Newspaper Clips
May 21, 2014

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Former IIT professor Hem Chandra Gupta becomes UPSC member

By PTI | 20 May, 2014, 05.33PM IST

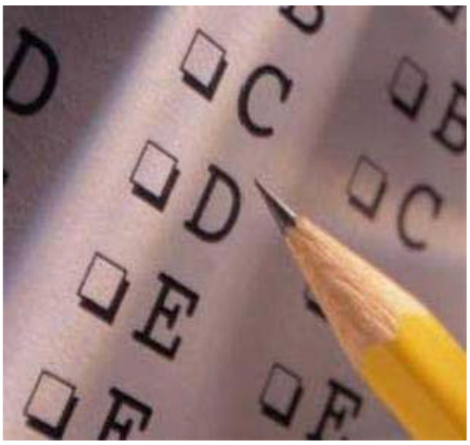
NEW DELHI: Known educationist and former professor of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, Hem Chandra Gupta has been appointed as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Professor Gupta has been appointed on Thursday last for a period of six years or until he attains the age of 65 years, according to a notification issued today by Ministry of Personnel.

He worked as Assistant Professor between April 1981 and March 1990, as Deputy Director (Administration) between April 2006 to June 2009, and Professor between March 1990 till his appointment in the IIT, Delhi. Professor Gupta also was Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, between July 2011 and September 2011, among others. 62-year-old Gupta will have tenure till February 17, 2017.

With Professor Gupta's appointment, the Commission is now in full strength. The UPSC, which conducts the prestigious civil services examination to select IAS, IPS and IFS officers, among others, is headed by Chairman Prof D P Agrawal and ten members.

Rajni Razdan, Alka Sirohi, David R Syiemlieh, Manbir Singh, former CBI Director Amar Pratap Singh, Former Navy Vice Chief D K Dewan, Ex-Railway Board Chairman Vinay Mittal, P Kelimsungla and former IAS officer Chhatar Singh are the other members of the Commission.



Known educationist and former professor of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, Hem Chandra Gupta has been appointed as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Pioneer ND 21/05/2014

P-4

IIT former professor now UPSC member

New Delhi: Former professor of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, Hem Chandra Gupta has been appointed as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Gupta has been appointed on Thursday last for a period of six years or until he attains the age of 65 years, according to a notification issued today by Ministry of Personnel. He worked as Assistant Professor between April 1981 and March 1990, as Deputy Director (Administration) between April 2006 to June 2009, and Professor between March 1990 till his appointment in the IIT, Delhi. Professor Gupta also was Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, between July 2011 and September 2011, among others. **PNS**

Hindustan ND21/05/2014 P-5

आईआईटी प्रोफेसर बने यूपीएससी सदस्य

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान के पूर्व प्रोफेसर हेम चंद्र गुप्ता को संघ लोक सेवा आयोग का सदस्य नियुक्त किया गया है। मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी एक अधिसूचना के मुताबिक प्रोफेसर गुप्ता को पिछले गुरूवार को यूपीएससी का सदस्य नियुक्त किया गया था।

Times Of India ND 21/05/2014 P-7

IITM's real-time forecast predicts delayed monsoon

Neha Madaan | TNN

Pune: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's (IITM) first experimental real-time monsoon forecast for this year predicts delayed monsoon advancement over the country. Scientists said that consequently the first spell of rainfall will be inadequate and scantier than normal. They said a low pressure system over the Arabian Sea is absent, which could slow the monsoon progress.

Generally, the monsoon comes to Kerala by June 1, after which it goes northwards up to central India by June 12. This year, the southwest monsoon will reach Kerala by June 3. "The forecast does not paint a rosy picture. If the monsoon is delayed or is not as strong as it was during 'normal' years, the first spell of rainfall may be insufficient and possibly will not suffice farmers' sowing needs," said a scientist from IITM.

The forecast predicts that a low pressure system would form over Bay of Bengal around May 25 and move northwards.

NO SILVER LINING

"Simultaneously, a low pressure system also forms over the Arabian Sea, which causes the monsoon onset over Kerala. However, this time, the low pressure system over Arabian Sea seems to be absent, which in turn will slacken the strengthening and progression of the monsoon," the scientist said.

The presence of a low-level anticyclone over central India and the absence of easterlies over northern parts of India may also hamper monsoon's progress. This could further impede the progress of monsoon till June 15, leading to delayed monsoon.

HT Mumbai

Finland, IITs, NITs join hands

HOT HUB Finland is actively involved in setting up a joint IT hub with the support of five institutes

study abroad

FINLAND

Vandana Ramnani
vandana.ramnani@hindustantimes.com

Members of the Indian delegation that visited Finland last September to discuss higher education cooperation.

In an attempt to advance Indo-Finnish education cooperation, Finland is planning to set up an IT hub in its Aalto University campus with the help of the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) in Bombay, Gandhinagar and Roorkee and the National Institute of Technology (NITs) in Jaipur and Rourkela to facilitate further cooperation and staff mobility. Plans are also afoot to pattern a similar Finnish ventures in India. These efforts are being supported by the Finnish ministry of education and culture and the Indian ministry of human resources development.

An IIT delegation visited Finland and took part in the Finnish-Indian higher education cooperation seminar in September 2013 at Aalto University. Last month, a delegation from Aalto University and other Finnish universities visited IIT Bombay and made further commitments for deepened cooperation in the fields of research, higher education, design, innovation and entrepreneurship, reveals Krista Kiuru, minister of education and communication of Finland.

Elaborating on the plans, Mari-Anna Suurmunne, head of international relations, Aalto University, says the Indian MHRD delegation that visited Aalto University in September included three directors from the IITs and two from NITs. The institute hosted IITs in Bombay, Gandhinagar, Roorkee and NITs from Jaipur and Rourkela. Amita Sharma, additional secretary from MHRD led the delegation.

"The overall goal of the visit was to explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation both between IITs and Finnish universities at large and from our perspective, between Aalto and the IITs – a possibility to establish an IIT hub for Otaniemi was discussed, but it was agreed that we will first seek to intensify collaboration between our institutions and revisit the issue later if the established collaboration would support such a development," she explains.

In early April, a delegation of 14 from Aalto University visited IIT Bombay for a two-day seminar. Workshops were organised on themes such as health, design, management, energy, mathematics and construction and potential for further academic collaboration was estimated to be very good by both sides. Towards that end, IITs have suggested a consortium agreement between IITs and Finnish universities, especially to support research cooperation and academic and student mobility, she says.

The Finnish ministry of education and culture will organise the Second India Round Table where work on a consortium agreement will be started in full force. "We hope to have an agreement ready next fall, so we can revisit the issue as things proceed. We have discussed student and staff mobility as well as forms of research collaboration as topics to aim for. We will only start the drafting after the second round table. The number of institutes involved is still open at least for the Finnish side," she adds.

HT Education ND 21.05.14 P-6

MOOC NEWS

IIT-B launches MOOC courses

HT Education Correspondent
hteducation@hindustantimes.com

IIT Bombay, in partnership with EdX, an online learning initiative founded by Harvard and MIT, has launched its first three courses, introduction to computer programming part 1, introduction to computer programming part 2 and thermodynamics.

"We are excited to announce the launch of courses by IIT Bombay on our edX platform," says Anant Agarwal, CEO, edX, "India is an important market for us, and is home to the largest population of edX learners outside of the US."

The introduction to computer programming part 1 and part 2, starting July 29, 2014, and September 23, 2014, respectively, are being taught by Dr Deepak B Phatak who has been working with IIT Bombay since 1971. These courses will help build expertise in use of C/C++. The thermodynamics course, which starts on July 29, 2014, will be taught by Professor Uday N Gaitonde, Professor Upendra Bhandarkar and Professor M D Atrey.

Registrations for these courses have started, and more than 35,000 learners worldwide have already registered for the three courses. Students who register for these courses, will have the option to either audit the course for free (with complete access to all course material, tests, and online discussion forum), or pursue a verified certificate of achievement for about R1,500. EdX offers more than 160 courses across disciplines. For details, visit edx.org

PART 1

- Six-week course
- First half of the computer programming course CS101
- Basic concepts of computer programming introduced

PART 2

- Six-week course
- Second half of the computer programming course CS101
- Discusses structures, pointers, file management and introduction to the object-oriented programming padigram

THERMODYNAMICS

- 12-week course
- Basics of thermodynamics for students studying mechanical engineering

HT Jaipur

UGC chairperson's retirement plan had HRD ministry's approval

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The human resource development (HRD) ministry had allowed transfer of retirement benefits of University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson Ved Prakash before the commission vetted it.

Prakash has been embroiled in a controversy that the UGC had allowed transfer of benefits from his parent organisation National Council for Education, Research and Training (NCERT) to the commission without the ministry's approval.

The UGC chairperson wanted that the NCERT be requested to pay pension bill to the UGC as per an HRD ministry rule of 1992.

Prakash was with the NCERT before joining the UGC on deputation as vice-chairperson in May 2009. He was appointed chairperson in January 2013 till he attained the age of 65.

In 2012, the HRD ministry, quoting its 1992 rule for allowing chairperson and vice-chairperson to transfer retirement benefits gave approval to Prakash's request. The rule gave the top two functionaries of the UGC the option of transfer of their retirement benefits. In the past, former vice-chairperson SK Khanna had been a beneficiary of the rule.

Days before the NDA government takes over, HRD ministry officials have raked up the issue of Prakash getting retirement benefits transferred without its approval.

"The matter of my absorption in UGC was approved by the commission in June 2012 and later by the HRD ministry," Prakash said. "Subsequently, a notification of the government appointed me as the chairman, UGC, with effect from January 18, 2013 for a period of four years and four months(ending on May 7, 2017) or until I attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier."

As per Section 6(a) of the UGC Act, 1956, the chairperson holds office for a term of five years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

"My absorption, pension benefits after attaining the age of superannuation with my previous employer has been regulated strictly as the per the UGC rules of 1992. This kind of similar option exercised by the former vice-chairman, Prof SK Khanna was also approved by the commission," he said.

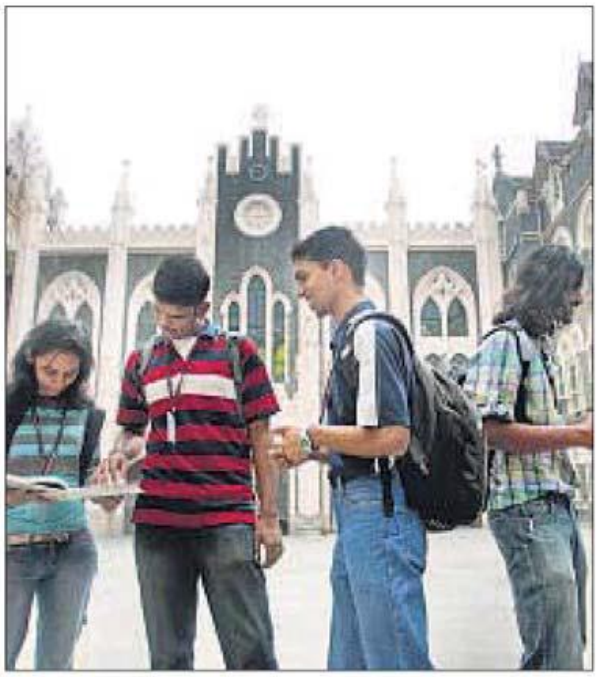
Despite efforts, HRD secretary Ashok Thakur could not contacted as he was busy in a meeting.

HT Mumbai

CALL FOR REFORMS

What higher education wants from the new government

HT Correspondents
htspecialprojects@hindustantimes.com



While the BJP mulls over its cabinet appointments after a record win, experts are already drawing up a wishlist for the new government. The country's higher education sector has dealt with low enrolment ratios, outdated syllabi, poor performances in global rankings and slackened placement numbers in recent years.

The BJP's manifesto, released in April before the elections, touches upon some of these subjects. Experts hope that the party stays true to its promises, and brings about further significant changes as well.

Speaking to HT Education, students and experts draw up a wishlist of urgent changes necessary at Indian institutes, including streamlining of approvals, greater autonomy, industry collaborations and more foreign university partnerships.

Separation of power

The BJP manifesto says that they want to convert the University Grants Commission (UGC) into a Higher Education Commission, instead of just being a grants distribution body.

"This is a good idea," says SS Mantha, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). "The UGC should be a facilitator and an enabler, not just a policeman, as it is now. All the organisations such as the UGC, AICTE, universities and colleges will have to work in tandem to address the concerned issues."

Moreover, giving more powers to the UGC, in addition to granting greater autonomy to deserving colleges, may take some load off the existing universities.

"We have a whopping 700 colleges to administer. This hampers our efficiency, which has an impact on performance," says MA Khan, registrar of the University of Mumbai. "We would be happy to accept a more specific role."

This would mean better funding and granting powers to the UGC. "We want UGC to grant us more funds for international seminars and research projects," says Manju Nichani, principal, KC College in Churchgate. "We need to have more research centres to be at par with global institutes."

Independence

An autonomous status is another facet that the experts feel, can uplift the higher education system in our country. "Some of the deserving colleges in the country should be granted autonomy to have more freedom to work around the curriculum," says Frazer Mascarenhas, principal, St Xavier's College. "In spite of them being excellent institutes, they get no academic freedom to improvise on university curricula."

Foreign collaborations

Aside from these concerns, collaborations with foreign institutes and industry are termed as two of the major mechanisms to pump up the education sector. "We need to liberalise the foreign education bill and carry out negotiations with the best global institutes to implement a mutually beneficial plan," says Mantha.

A look at the Private Universities Bill should also be on the agenda. "This bill is too stringent and doesn't allow private universities to set up branches abroad," says Nichani. "This hampers the healthy exchange of ideas and knowledge between nations," she adds.

While foreign collaborations is an optional approach, the industry-academia tie up is the most important to facilitate practical education and employment opportunities in the sector, say experts.

Apart from these, experts are expecting the new government to work on setting up research and policy institutes, better use of technology, transparency in organisations, new areas of specialisations and faculty training to enhance the education sector.

Better infrastructure

Students want colleges to have updated infrastructure, especially with laboratory equipment, often not repaired or replaced. "Colleges don't need to have school -like teaching methods. At that stage, it should be much more practical with only references to theory," says Akruti Menon, 19, student of MMK College, Bandra.

WE NEED MORE IIMs. AUTHORITIES TEND TO FOCUS MORE ON MEDICAL AND ENGINEERING BUT WE NEED REFORMS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AS WELL

ABHEET SETHI, 23, a geopolitics student

COLLEGES DON'T NEED TO HAVE SCHOOL-LIKE TEACHING METHODS. AT THAT STAGE, IT SHOULD BE MUCH MORE PRACTICAL WITH ONLY REFERENCES TO THEORY

AKRUTI MENON, 19, SYBMM student, MMK College, Bandra

HT Chandigarh

'PU to help research scholars to make presentations in other universities'

CHANDIGARH: Research Promotion Cell (RPC) of Panjab University (PU) held a meeting on the university campus here on Tuesday.

PU vice-chancellor (V-C) Arun Kumar Grover presided over the meeting. Faculty members, including dean, research, Lalit Kumar Bansal, professors Sanjay Chhibber, Pushpinder Syal, C Nagaraja Kumar and dean, student welfare (DSW), Navdeep Goyal, participated in the meeting.

Panjab University Campus Students Council (PUCSC) president Chandan Rana, joint secretary Sunny Mehta, Amanjot Kaur Dhillon, Himangna, Pooja, Hina, Amandeep Singh and Baljeet Singh Bali represented the research scholars in the meeting.

The V-C discussed problems faced by research scholars and shared his vision for their welfare. He said the meeting was convened to provide a vibrant and interactive platform between the research scholars and the university, and asked RPC to create a website for them where all relevant and research-friendly information be readily available.

Grover further said, "Ideally, research scholars should be financially independent so that they can pursue their research in a comfortable manner. A mechanism is being worked out to look into the late receipts of fellowships from sponsoring agencies."

"Research scholars should be encouraged to make their research presentations in other universities. PU will facilitate such initiatives," Grover added. **HTC**

Business Line ND 21/05/2014 P-12

'In a global world, IIMs need to reach out'

Multi-cultural organisations are needed to to serve a diverse customer base

MAHIMA A JAIN

As more Indians take over leadership roles in companies across the globe Ashima Jain, Managing Director in PwC's National Office, US, and PwC's accounting think-tank, explains why it makes business sense for companies to employ a diverse workforce.

Ashima, a physics graduate from Bombay University and an alumna of IIM, Ahmedabad, is an expert on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, consolidation and lease accounting. She is also the founder-president of the IIM Americas and an advisory board member of Chennai-based Shasun Jain College for Women.

In conversation with the Business Line, Ashima Jain talks about workforce diversity, big-ticket acquisitions by the likes of Facebook and Google, and why convergence of the financial reporting standards is proving to be difficult. Excerpts:

What do you make of the big-ticket acquisitions in the US tech sector? Are these instances of visionary leap forwards or irrational exuberance?

I come from Silicon Valley that has this start-up culture. Someone finds an idea, builds on it and you have a big company which sees its application. Why would they want to reinvent the wheel? They just acquire the team and the technology. The valuation is based on diligence and appreciation of what they think the value of that particular acquisition is.

The question is how well will they manage once the acquisition has been made? Will the expected synergies be generated? All acquisitions are well-thought out. But it is a gamble, because technology is changing so fast.

So you have a choice: do you go for organic growth or do you go for growth by acquisition? In technology there is often no time for organic growth. Thus acquisition is a very common way.

Often after the acquisition, the team whose product is acquired, who are entrepreneurs themselves will join you. But after the golden period is over they might go on and do other things. The beauty of Silicon Valley is the only thing constant they realise is change. That is how innovation happens.

You are the founder of IIM Americas, how are the IIMs regarded in the US?

There are about 7,500 IIM alumni in the US. In 2005, I felt the IIM alumni could come together and create a synergy, a platform where they could network, share their thoughts and also give back to the local community there. IIM Americas has grown by leaps and bounds, and we have 13 chapters in the US. The thing is IIMs don't have the same reputation as the IITs. There are thousands of IITians in the US. Because of the technological revolution, the IITians set up companies and are entrepreneurs and job-providers. Thus they are visible in American society as wealth-creators. In contrast IIM Alumni are fewer.

What does the IIM alumni association there do? Does it further the cause of the Indian MBA, what do you hope to achieve?

The IIMs are well-known in US' academic circles. That is because IIM graduates become professors and are known and respected. But outside the universities, when you think about the corporate world and the general public, the IIMs are not well-known. The IIM Americas comes up with programmes that integrate the alumni better into the local communities. When you do that then automatically people will start talking about the IIMs. We believe that showing and not telling will help spread the word about what the IIMs in India are all about.

The IIMs are well-known in US' academic circles. ... But outside the universities, in the corporate world and the general public, the IIMs are not well-known.

Ashima Jain Managing Director, PWC, US

What is the role of liberal education and how can it help students?

In the US it is very expensive to go to colleges. You have to pay your way through college and you become very independent. The choice that a student faces is: should I take a loan and study in a college or should I work for sometime, save some money, and then go to college? It is a very financial important decision and its life changing. College education there is very intense, very authentic and very sincere. In the US education is a process of making mature and well-rounded personalities. By definition you focus on what you want to do but also learn other subjects, which makes you a very well-rounded personality.

What liberal education does is it helps students discover their passion, and provides them an opportunity to dabble in several areas before making that critical choice of what they want their career to be, and in the process this gives them skill sets which will be useful for life

So my vision for liberal education is merging the science (theory) and the art (application) of a field. For instance: I come from the world of accounting. I know the accounting rules. But when there is a transaction, it will not be designed to exactly fit into the model that is written up. So then I interpret the rules and apply them to the transaction. This is where a science becomes art.

And so eventually, if two people are equally competent, and they are applying for a particular position — for a job, or further studies, or business or funding — the one with liberal education will always be better. That person will be a well-rounded individual who will get what they are looking for.

From the time you went to the US to now, how are NRIs regarded? Many have taken on CEO roles, like you and others like Satya Nadella. How has that impacted the Indian story in the American dream?

I feel very comfortable being an Indian in the US. The US is a country of immigrants and what is wonderful about it, what has evolved is there is unity in diversity. And because of globalisation diversity in the workforce at the supply side makes a business sense because your consumer base is so diverse!

When you come to NRIs or people from a different origin, I think we are at an advantage. India and China with populations of a billion people have big markets. There are more people of Indian origin who can see the business opportunity in India or China and thus organisations will look for people like me.

Ashish Nanda, an IIM-A alumnus himself, and who was in Harvard, has returned to take over as Director of his alma mater. Do you see the trend of well-qualified NRIs from the US returning to India to take up positions and contribute to the Indian growth story?

I think with globalisation the IIMs cannot stay in a protected environment. They have to reach out. Now if you look at Wharton, Berkley or Stanford, once you go there you have systems and process and you are with them for life. The IIMs did not have that.

With competition from other global institutes, which are setting up a base in India, the IIMs have to start looking outside. They are now realising that they have neglected their alumni and are reaching out. They have to become global and should tie-up with other institutions. It makes a lot of sense to get someone who has been in a reputed US university so that the person can bring the global connections. Now what is interesting is: how do you manage that process by keeping the local individuals and faculty members, who are very accomplished and respected too, satisfied?

It is definitely important to have this cross-pollination from a globalisation perspective, but it is equally important that you put into place programmes or models that would reward the local faculty here.

HT Education ND 21.05.14 P-1

'Teaching engineering students is amazing'

I am Dr Geeta Sachdev, working as an assistant professor (mathematics) at Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women for the last two years. I chose teaching as my career as I have always been passionate and motivated to learn new things. It gives me inner satisfaction to share my knowledge with students.

Teaching has been a very motivating and a great learning experience for me. The bonding of the colleagues and the encouragement of the higher authorities is something which has really touched me. The best part is that no departmental work is treated as work done by an individual... rather, it is treated as teamwork. And teaching students is all about teamwork where your students are part of your team.

Teaching young girls who aspire to become engineers is an experience in itself. It is heartening to see these young women studying to make their mark in a field like engineering that is considered very competitive and coveted. But at times, I feel technical students lose interest in mathematics when they are not able to appreciate its application. This challenge can be overcome by teaching the applied aspect of the subject.

TEACHING STUDENTS IS ABOUT TEAMWORK WHERE YOUR STUDENTS ARE PART OF YOUR TEAM

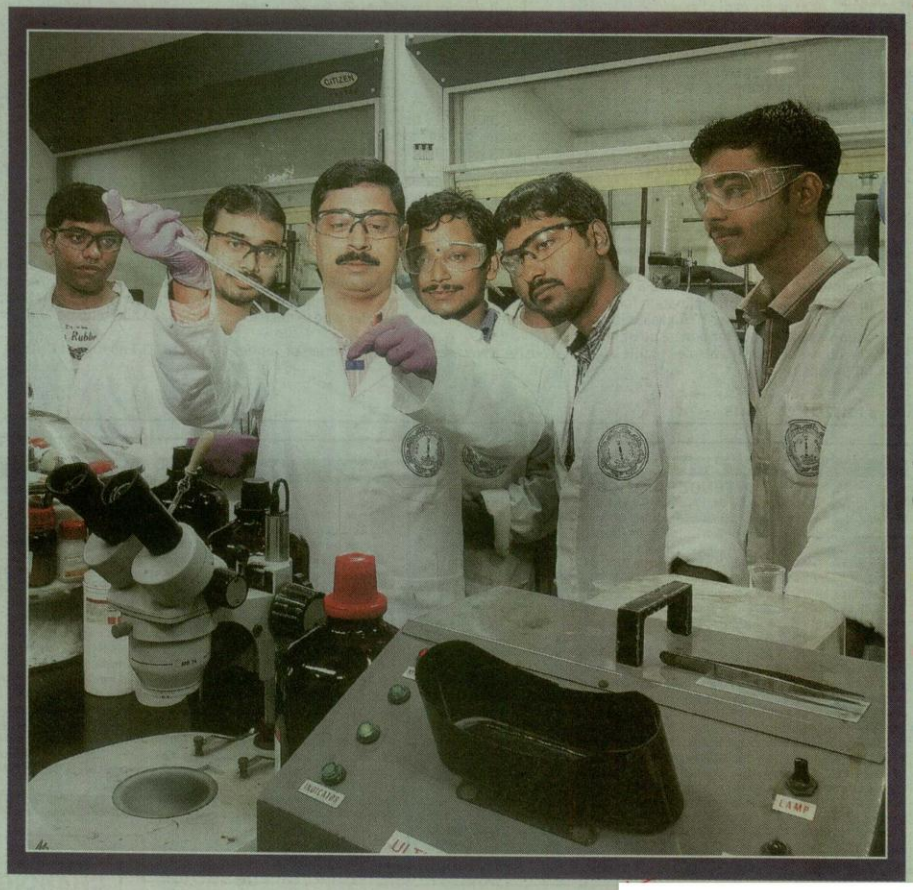
GEETA SACHDEV, assistant professor, IGDTUW

In order to prepare for NET, one should be thorough with the subjects at their master's level first. The aspirants must methodically revise the basics followed by core content of chapters of their opted subject's syllabus, in which they are appearing for.

As told to Gauri Kohli

Mail Today ND 21/05/2014 P-21

Modi must cut away red tape on science



India has now been slipping in R&D and engineering research when compared to China

WITH the new government formally taking office in Delhi next Monday, one hopes that this change of guard will also bring about some structural changes. Like the vast array of economic and social ministries, we have a large and unwieldy infrastructure relating to science and technology.

The election manifesto of the Bharatiya Janata Party devotes a couple of pages on science, technology and innovation, laying down broad contours of the way forward.

The statement that "our science and technology policy will be framed and implemented so as to be in harmony with our worldview of the large human family" clearly indicates possibility of a new science and technology policy in future. While formulation of a new policy may take time, one of the challenges facing the Modi government will be to reorganise science and technology administration to unshackle science from red tape.

There are far too many ministries and departments within science, ensuring that administration is a problem

Right now there are three top policy making agencies, half a dozen science ministries or departments, while key subjects like technical education are spread over multiple ministries.

Besides the Ministry of Science and Technology, which is tasked with formulation and implementation of S&T policy, there are three top-heavy policy-related bodies. They are the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA), Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). The office of the PSA was created during the NDA regime. Former president Abdul Kalam and later R. Chidambaram was appointed the post. The PSA is also ex-officio Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet. Chidambaram continued in the position through two tenures of UPA. The advisory council to the PM is headed by Bharat Ratna C N R Rao, while TIFAC is chaired by another nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar. If not merely ceremonial, the roles of two advisory councils (headed by Chidambaram and Rao) are now more or less similar. The TIFAC has a different role but some of its functions overlap with the Office of the PSA.

THEN there are far too many ministries and departments — science and technology, biotechnology, earth sciences, space, atomic energy, scientific and industrial research, health research, agriculture education and research, renewable energy and so on. Each department is headed by a secretary and assisted by an army of bureaucracy. All this is science administration, and we have not touched upon research councils which have dozens of labs under each of them. Needless to say, research suffers due to such multi-layered administration.

Clearly, all this mess needs to be sorted out if India has to make its mark in research, development and innovation which is linked to economic growth. Going by several indicators (papers published, money spent, patents etc), India has been slipping in R&D and engineering research when compared to China despite the huge investments made by the state in the past decade or so.

One can hope that the system will undergo a complete overhaul as well as progressive changes will be brought in, and it will not be mere tinkering or introduction of some obscurantist measures like teaching of astrology in universities or promotion of cow urine science as seen during the tenure of the NDA.

Times Of India ND 21/05/2014 P-25

This helmet with in-built AC can keep soldiers cool

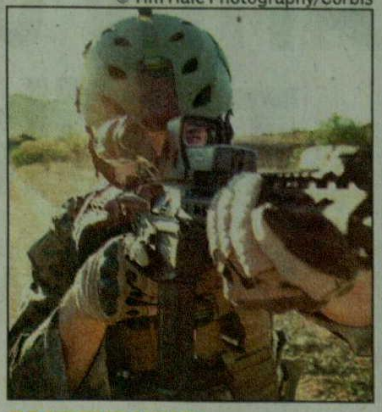
Washington: US army is developing a next generation protective helmet with a built-in air-conditioning system to help soldiers beat the heat in the battle field.

The new technology brings this relief to a soldier through a powered air purifying respirator, which consists of a hose connected to the face mask from a blower unit and battery pack hanging off the hip or back.

In 2013, scientists at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Centre, a part of the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, began designing concepts for the next generation of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear respirators. They developed a fan embedded within the mask's filtration system that uses less power, is lighter and is far less bulky than conventional respirators.

In addition to reduced weight and power requirements, this system offers major improvements to the level of comfort and effectiveness of the mask. The mini-blower works by pulling air through a filtration system on the side of the mask and sweeping it across the nose cup to allow for even flow across the face.

When the user exhales, the air valve closes and diverts all of the clean filtered air into the mask's eye cavity to over-pressurize the face piece, preventing any potential for outside contaminates to enter the mask should there be a break in the seal.



BEAT THE HEAT

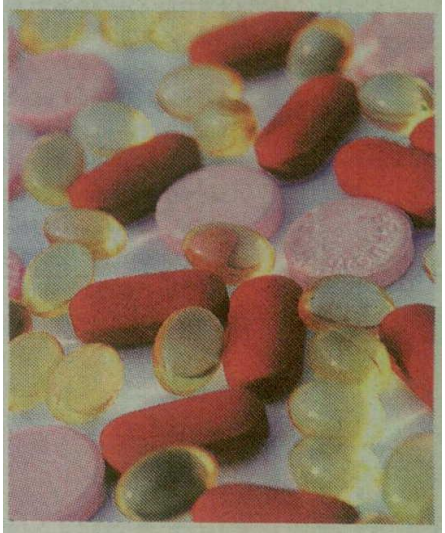
In test studies, a modified, commercial version of the M50 joint service general purpose mask has proven to be more comfortable to a soldier, and maintains the same or greater effectiveness when crawling, running, or during rifle exercises and combat manoeuvres.

These technology demonstrations produced real-time data on mask protection factors, thermal sensation and comfort to the soldier.

The researchers anticipate a mask that is able to sense when the fan needs to come on and when it should shut off based on physiological monitoring, and the ability of the user to control the scalability (operational mode) of the system. AGENCIES

Mail Today ND 21/05/2014 P-21

Gold could save you from nasty side effects



Indian scientists believe gold nanoparticles can reduced drugs' side effects

INDIAN scientists have developed a new method to deliver drugs specifically to diseased tissues without affecting healthy ones. The method developed by Subho Mozumdar of University of Delhi and Arnab De of Columbia University uses gold nanoparticles. The scientists estimate that it could cost about one dollar to deliver one mg of a drug. "Drugs cause side effects because it is very difficult to deliver drug molecule directly to tissues which need it while bypassing healthy ones. The nano vehicle not only can target diseased tissue and reduce side effects but also increase efficacy of the drug as entire drug is delivered as such", explained De. But, he says, further studies are needed to see if gold particles can cause toxicity.

Hindustan ND21/05/2014 P-1

कुछ अलग

एनएमएल के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक ने ई-वेस्ट से धातुएं निकालने की सस्ती तकनीक इजाद की

बेकार मोबाइल-लैपटॉप में भी छिपा होता है सोना

जमशेदपुर | ललित दुबे

मोबाइल, कंप्यूटर और लैपटॉप जैसे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स सामान खराब होने पर पूरी तरह बेकार नहीं जाते। इनका सही निस्तारण किया जाए तो इनसे सोना, तांबा, निकल, एल्युमीनियम जैसी बहुमूल्य धातुएं निकाली जा सकती हैं।

जमशेदपुर स्थित राष्ट्रीय धातुकर्म प्रयोगशाला (एनएमएल) में यह बात सिद्ध हो चुकी है। इतना ही नहीं इस प्रयोगशाला के मेटल एक्सट्रेक्शन डिपार्टमेंट के वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक डॉ. एमके झा ने सोना निकालने की सस्ती तकनीक इजाद भी कर ली है। इसको लेकर उन्होंने कई शोध पत्र भी भारत सरकार के पास जमा किए हैं।

यूं तो पूरी दुनिया में प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 50 से 80 मिलियन टन ई-कचरा निकलता है। अकेले भारत में वर्ष 2013 के अंत तक 850 हजार टन ई-कचरा निकला। इसका महज पांच प्रतिशत हिस्सा ही देश में निस्तारित होता है। लेकिन इसका समुचित निस्तारण जरूरी है।

डॉ. मनीष कुमार झा के अनुसार, इस कचरे का सही निस्तारण कर हम बहुमूल्य खनिज प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। एक टन ई-कचरे से लगभग 350 ग्राम सोना निकाला जा सकता है। मोबाइल के अलावा कंप्यूटर, चिकित्सा में काम आने वाले इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स उपकरणों में भी बहुमूल्य धातुएं पाई जाती हैं। इनसे निकलने वाला सोना ज्यादा शुद्ध होता है।

यूं निकाला जाता है सोना

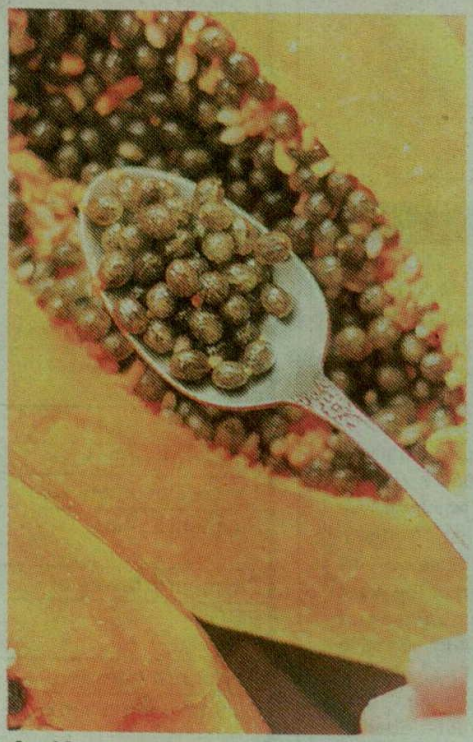
डॉ. मनीष कुमार झा ने बताया कि मोबाइल फोन में पाए जाने वाले तत्व 'पीसीबी' से सोना निकाला जाता है। सायनाइड, थायोयूरिया जैसे रसायनों का इस्तेमाल कर इससे सोना निकाला जाता है। इस पूरी वैज्ञानिक प्रक्रिया में पूरी सावधानी बरती जाती है। इस दौरान तापमान, अवधि और रसायनों के सही इस्तेमाल का काफी ध्यान रखा जाता है।

"ई-कचरे से सोना निकलने की विधि तो पूर्व से ही इजाद थी। पर इसे सस्ती दर पर निकालने के लिए हमने ई-तकनीक बनाई है। ई-कचरे के सही निस्तारण से काफी लाभ मिल सकता है।"

-डॉ. मनीष कुमार झा, वरीय वैज्ञानिक, एनएमएल

Mail Today ND 21/05/2014 P-21

PAPAYA SEEDS CAN HELP PREVENT CANCER



Anti-cancer properties of papaya seed extracts were studied on cancer cells drawn from tumours

SCIENTISTS have been hunting for naturally occurring or synthetic agents that can halt the progress of cancer or help in arresting the disease along with other treatment such as chemotherapy and radiation.

Such research has led to identification of a number of substances that can potentially help prevent or treat cancer. Curcumin, a substance extracted from turmeric, has been found effective in treatment of oral cancers. Now a group of Indian researchers have reported that a chemical isolated from papaya seeds has anti-cancer properties also.

The study, done by scientists at the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre, is claimed to be the first such on papaya seeds.

The centre is engaged in research related to diseases induced by MIC that leaked from the Union Carbide plant in December 1984. The anti-cancer properties of the papaya seed extract were studied in cancer cells drawn from tumours. More research needs to be done in clinical settings before it can be positioned as an anti-cancer agent.

However, scientists say, it is clear that consumption of this flavanoid from papaya could alter cancer risk. The research results have been published in journal Nutrition and Cancer.

Study has been done by scientists in Bhopal

AICTE gets 21 applications for new institutes

Written by Mihika Basu | Mumbai | May 20, 2014 1:16 am.

http://mbcet.wordpress.com/2014/05/20/aicte-gets-21-applications-for-new-institutes/

The committee has mooted reduction in intake across disciplines and cancellation of second shifts.

Although a state-appointed committee has recommended that Maharashtra does not need any new institute for professional programmes, taking into consideration current vacancies across technical courses, 21 applications have been sent to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) from the state. This comes even as the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Maharashtra have asked the state's higher and technical education department to accept the recommendations of the committee.

The committee has mooted reduction in intake across disciplines and cancellation of second shifts. As per the report, 50.96 per cent engineering institutes, 42.37 per cent architecture, 58.21 per cent management and 85.03 per cent MCA institutes had over 35 per cent vacancies in 2013-14.

But after the AICTE issued a notice, calling for applications for the 2014-15 academic year, DTE too issued a circular last week, outlining the approval proves of AICTE for new technical institutes. The DTE has called for hearings for those who have applied — Mumbai and Nashik hearings are scheduled on May 21, while Pune and Aurangabad are slated on May 22.

The move has been criticised by senior academicians, who said that even though the committee's report exposed the weaknesses of the system, the state machinery has acted contrary to its own panel's suggestions.

"The state-appointed panel has said no more institutes are required as well as no increase in intake capacity in the existing institutes in any branches. Another committee, headed by DTE last year, had also submitted a report to the state, suggesting a cap to the number of seats that should be approved, based on the quality of the institute, covering aspects like infrastructure, teaching staff and opportunities for students, among others. Why did the state go through the process of appointing a committee, if it had no intention of considering the problems which have been highlighted and implementing the suggestions?" questioned a senior faculty of an engineering college, who did not wish to be named.

According to AICTE chairman S S Mantha, the council has received 236 applications in all for starting new institutes, with a large chunk coming from Gujarat (37), Kerala (26), Andhra Pradesh (23), Maharashtra (21) and Tamil Nadu (18).

He further said that of the 398 applications received for starting polytechnics, 114 have been approved, including 11 from Maharashtra.

Corruption slur on NIT Director

Source: Hueiyen News Service

http://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=Snipp15..210514.may14

Imphal, May 20 2014 : Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) has accused Director of NIT Manipur of corruption in recruitment of teachers in the institute, saying that it has got concrete evidence in this regard.

Asserting that mentioned of excellent academic background and other criteria in the advertisement for post recruitment are nothing but an eyewash, the students' body appealed to the chairman and governing council of NIT Manipur to intervene into the matter and take up necessary action against the erring Director.

Delhi Students Will Soon Receive Lectures From Glasgow

Cities | Press Trust of India | Updated: May 20, 2014 19:11 IST

http://www.ndtv.com/article/cities/delhi-students-will-soon-receive-lectures-from-glasgow-527575?curl=1400653235

London: The Universities of Delhi and Glasgow have signed an agreement under which the students in Delhi would receive lectures from Glasgow and vice versa via video-link.

Professor Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, to formalise their links, a release by the Glasgow University said today.

Both universities are members of Universitas 21 (U21), the leading global network of world-class, research-intensive universities for the 21st century.

The U21 AGM (Annual Network Meeting), Presidential Symposium and Student Summit were hosted by the University of Glasgow over the course of last week, allowing the formal signing of the agreement to take place.

The first venture of this exciting collaboration will kick off in autumn this year when colleagues in Glasgow will use video-link technology to teach aspects of English literature to students in Delhi. Glasgow students will receive lectures in post-colonial literature from Delhi.

The project has received a 10,000 pounds grant from the British Council Knowledge Exchange Partnership as well as support from the University of Glasgow's International Partnership Development Fund.

The first joint project will be in English literature and is to be led by Professor Nigel Leask, Regius Chair of English Language and Literature in the University of Glasgow's School of Critical Studies and a Fellow of the British Academy.

"There are certain areas for which the English department at the University of Delhi do not have a lecturer, such as Mediaeval and Renaissance literature, and these are great strengths in our School of Critical Studies," said Prof Leask.

Plans are well advanced to provide video-linked seminars for senior undergraduate students and/or Masters students at

Delhi with a view to eventually having students at both institutions taught simultaneously.

Professor Leask said: "It is an exciting prospect to have students from two continents exchanging ideas on literature from Chaucer to Shakespeare."

UGC releases list of 21 fake University in India

Tuesday, 20 May 2014 - 6:40am IST | Agency: DNA
www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-ugc-releases-list-of-21-fake-university-in-india-1989850

Weeks ahead of admission season of the 2014-15, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has identified and posted on its official website, a list of 21 self-styled, unrecognised institutions in nine states, which are functioning against the provisions of the UGC Act, 1956.

Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 10 fake varsities while Maharashtra has just one Raja Arabic University, which is based in Nagpur. All these institutions have been declared as bogus and do not have any right to confer or grant degrees.

UGC officials said, "Many students are enrolled in these varsities as they are unaware that its a phony. This facilitates the quacks to continue to run their business."

Interestingly, majority of these varsities have figured in the UGC fake varsity list many a times in the past few years. However, neither UGC nor any government authority has taken any action to close them down and thus vulnerable students continue to lose their money and time.

"We have no power to take any action on these centres. The police can take action only if someone lodges a complaint with them," said a UGC official.

Incidentally, the name of these varsities are often so grand and are so similar to the state-run vasrities, for example, the Indian Institute of Science and Engineering, New Delhi – is one such university that no one will even doubts it to be fake, said a professor of Mumbai University.

According to Section 22(1), of the UGC Act, only universities that are established by an Act of Parliament or the State Legislature or an institution deemed to be a university or an institution especially empowered by an Act of the Parliament can award degrees.

The degrees that are to be awarded by such universities, should also be listed by the UGC under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956. Furthermore, the word 'University' can't be used by any institution other than a university established by or under a Central or a State Act or a Provincial Act.

State-wise list
Maharashtra
Raja Arabic University, Nagpur
Bihar
Maithili University/Vishwavidyalaya, Darbhanga, Bihar
Delhi
Commercial University Ltd., Daryaganj, Delhi, United Nations University, Delhi, Vocational University, Delhi, ADR-Centric Juridical University, Indian Institute of Science and Engineering, New Delhi
Karnataka
Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society, Gokak, Belgaum

Kerala
St. John's University, Kishanattam
Madhya Pradesh
Keserwani Vidyapith, Jabalpur
Tamil Nadu
DDB Sanskrit University, Putur, Trichi, Tamil Nadu.
West Bengal
Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, Kolkata
Uttar Pradesh Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi / Jagatpuri, Delhi., Mahila Gram Vidyapith Allahabad, Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Prayag, National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University (Open University), Achaltal, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Kosi Kalan, Mathura, Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh, Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Institutional Area, Khoda, Makanpur, Noida Phase- II, Gurukul Vishwavidyalaya ,Vrindavan, Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, Lucknow, UP (the matter is subjudice)