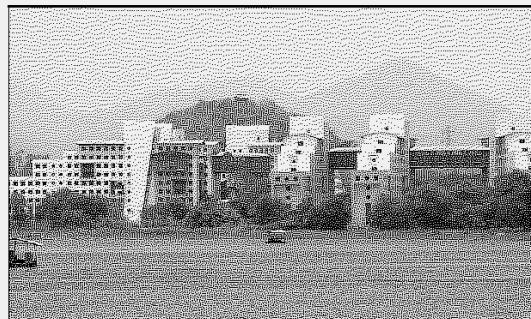
IITs put India on global varsity map

Engg Courses At Delhi, Bombay, Madras On List

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

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IIT-Bombay's civil engineering department ranked 39th on the QS list

Education. Since 2010, it has been producing them on its own.

IIT-Bombay's civil engineering department has been

ranked 39th while IIT-Delhi's mechanical and aeronautical engineering has been positioned 43rd. IISc ranks 50th in

materials science.

The best performances from Indian universities came in engineering. The IIT-B, IIT-D and IIT-M are all ranked in the global top 50 in at least one of the four areas of engineering: civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical. DU and JNU have made it to the top 100 in the world, for English literature while the only other Indian entry in this category are Jadavpur University and University of Kolkata both of which are among the top 151-200.

IIT-B's linguistic department is the only that made it to this category among the top 200. Chinese universities on the other hand have achieved 37

top-50 rankings in 23 subjects, compared to just four for India.

"These rankings reflect the progress made by the IITs in recent years in engineering, but in many other areas of the academic spectrum India is lagging way behind its international competitors," said QS head of research Ben Sowter.

Covering 30 subjects, the QS rankings by subject are the largest of its kind. The US and UK universities dominate the list, with Harvard ranking number one in 10 subjects is ahead of MIT (7), University of Oxford (4), UC Berkeley (4), University of Cambridge (3), Imperial College London (1) and UC Davis (1).

Starting a college set to get tougher

MANAGEMENT, ENGG SCHOOLS TO BEAR THE BRUNT

Seats in major colleges lying vacant

States	Engineering		B-schools	
	2010-11	2012-13	2010-11	2012-13
Tamil Nadu	42195	62973	3564	7846
Andhra Pradesh	37908	62467	9891	17930
Maharashtra	20094	34162	6871	12364
UP	10967	12662	4659	15135
INDIA	191086	310741	39541	86073

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Starting a new engineering or management school may soon get tougher with India's apex technical education regulator approving new colleges only in regions with a shortage. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), in this capacity, has embraced a planner's role in addition to its traditional task of ensuring the quality of academic programmes. Starting a college in Mizoram would then be easier than starting one in Mumbai, Delhi or Tamil Nadu.

The AICTE has written to all states asking them for "perspective plans" and enrolment data before it decides on approving new engineering and

management schools for 2014.

The move comes after several states warned the AICTE that lakhs of seats in existing institutions have no takers.

Top AICTE officials told HT that the regulator wanted to ensure that the sector it monitors doesn't suffer from a prolonged, artificial supply excess that could potentially erode the credibility of India's technical education.

"We have absolutely no plan to micromanage the sector, but our mandate requires us to ensure the overall health of Indian technical education," a senior AICTE official said.



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Students to get pills for anaemia

Scheme To Be Launched From July 15, Will Cover 9 To 18-Yr-Olds

Naziya Alvi Rahman | TNN

New Delhi: Alarmed at the results of a survey of government school students that found 20% of them suffering from anaemia, Delhi government is set to launch Centre's WIFS (Weekly Iron and Folic acid Supplementation programme) in all government schools and anganwadi centres from July 15.

The health ministry had launched the ambitious plan in December 2011. The ministry had suggested state governments roll out a budget plan for its implementation and seek funding under National Rural Health Mission for 2012-13.

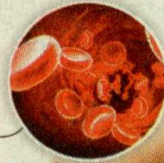
As part of the project, every child in the age group of 9-18 years will be given a tablet of iron and folic acid commonly known as IFA tablet. The tablet will be supplied from Class VI onwards. However, for the two per cent adolescents who were found to be suffering from severe anaemia with haemoglobin levels below 7 grams, the project suggests a 100-day administration plan.

"The IFA tablet would be ad-

NO MORE BAD BLOOD

WHAT IS ANAEMIA?

Anaemia is a condition in which blood has lower than normal count of red blood cells or the red blood cells don't contain enough haemoglobin.



EFFECTS

- > Tiredness or weakness
- > Shortness of breath
- > Dizziness and headaches
- > Severe or long-lasting anaemia can damage heart, brain and other organs



Results of screening of adolescents under Chacha Nehru Sehat Yojana

Prevalence of anaemia among boys and girls in the range of **42-56%**

Results of screening of adolescents in government-run schools

2% Adolescents with severe anaemia

20% Adolescents suffering from moderate anemia

Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation Programme starting July 15



One iron and folic acid tablet to be given to each adolescent in anganwadi or school every week

> Screening of target group and referring cases to appropriate health facility

> Those with severe anaemia to be put on a 100-day programme

ministered irrespective of the haemoglobin status of the target group as we want every adolescent to have healthy haemoglobin levels," health minister A K Walia said.

In Delhi, check-ups were carried out as part of the health department's elaborate plan for phase-wise screening of a total of 14.74 lakh students in government schools under Chacha Neh-

ru Sehat Yojana launched in 2011.

As per the plan, IFA tablets containing 100 mg of elemental iron and 500 micrograms of folic acid would be given for 52 weeks at a dosage of one tablet per week.

Tribune ND 10/05/2013 P-14

Gene therapy to offer heart patients new lease of life

Synthetic virus that can boost heartbeat will be injected into sufferers for breakthrough trial

STEVE CONNOR

THE first attempt in Britain to treat heart failure patients with gene therapy is to begin within weeks, as part of study aimed at improving the lives of up to a million people in the UK who suffer the debilitating and potentially fatal condition.

Two clinical trials are planned for a few dozen British patients who will be deliberately exposed to a virus carrying a synthetic copy of a human gene known to be involved in boosting heartbeat.

The first trial will be carried out at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London and the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Glasgow. The patients will be part of a group of 200 from around the world who will have the virus injected via a cardiac catheter inserted through a vein in the leg. A second trial at the Harefield and Papworth hospitals will be based entirely within the UK and involve 24 patients with chronic heart failure who are already fitted with an "artificial heart" known as a left ventricular assist device, which helps to pump blood around the body.

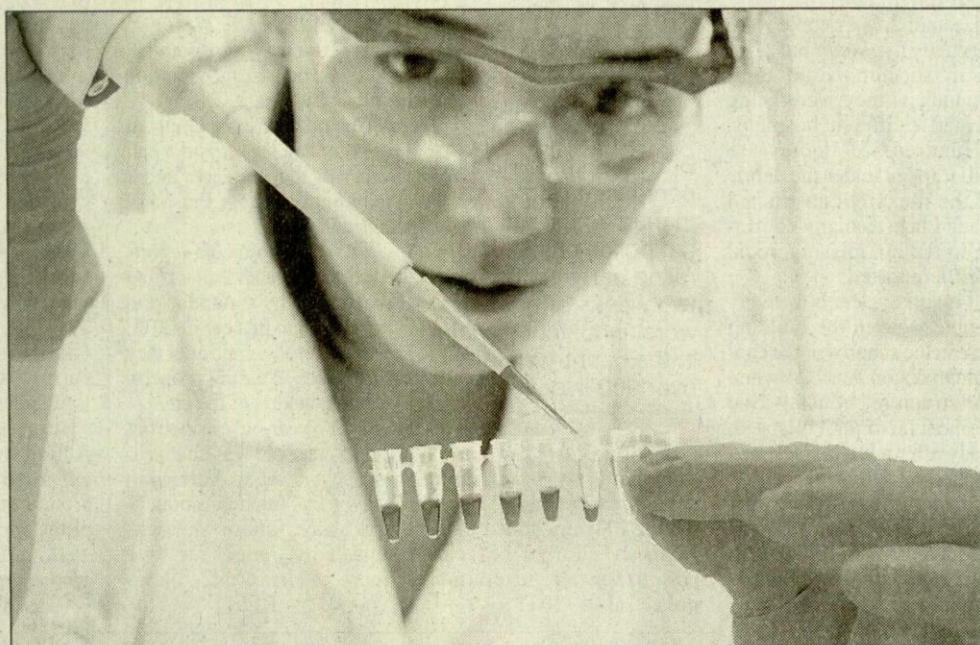
The aim in both trials is to inject additional copies of a healthy gene, known to be responsible for a key protein involved in regulating the rhythmic contraction of the heart muscle. It is hoped that the extra genes will remain active within a patient's heart for many months or even years.

Scientists believe the approach could lead to a significant improvement in the efficiency of the diseased heart to pump blood around the body — so improving the quality of life of thousands of patients with progressive heart failure who develop serious ailments as well as severe fatigue.

Scientists warned that it will still be several years before the technique can be made widely available. They do not want to raise hopes unduly as many previous gene therapy trials on patients with a range of other illnesses have failed to live up to expectations.

However, the heart researchers said they are optimistic that the gene technique will improve the quality of life in at least some of the patients, who would otherwise suffer deteriorating health and life expectancy — a third of patients die within a year of diagnosis.

"Once heart failure starts, it progresses into a vicious cycle where the pumping becomes



Scientists believe the approach could lead to a significant improvement in the efficiency of the diseased heart to pump blood around the body. — Thinkstockphotos

weaker and weaker, as each heart cell simply cannot respond to the increased demand," said Alexander Lyon, a consultant cardiologist at the Royal Brompton.

"Our goal is to fight back against heart failure by targeting and reversing some of the critical molecular changes arising in the heart when it fails."

The gene-therapy trial involves the injection of a harmless virus, called adeno-associated virus, which has been genetically modified with the SERCA2a gene responsible for a protein that stimulates contraction of heart-muscle cells.

Dr Lyon said extensive safety work has already been conducted on the virus and it has not been found to cause health problems in other gene therapy patients.

Once the virus has delivered the SERCA2a into the muscle cells, it is quickly degraded, he said.

Professor Sian Harding of Imperial College London said that extensive research on the SERCA2a gene has shown that it can be safely inserted into

heart-muscle cells with the effect of boosting the size and speed of contraction. "It's been a painstaking, 20-year process to find the right gene and make a treatment that works, but we're thrilled to be working with cardiologists to set up human trials that could help people living with heart failure," Professor Harding said.

Professor Peter Weissberg, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said gene therapy shows great promise in providing a new way to treat heart failure, but warned that there is still a long way to go.

"There was a terrific fanfare around gene therapy about 10 to 15 years ago. It was going to cure everything and, like all things in science, it wasn't that simple," he said.

"This project is a great example of the slow burn of good laboratory science translating into potential clinical treatment. We don't know if it's going to work yet, we all hope that it will."

— *The Independent*

Varsity to take fresh look at every course every year

Only those which receive good response will be continued

NEW DELHI: The newly-approved syllabuses of all courses will be revised every year, Delhi University's academic council decided at its meeting to approve courses to be taught under the four-year degree plan.

"Whichever courses and techniques get a better response from the market, will be continued," said an AC member.

"As the entire idea behind the new graduation structure is to develop a skill-based system where the employability factor is being given the utmost importance, evaluation and revision of courses according to market mechanisms are needed," the member said.

The notification regarding the revision of courses will be included in the prospectus, the member added.

According to the member, changes will be seen the most in foundation courses (11 mandatory courses to be studied in the first year) and the minor (Discipline 2) papers.

"Earlier, the practicals were

examined by an external examiner. But in FYUP 50 per cent marks will be given by internal teachers who will be called for continuous evaluation," said another member.

Several objections were raised over the new format by Science teachers as they were of the view that partly giving the responsibility to college teachers may lead to tampering of marks.

Possible misuse

"Students may also misuse it. There can be cases of bribing college teachers," the member added. The house also decided that evaluating a student's performance on the basis of one practical exam will not be right. "Examples of Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and BITS Pilani were given, stating that they all evaluate through internal and external examiners," added the member.

Those who have studied Hindi up to class 8 have to take the subject in the Hindi or Modern Indian Language (MIL) category of the foundation courses.

"There was a section which

'Govt has no intention to intervene'

Government on Thursday said it has no intention to intervene into the decision of Delhi University to introduce the four-year undergraduate programme from this academic session, reports PTI.

Minister of state for human resource development Shashi Tharoor said it is not healthy for the country's education system to tell a vice-chancellor what to do and not to do.

"The proposal (to introduce the new undergraduate programme) is not my decision. It is taken by the university and it is within its prerogative. I said it was inappropriate for me to

overrule it. It is not healthy for our education system to tell a VC what he should do or not do. If the academic council said 'we disagree with the VC', he could not have gone his way. All we can do in the ministry is to see due process is followed," Tharoor said during an interaction on Google Hangout.

"We must confine ourselves to broader policy issues," Tharoor said, replying to queries on whether the HRD ministry should intervene on the issue.

He appeared to support the programme saying as time changes, so does the system and every change involves certain number of resistance.

"The programme will give more flexibility to students to do course," he said.

wanted that students who have studied Hindi till class 10 should be exempted. However, teachers present from the Hin-

di and MIL departments were against the suggestion," said the member.

DH News Service

Indian Express ND 10/05/2013 P-4

Won't overrule DU's 4-yr plan: Tharoor

UNDERGRAD FORMAT ■ DU says all approvals in, Minister says 'inappropriate' to tell V-C what he should do

NAVEED IQBAL &
ADITI VATSA
NEW DELHI, MAY 9

AS decision-making bodies of Delhi University pushed for a switch to a four-year undergraduate programme from July, Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said that the ministry would not intervene though he had been approached by people to do so.

"It is not my decision. It is the decision of the Delhi University and it is completely within the prerogatives of the university to start a new course. It would be inappropriate to tell a Vice-Chancellor what he should

or should not be doing," Tharoor said replying to a question on a Google+ hangout on "the future of higher education" in India.

He said the ministry would not overrule this decision of the university as it would be a very dangerous step and set a wrong precedent for the future. "The true bite of this decision will only come after four years, but for now the ministry can only make sure that due processes are being followed in its implementation."

Tharoor said that the ministry had raised some concerns with the university "which they replied in detail. However, there are ques-

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SHASHI THAROOR, Minister of State for HRD

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tions to which they do not have answers but they have four years to work that out."

The decision to switch to a four-year undergraduate programme has created deep divisions in the university — there are academics who think it's a wrong move, and there are others who say they are not against the format but don't understand why it is being rushed.

Despite the protests, the

university looks set to introduce the four-year undergraduate programme in July this year.

On Thursday, the Executive Council gave the go-ahead to the new curricula, degrees, scheme of evaluation under the new structure.

"With these approvals, all formal requirements as per the University of Delhi Act, statutes and ordinances have been complied with

and the university is all set to launch the programme," an official statement from the Registrar's office stated.

In deliberations that went on till late in the night, the Academic Council approved 55 courses and their syllabi on Wednesday.

The four-year course is being introduced with the objective of enhancing "employability/entrepreneurial skills/research inclinations according to the tastes and talents of each student", the Registrar said.

Another issue being raised by teachers relates to the compliance of the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines of 2006 on

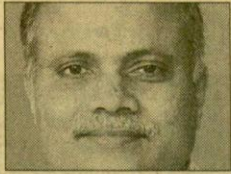
implementation of the government's reservation policy in Central government institutions.

Responding to a question on the implementation of these guidelines, Tharoor said all Central universities, except Delhi University, have been following the guidelines. Delhi University, he said, provides reservation only at the level of Assistant Professor.

"Delhi University has informed us that it has referred the matter to the UGC for certain clarifications... It (Ministry) has asked the UGC to clarify to the Delhi University to implement the UGC's Guidelines of 2006 strictly without any delay," Tharoor said.

Voters will not forgive the government if it does not stop the academic travesty at DU

Don't Kill Delhi University



TK Arun

Delhi University is deeply troubled. Its direct stakeholders and a broad spectrum of intellectuals across the country oppose vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh's attempt to force-march the university into a four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP). The opposition is based on neither innate inertia nor ideology. Rather, the objection is to the hasty, ill-thought-out and undemocratic nature of the reform.

It could undermine the future of generations of Delhi's students. The government and the ruling party run the risk of alienating a lot of people, playing passive bystander. If academic autonomy holds your hand, pray, why continue with a ministry for higher education, if the ministry cannot prevent harm to one of your finest universities?

Ill-Designed

How rigorous is the thinking that has gone into the changeover? The VC's response to one simple question is telling. DU takes in some 55,000 students a year and so its capacity at present is three times as much. If a fourth year is to be added, the capacity must be expanded to four times the first-year intake (a little less, allowing for some dropouts). The colleges are already packed to the gills and any scope for physical augmentation has been exhausted, with the expan-

sion carried out to accommodate an OBC quota. How, then, will the university come up with the added seats needed to accommodate a fourth batch of students?

We will face that problem three years from now, and will work out a solution by then, says the VC. Does this promise of *jugaad* tomorrow signal any seriousness about such a radical change to the BA programme?

FYUP is sold to policymakers on inter-disciplinarity, skills and superior academics. You don't expect the VC of a central university to talk like a roadside vendor peddling the latest trinket from a Shenzhen sweatshop. But all these claims are bunkum.

Bereft of Choice

There is not one iota of additional choice, as compared to what DU offers today. There is no scope for a student to join the BA programme, sample a range of different subjects and then choose one in which to major, after one or two years, while also choosing a couple of minors. In FYUP, a student chooses her major right when she joins, and the two minors in the second year. This much choice a student already has in DU.

FYUP's critics are wrong when they say it tries to ape US universities. It has no such ambition. It is more straitjacketed than the present three-year degree, forget Harvard.

The so-called inter-disciplinarity is confined to 11 so-called foundation courses (FCs), all of them compulsory. The VC waxes eloquent about them. These are inane, dumbed-down time-wasters for the bright students with high marks who manage to get into DU. Whoever thought up these courses has no clue about the National Curriculum Framework, of what children learn before they leave Class X and choose their spe-



ANIMISHA

cialised streams.

The FC on information technology proves the point. It offers students basic awareness of hardware and software, teaches them to prepare documents, make presentations, surf the internet, understand storage devices, social networking, e-ticketing, e-payment, etc. The project work ranges from using Bluetooth and visiting the website of a bank to connecting a projector to a computer.

Lower Academic Content

This might sound like complex stuff to 50+ stiffs. For the digital natives who enter college now, or, for that matter, salesmen at the smartphone counter of an electronics store, this is like being taught to breathe.

But similar detritus of the everyday mundane would take up fully a quarter of the four years a student spends for an Honours degree. She would spend half her time studying her major, 15% of the time on minors, 9% on application courses (ACs).

In a three-year course, one-third the time would be spent on FCs, 42% on the main subject and 12% each on minors and ACs. Those who leave after two years with a diploma would

be condemned to waste more than half their time on FCs, spend one-third the time on a main subject and 8% each of their academic time on minors and ACs.

Someone emerging with a four-year major in history would have spent less time learning history than in the current three-year programme, assuming the scheduled tutorials do take place. Many departments are scared of lost teaching hours and are trying to make up by increasing the intake in their disciplines, at the expense of other disciplines, leading to bad blood and lost morale.

In FYUP, a non-English BA student does no English at all, except as one FC in one semester.

The FYUP as proposed is an improvement on the existing course, only if you assume students never went to school or that tutorials never take place at present. Otherwise, the proposed reform would do immense harm to Indian academe, students and both their scholastic achievements and employability.

Canteens, however, would do brisk business as students spend their FC time doing complex things like 3G, Wi-Fi and data streaming.

Change for its own sake or the vanity of one man makes no sense. Extensive planning and academic consultation should precede any change in courses

HT Lucknow

CIMAP-NBRI TO LAUNCH HERBAL 'TOBACCO'

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP) and the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) is set to release a unique herbal product on the occasion of National Technology Day on Saturday.



Developed jointly by CIMAP and NBRI, the new product is a tobacco and nicotine free herbal formulation,

which gives tastes and smells like Gutkha, but doesn't have any side effect. The herbal mixture is a good mouth freshener with anti-oxidants, anti-bacterial and digestive properties.

A couple of other herbal products whose technology was made available earlier will also be launched on the occasion. A technical session will also be held where participating industry representatives and progressive farmers will get an opportunity to know more about the new technologies, products and services available at CSIR-CIMAP.

A 'Scientists-Industry-Farmers Meet' would also be held on the day at CSIR CIMAP office on Saturday. PK Seth, CEO, Biotech Park will be the chief guest on this occasion.