Newspaper Clips
May 26, 2015
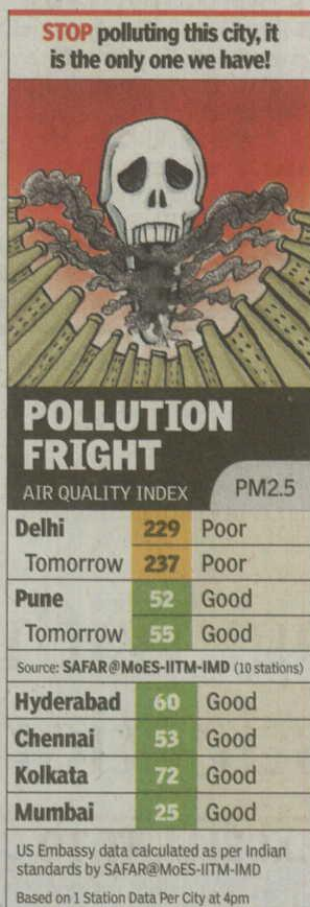
Times Of India ND 26/05/2015   P-2

Thinktank: Govt using IIT research selectively

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Monday alleged that the Centre resorted to "selective use" of studies by IIT-Delhi to argue that vehicles were minor contributors to PM 2.5 (fine, respirable particles) levels and that banning older diesel vehicles would not help in improving the city's air quality.

The Union ministry of road transport and highways has so far submitted three scientific studies to substantiate their argument against the ban on old vehicles. Two of them are by Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP) of IIT-Delhi and another by University of Birmingham, Desert Research Institute, Reno and the Central Road Research Institute. The ministry has also tried to argue that the transport sector's contribution to air pollution may have been overestimated by people. But CSE said two important issues have been hidden from the NGT bench—the impact of diesel fumes from vehicles in the breathing zone and the toxicity of diesel, which is graded as a carcinogen by WHO.

"While resorting to number crunching to prove that vehicles do not contribute much to ambient PM2.5 levels, the IIT-study and the affidavits are silent on health risks from direct exposure to vehicular fume, especially diesel fume that is of bigger concern. While the NGT order covers all old diesel vehicles in both private and commercial segments across the NCR, this

STOP polluting this city, it is the only one we have!

POLLUTION FRIGHT

AIR QUALITY INDEX		PM2.5
Delhi	229	Poor
Tomorrow	237	Poor
Pune	52	Good
Tomorrow	55	Good
Source: SAFAR@MoES-IITM-IMD (10 stations)		
Hyderabad	60	Good
Chennai	53	Good
Kolkata	72	Good
Mumbai	25	Good

US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SAFAR@MoES-IITM-IMD

Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 4pm

LET DELHI BREATHE

study focuses only on old cars in Delhi to stop the NGT ban," CSE said in a statement.

It assessed the IIT-D studies that were submitted to NGT and said they could be misleading. The study states that the number of vehicles in the 11-15 years' age bracket is very small—only 6% of the total fleet, which contributes 1% to PM 2.5. "The emission load from diesel vehicles that are 11-15 years' old and meet older emissions standards emit a lot more on a per vehicle basis than those that are between 1 and 10 years' old. Compared to a BS-IV car, a 15-year-old diesel car emits 7.6 times higher particulate matter and 3.4 times higher NOx," CSE added.

Emissions from one old diesel car are equal to that from four to seven new cars. "A 10-year old diesel car emits 2.4 times higher PM. Removing old vehicles will reduce direct exposure substantially. This benefit will be much higher if the old diesel trucks are also removed or bypassed," CSE said.

"It is inexplicable why MoRTH has considered the estimates of only one study on the estimates of vehicles' contribution to PM 2.5. The IIT-D study fails to highlight the health risk from the direct exposure to vehicular fume that is of serious concern globally. Vehicular emissions take place within our breathing zone," the environmental think-tank said.

For example, studies by Health Effect Institute have shown that the influence of vehicular pollution is maximum up to 500 metres from roadside and more than half of Delhi's population lives within this breathing zone, the statement said. CSE also said that IIT-D had not guided the government and NGT about the toxic risk and the fact that WHO and IARC have classified diesel exhaust as class-I carcinogen for its strong link with lung cancer.

Business Line ND
26/05/2015   P-17

IIT Bombay board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25

Noted industrialist Ratan Tata figures among a list of three names proposed by IIT Bombay as the next chairman of its Board of Governors. The chairman's post fell vacant after the tenure of nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar ended on May 11.

Dainik Bhasker ND
26/05/2015 P-1

टाटा का नाम आईआईटी बॉम्बे के चेयरमैन के लिए

नई दिल्ली | आईआईटी बॉम्बे के चेयरमैन पद के लिए रतन टाटा के नाम की सिफारिश की गई है। उनके साथ दो नाम और सुझाए गए हैं। यह पद 11 मई से परमाणु वैज्ञानिक अनिल काकोडकर का कार्यकाल पूरा होने के बाद से खाली है। रतन टाटा स्टेनफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी के सलाहकार प्रोफेसर हैं।

Times Of India ND 26/05/2015   P-2

Centre cites more studies to oppose ban

NGT Stay Order On Polluting Vehicles To Continue, Final Hearing On July 13

Jayashree.Nandi
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Union transport ministry on Monday once again referred to a couple of scientific studies to back their argument that vehicles were not a major source of PM 2.5 emissions. The ministry had submitted two studies by IIT Delhi during previous hearings as well to argue against the NGT ban on more than 10-year-old diesel vehicles.

Meanwhile, the stay on the ban on polluting vehicles will continue till July 13.

On Monday, the ministry submitted a new study "Characterization of ambient PM2.5 at a pollution hotspot in New Delhi and inference of sources" by scientists from University of Birmingham, CRRI, Desert Research Institute, Reno. It found that 19% vehicles contribute to PM 2.5 in summer and 16% in winters. The study was carried out on Mathura Road, which has about 1.7 lakh vehicles every day plying through it according to the study of which about 12% are commercial vehicles.

In an accompanying note, researchers claimed that if the annual average concentration of PM 2.5 is about 150 micrograms per cubic metre, only

FIXING BLAME

CSE lists scientific studies showing how transport sector contributes to massive air pollution in Delhi

➤ Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology study (2011) puts PM2.5 contribution from transport sector at 45%, followed by residential sector at 27%, industries at 24% and power sector at 4%

➤ A JNU study (2008) finds vehicles contributing 86% of fine particulates

➤ A study by Urban Emissions.info (co-author of Delhi IIT study in question) highlights multi-pollutant crisis—**vehicles 26% of PM2.5, 28% of CO and 67% of NOx**

➤ A 2014 study by IIT Delhi and National University of Colombia, Bogota says vehicular exhaust, road dust and power plants contribute nearly 52%, 83%, 74% and 54% of PM10, SO2, NOx and CO emissions

20% (150 micrograms per cubic metre) of this is what road transport contributes to, indicating that vehicles are not the main culprits.

Additional solicitor general Pinky Anand also referred

➤ According to a 2005 JNU study, the concentration of total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) is high in the exhaust of diesel buses and trucks—higher in trucks. High concentration influenced by age of vehicles, driving conditions, fuel quality and emission standards. PAHs contribute to cancer risk

to a study by IIT Delhi, which found that 67% of total PM 2.5 emissions from the transport sector is contributed by goods traffic alone and a very small percentage by cars.

Citing consultations with

WHAT CHINA IS DOING

➤ During 2011-14, over **1.4 million** vehicles older than 6 years replaced in Beijing

➤ **Environmental label system—** Yellow: Euro 1 gasoline, Euro 3 diesel; Green: Euro 4; Blue: Euro 5

➤ **Electronic tags** and **embedded chips** in vehicles since 2009 to store information and enable remote reading

➤ Vehicles **without labels illegal** in Beijing

➤ **6 million yellow-label** vehicles phased out in China in 2014. All such vehicles to be banned in key regions by 2015-end and all over China by 2017-end

➤ About **20,000 to 30,000 heavy-duty trucks**, registered in neighboring provinces and running in Beijing, to be in 'smoke blacklist' if they exceed standards; to be fined by local Environment Protection Bureau

➤ In-use emission tests of buses and trucks in Beijing through more than 100 dynamometer testing lines in **43 inspection stations**

IIT experts, the Centre had earlier submitted that 10-year-old diesel cars contribute to less than 1% of total PM 2.5 emissions. Scientists Dinesh Mohan, Rahul Goyal and Sarath Guttikunda had claimed that

only 6% of cars in Delhi are in the 10-15 years' age-group.

The team had also documented the PM 2.5 levels at RK Puram for two years—2013 and 2014—to compare the levels on Sundays with weekdays. But they had concluded that reduction in traffic did not make any significant difference to PM 2.5 levels on Sundays.

NGT had slammed the study and sought explanation of what could be contributing to PM 2.5 emissions on holidays. The ministry's lawyers failed to clear the doubt on Monday as well. Anand said a majority of vehicles in NCR that pollute are commercial vehicles and that moving them to BS-IV can help. But the bench asked, "You know how much time it has taken to introduce BS IV. Should people die waiting for fuel quality to be upgraded?" adding, "How has China controlled its air pollution problem? Has it also depended only on long-term solutions?"

The bench slammed authorities for not implementing its earlier orders of installing check posts at borders and weigh bridges. NGT posted the matter for final judgment on July 13, 14 and 15 while asking transport ministry and CPCB to file all scientific reports.

Hindustan ND 26/05/2015   P-14

आईआईटी में विदेशी शिक्षक जल्द

ज्ञान

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

केंद्र सरकार ने आईआईटी, केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों समेत तमाम केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों में विदेशी प्रोफेसरों की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। इन प्रोफेसरों को महीने में 20 घंटे बढ़ाने के करीब साढ़े सात लाख रुपये मिलेंगे, जो भारतीय प्रोफेसरों के वेतन से तीन गुना ज्यादा है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इस साल ऐसे एक हजार विदेशी शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति का लक्ष्य है। लेकिन अभी विभिन्न संस्थानों के लिए 93 आवेदन मिले हैं, जिन्हें जांचा जा रहा है। इसके बाद इन्हें अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा।

उच्च शिक्षा सचिव एस. एन. मोहंती ने बताया कि ग्लोबल इनीसियेटिव फॉर एकेडमिक नेटवर्क (ज्ञान) के तहत विदेशी शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया शुरू की जा रही है। सरकार ने भारतीय मूल के अमेरिकी गणितज्ञ मंजुल भार्गव को इसके लिए ब्रांड अम्बेसडर बनाया गया है। भार्गव और दूतावासों की मदद से

प्रक्रिया शुरू

- एक हजार शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति का लक्ष्य, अब तक मिले 93 आवेदनों की हो रही है जांच

- जर्मनी, कनाडा और ब्रिटेन से सबसे ज्यादा आवेदन, 12 घंटे पढ़ाने पर मिलेंगे पांच लाख रुपये

- भारतीय मूल के गणितज्ञ मंजुल भार्गव बने ब्रांड अम्बेसडर, दूतावास भी कर रहे मदद

नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया पूरी की जा रही है। मोहंती के अनुसार जर्मनी, कनाडा और ब्रिटेन के शिक्षकों के आवेदन सबसे ज्यादा आ रहे हैं। वे भारत में कार्य करने के इच्छुक हैं। उनके लिए वेतन आदि भी तय कर दिया गया है।

12-14 घंटे पढ़ाने के लिए उन्हें 8000 डॉलर (करीब पांच लाख रुपये) और 20-18 घंटे पढ़ाने के लिए 12 हजार डॉलर (करीब 7.5 लाख रुपये) तय किया गया है। इसमें उनके आने-जाने का किराया भी शामिल है। लेकिन रहने-खाने की व्यवस्था संबंधित संस्थान को करनी होगी। विदेशी शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति आईआईटी, एनआईटी,

ट्रिपल आईटी, केंद्रीय विवि समेत सभी केंद्रीय उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में की जा सकेगी। विश्वविद्यालय सीधे विदेशी शिक्षकों से संपर्क करके दिन तय करेंगे और उसके बाद शिक्षकों को भारत आने की अनुमति दी जाएगी।

मोहंती के अनुसार सभी प्रस्तावों की उच्च शिक्षा विभाग द्वारा जांच होगी। मोटे तौर पर विदेशों में मशहूर शिक्षाविदों को इस योजना में शामिल किया जाएगा। विदेशियों के साथ-भारतीय मूल के शिक्षकों को भी आकर्षित किया जाएगा। दरअसल, इसके पीछे सिर्फ शिक्षकों की कमी दूरना मकसद नहीं है, बल्कि विदेशी शिक्षकों के अनुभवों से भारतीय संस्थानों के गुणवत्ता के स्तर में भी सुधार लाना है। वैश्विक रैंकिंग के मापदंडों में एक मापदंड विदेशी शिक्षकों की तैनाती का भी होता है।

Pioneer ND 26/05/2015 P-6

Learn curbing vehicular pollution from China: NGT to Centre

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal on Monday asked Centre to learn from China in curbing vehicular pollution in the Delhi-NCR, as it extended till July 13 the stay on its order banning plying of over 10-year-old diesel motor vehicles.

"Why can't you learn from China? Have you gone through the reports how vehicular pollution is controlled in Shanghai city of China," a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said.

The observation came when Additional Solicitor General Pinky Anand cited a report prepared by IIT-Delhi saying that up to 67 per cent of total Particulate Matter at 2.5 emissions from road transport was contributed by goods traffic (heavy and light duty commercial vehicles) alone, even though their share in total vehicular fleet in Delhi was only 4 per cent.

The bench then wanted to know what could be done to check this 67 per cent emission, with the ASG suggesting that long term measures should be adopted as short term measures would not suffice.

She submitted that age of the vehicle may not be the only criteria for curbing pollution and suggested that the Centre was also thinking about a single fuel policy.

The IIT, Delhi report said that Delhi was among the top 10 cities with worst particulate matter pollution, as per World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates for 2014.

The green panel has now listed the matter for final hearing on July 13 while asking the Centre and Delhi government to file their replies within three weeks on the reasons for non-compliance of its earlier order.

"Government of India, NCT Delhi both will file their reply as why NGT should not pass an appropriate order for non- compliance of its order withing three weeks. All interim orders will continue," the bench said.

The Bench also asked the Central Pollution Control Board to file additional data in support of its report regarding pollution in the national Capital region (NCR).   *PTI*

IIT की स्टडी चुनने पर केंद्र की खिंचाई

■वस, नई दिल्ली : सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरनमेंट (सीएसई) ने दिल्ली आईआईटी की उस स्टडी को अस्पष्ट बताया है, जिसे आधार बनाते हुए मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ रोड ट्रांसपोर्ट एंड हाईवेज ने एनजीटी से 10 साल से पुरानी गाड़ियों पर बैन लगाने वाले उसके आदेश पर रोक लगाए जाने की मांग की थी। सीएसई की एग्जिक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर अनुमिता रॉय चौधरी ने कहा कि ऐसे समय में गाड़ियों से प्रदूषण को कम करने के लिए पॉलिसी एक्शन को भटकाने की कोशिश हो रही है, जब दिल्ली में सेहत पर मंडरा रहे इस खतरे का कम करने की सबसे ज्यादा जरूरत है। सीएसई ने कहा गया है कि वह दिल्ली में तमाम स्टडीज को रिव्यू करता रहा है जिसमें पॉल्यूशन के अन्य स्रोतों पर रोक लगाए जाने के साथ-साथ लोगों को गाड़ियों से हाने वाले प्रदूषण के संपर्क से बचाने की कोशिश किए जाने की बात कही गई है। इसके कई प्रमाण हैं कि नई जेनरेशन की गाड़ियों के मुकाबले पुरानी गाड़ियों से ज्यादा टॉक्सिक गैसें निकलती हैं। सीएसई ने पुरानी गाड़ियों को फेज आउट करने के लिए जल्द से जल्द योजना बनने का भी समर्थन किया। उसने आईआईटी दिल्ली की स्टडी पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा कि पुरानी गाड़ियों को बचाने के लिए आईआईटी और मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ रोड ट्रांसपोर्ट एंड हाईवेज ने गाड़ियों से होने प्रदूषण से जुड़े घातक खतरे वाले साइंस को कम करके बताया।

Stay on ban of diesel vehicles extended

Akanksha Jain

NEW DELHI: As Delhi continues to reel under rising temperatures aggravated by increasing pollution, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday asked the Centre and Delhi government why its order banning 10-year-old diesel vehicles had not yet been implemented.

The Tribunal, however, extended the stay on its ban order till July 13.

On July 13, the NGT will take up the matter for final hearing, in which the Centre and Delhi government will furnish the reasons for non-compliance of its earlier order. "The Government of India and NCT Delhi both will file their reply as why the NGT should not pass an appropriate order for non-compliance of its order within three weeks. All interim orders will continue," a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said.

The Bench also asked the Central Pollution Control Board to file additional data in support of its report regarding pollution in the National Capital Region. During the last hearing, it had criticised the government for taking cover of an IIT-Delhi research that vehicles above 10 years give rise to only a "negligible" amount of air pollution.

"What is the basis of this report? IIT has no business to comment on this. This report is not comprehensive enough. They have not taken samples from any place. IIT could have done a better job. You have placed 100 pages without conducting any study. Merely because you are IIT, you can't be always right," it had said.

The Bench had noted that the study referred only to private vehicles. "Base data has to be correct taking into consideration all kinds of vehicles moving or stationery. You have not associated anybody with the research and have relied on old data. Don't try to tell us our order is wrong. The whole IIT report is tilted towards proving that the ban order is bad. There has to be proper reasoning to what you are saying."

HT.COM ND 26.05.2015 P-6

Russian universities wooing Indian students

ACADEMICS A growing number of Indians are heading to Russia for studies

Indo-Asian News Service

It is time to study in Russia. That is the message for students and others visiting the Russian Educational Fair which just ended in the Capital.

Twelve universities participated in the "It is Time to Study in Russia-2015" exhibition. These included the People's Friendship University of Russia, Tver State Medical Academy, Volgograd State Medical University, Kazan State Medical University, Kazan Federal University, Russian International Olympic University, Ural Federal University, Far Eastern Federal University, South Ural University, Bashkir Medical University and Orenburg State Medical University.

At present, close to 5,000 Indian students study in Russia. The number of students travelling to Russia for the first time comprises almost 2,000, showing a growth of about 20%.

"This rate of growth is continuing and we are extremely satisfied," said Sayed Kamruzzaman, Head of Rus Education (India), a leading organisation that sends Indian students to study in Russia.

Traditionally, up to 90% of Indian students go to Russia to study at medical institutions. This year, analysts have, for the first time, reported a growth in the popularity of other specialities. "These include IT, management, aircraft engineering, and oil and gas-related fields", he said.

Kamruzzaman is convinced that Russian universities 'are global leaders in terms of price and quality of education'.

At the same time, Europe, in his opinion, 'as before, remains more popular from the point of view of students travelling there, expecting to find work and

■ Tver State Medical University has 800 odd Indian students, the highest in Russia. The university has a vegetarian cafetaria and holds the largest festival of Indian culture in Russia. THINKSTOCK

remaining there for life'.

"Less than 1% of graduates remain to live in Russia," he adds. "In addition to salaries being lower than in Europe, Indians traditionally look for the presence of an Indian community in the area. There is no full-fledged Indian community in Russia, if you do not take into consideration the student community in Tver."

Viktor Katochkov, the pro-rector for international activities at South Ural State University, where 2,000 out of the 50,000 students are foreigners, said he has given himself the task of increasing the number of foreign students gradually from 5% to 10%.

"I believe that the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries are very promising in terms of attracting students, and also, generally, the

AT PRESENT CLOSE TO 5,000 INDIAN STUDENTS STUDY IN INDIA. CLOSE TO 90% OF THESE STUDENTS GO THERE TO STUDY MEDICINE

idea of establishing a Network University for this group, which will provide assistance from leading educational centres from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa," Katochkov said.

A decision has already been made to establish a BRICS Universities League, which the top five universities of each country can join.

Arriving in India for the first time, having come from Sochi where the 2014 Winter Olympics were held, the Russian International Olympic

University (RIOU) is offering its new programme, master of sports administration, which was launched in 2013.

The educational institute already has one student currently enrolled in the programme from India and another who graduated last year.

"The programme is designed for 10 months," said Iya Makharadze, a senior specialist at the RIOU. "Our first graduate from India already works in New Delhi, and our student has already received a job offer from the United Kingdom".

The main objective of this programme is to produce a new generation of effective sports managers with both strategic and operational skills.

The programme runs for 39 weeks (three semesters), with each week having five study days.

Deccan Herald ND 26/05/2015   P-9

Tough terrain

Nasa Curiosity rover adjusts route in Mars

WASHINGTON: Nasa's Mars rover Curiosity has found a new route to some interesting rocks after its original path proved too difficult to traverse due to slippery slopes.

Curiosity climbed a hill on Thursday to approach an alternative site for investigating a geological boundary, after a comparable site proved hard to reach. The drive of about 22 metres brought Curiosity close to a target area where two distinctive types of bedrock meet.
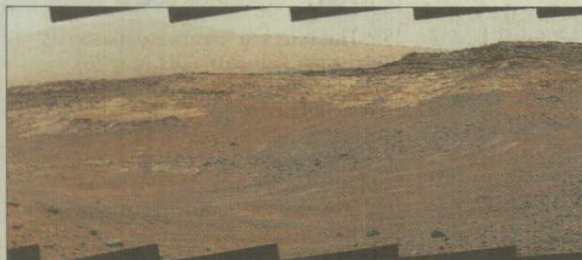
The rover science team wants to examine an outcrop that contains the contact between the pale rock unit the mission analysed lower on Mount Sharp and a darker, bedded rock unit that the mission has not yet examined up close.

Two weeks ago, Curiosity was headed for a comparable geological contact farther south, Nasa said.

Foiled by slippery slopes on the way there, the team rerouted the vehicle and chose a westward path. The mission's strategic planning keeps multiple route options open to deal with such situations.

"Mars can be very deceptive," said Chris Roumeliotis, Curiosity's lead rover driver at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.

View from Curiosity's Mastcam shows terrain judged difficult for traversing between the rover and an outcrop in the middle distance where a pale rock unit meets a darker rock unit above it. NASA

"We knew that polygonal sand ripples have caused Curiosity a lot of drive slip in the past, but there appeared to be terrain with rockier, more consolidated characteristics directly adjacent to these ripples. "So we drove around the sand ripples onto what we expected to be firmer terrain that would give Curiosity better traction. Unfortunately, this terrain turned out to be unconsolidated material too, which definitely surprised us and Curiosity," said Roumeliotis.

In three out of four drives between May 7 and May 13, Curiosity experienced wheel slippage in excess of the limit set for the drive, and it stopped mid-drive for safety.

The rover's onboard software determines the amount of slippage occurring by comparing the wheel-rotation tally to actual drive distance calculated from analysis of images taken during the drive. **PTI**

Times Of India ND 26/05/2015   P-21

Created: First artificial molecular pump

Washington: Scientists have developed the first man-made molecular pump, which transports key proteins that cells need to function, that could be used to power artificial muscles. The new machine mimics the pumping mechanism of life-sustaining proteins that move small molecules around living cells to metabolize and store energy from food.

The artificial pump draws power from chemical reactions, driving molecules step-bystep from a low-energy state to a high-energy state — far away from equilibrium.

"Our molecular pump is radical chemistry — an ingenious way of transferring energy from molecule to molecule, the way nature does," said Fraser Stoddart from the Northwestern University. "The ring-shaped molecules we work with repel one another under normal circumstances," said Chuyang Cheng, first author of the study.

"The artificial pump is able to syphon off some of the energy that changes hands during a chemical reaction and uses it to push the rings together," Cheng said.

The tiny molecular machine threads the rings around a nanoscopic chain — a sort of axle — and squeezes the rings together, with only a few nanometres separating them. At present, the artificial molecular pump is able to force only two rings together, but researchers believe it won't be long before they can extend its operation to tens of rings and store more energy.

Compared to nature's system, the artificial pump is very simple, but it is a start, researchers say. They have designed a novel system, using kinetic barriers, that allows molecules to flow "uphill" energetically. PTI

Economic Times ND 26/05/2015   P-22

Nasscom Task Force to Make India Hub for Cyber Security Research

Task force will vet Indian cyber security ecosystem to ready action plan within 12 weeks

Our Bureau

New Delhi: IT industry lobby group Nasscom on Monday launched 'Nasscom Cyber Security Task Force', which aims to make India the hub for cyber security-related research, training and products.

The development comes nearly three months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted the domestic IT industry and youth to help address the global cybersecurity challenge.

In March, Modi has said that the country's IT industry should come forward to help the government achieve its goals for Digital India, and called for increased innovation and a wider focus on the global challenge of cyber security.

The task force, being chaired by NIIT chairman Rajendra Pawar, will come up with a comprehensive cyber security plan within the next 12 weeks. It aims to take the cyber security industry market share in India from 1% of the IT-BPM industry to 10% by 2025, with a trained base of 1 million certified cyber security professionals, as well as build over 100 security product companies in India.

"This task force will study the Indian cyber security ecosystem to identify is-

WIDENING SAFETY NET

It also aims to take cyber security industry market share in India from 1% of the IT-BPM industry to 10% by 2025

sues and challenges and develop an action plan to address the priority issues," said BVR Mohan Reddy, chairman, Nasscom.

"It will also identify possible intervention opportunities for the Indian IT industry in global cyber security space and bring together stakeholders from across

the board to develop cutting-edge technologies and address the global market requirements." The task force has proposed four working groups focused on industry development, policy enablement, technology development and skill development. Recommendations from these groups will enable the task force to come up with a comprehensive cybersecurity plan for the country.

The National Cyber Security Policy of India, announced in 2013, aims to create 500,000 skilled workers in the field of cyber security in India by 2018. Pawar said that while the number of cyber security professionals are increasing, quality of the talent available is a bigger area of concern. "The challenge is finding that ultra-specialised group of people (in cyber security)," he said.

"Cyber security is a multi-dimensional concept that includes many disciplines and fields. Nations have to take appropriate steps in their respective jurisdictions to create necessary laws, promote the implementation of requisite security practices, incident management, and information sharing mechanisms, and continuously educate both corporate and home users about cybersecurity," said R Chandrashekhar, president, Nasscom.

Times Of India ND 26/05/2015   P-17

At UN meet, India holds fort for developing nations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's intervention at the World Education Forum meeting in Incheon, South Korea, recently helped get two critical elements incorporated in Unesco's 'Education 2030' goals.

The Indian delegation, led by HRD minister Smriti Irani, argued that the Incheon declaration should include flexibilities for Unesco member-states. Widely supported by other countries, the declaration adopted by member-states can evolve strategy based on their national priorities, re-

> **Now the new framework of action will respect the autonomy of member-states to plan and develop annual, intermediate and accelerated targets for meeting global education benchmarks**

sources, capacities and challenges to attain the global benchmarks of Education 2030 in an incremental manner.

Now the new framework of action will respect the autonomy of member-states to plan and develop annual, intermediate and accelerated targets for meeting global benchmarks.

The second Indian inter-

vention was about funding arrangement for the goals. The delegation said there should be commitment from the developed countries to contribute additional resources as assistance to developing countries, especially the least developed one. In the past, India has benefited from such aid, for example in the 'Education for All' programme..

Indian Express ND 26/05/2015   P-16

Neither Clarity nor Credit, C is for Confusion in new UGC system

RUHI TEWARI gives details of the Choice Based Credit System that the higher education watchdog wants. Critics fear another FYUP-like disaster

What is the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)?

CBCS, announced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) last year as part of "measures to bring equity, efficiency and excellence in the higher education system", provides students the choice to select from prescribed courses – core, elective, or minor or soft skill courses – and obtain the required number of credits prescribed for the degree they are pursuing. The system is based on semesters, and entails awarding grades rather than marks.

Why does the Human Resource Development Ministry want this system adopted?

The Ministry claims CBCS enables students to opt for courses of their choice across disciplines and pursue skills to enhance employability, while the grading system aims to facilitate seamless mobility of students across institutions. According to UGC 'Guidelines on the Adoption of Choice-Based Credit System', the system "provides a 'cafeteria' type approach in which students can take courses [or 'papers'] of their choice, learn at their own pace, undergo additional courses and acquire more than the required credits, and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning". The "credit framework for skills" allows multiple pathways between vocational education, skills, education and job markets, according to the Ministry.

Who is this system applicable to?

As per the UGC, it "shall apply to all undergraduate- and postgraduate-level degree, diploma and certificate programmes under the credit system awarded by the central, state and deemed-to-be universities". According to the Commission's guidelines, "it is desirable that the HEIs [higher educational institutions] move to CBCS and implement the grading system".

From when does the new system come into force?

UGC had asked all universities to adopt it from the current academic year. It also put

out a public notice on 'Minimum Course Curriculum' for undergraduate courses under CBCS and sought feedback from stakeholders. But it is unclear how things will unfold. The University of Delhi, where the admissions process for undergraduate courses begins this week, is still to issue instructions to colleges on the adoption of the new system. Colleges say they have no idea of the syllabus, timetables or workload assessments the CBCS will entail.

SIMPLY PUT

What are the criticisms against this system?

To begin with, there is lack of clarity on

what the system will really mean for teachers, students and institutions. No one seems to know how the implementation of the UGC's guidelines will actually work on the ground. Opponents of the measures have complained that these are top-down reforms being thrust upon universities, rather than coming from the universities themselves. There is also criticism that the UGC's suggestion of a common minimum syllabus with only 20 per cent flexibility to deviate, impinges upon the autonomy of universities. The uniformity that the UGC seems to be seeking goes against the idea of critical thinking that higher education aims at. Critics also say CBCS will, by its very nature, inject lopsidedness into the system, as some courses seen

to be beneficial or popular will hog most credits, leaving others squeezed out and, over time, possibly irrelevant. Finally, there is concern that the semester system will simply impose an additional burden on the teaching faculty.

What is the controversy in Delhi University?

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and a section of student groups feel these reforms are being hastily pushed without adequate discussion. They fear CBCS could go the way of the disastrous Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) which led to disruption, protests and confusion before ultimately being scrapped.

Mail Today ND 26/05/2015 P-3

Smriti gives India a toehold on international blackboard

By **Mail Today Bureau**
in New Delhi

IN the wake of the string of successful foreign visits by |Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani is following in his footsteps through 'Education Diplomacy'.

The Union minister posted strategic victories at last year's meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) Ministers of Education and Higher Education. Now, she has led the developing countries at the recently concluded World Education Forum (WEF) in Incheon, South Korea.

Organised by Unesco from May 19 to 22, world leaders met to draw up the World Education Goals (2015-2030) to provide education for all that is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to be finalised by the United Nations in September 2015.

According to a press release by the ministry, the WEF expressed

HRD Minister Smriti Irani.

its vision to transform lives through education while recognising its important role as a main driver of development.

Irani played a crucial role in getting included India's position on flexibilities for Unesco member states in the Incheon Declaration. India reiterated that member states had a contextualised strategy based on their national priorities, resources, capacities and challenges to attain the global benchmarks of Education 2030 in an incremental manner.

The framework agreed to respect the autonomy of member states to plan for meeting the global benchmarks. India won resounding support from majority of the countries as the proposal was duly adopted.

Irani also told the meet about India's initiatives to integrate technology in the educational system for ensuring transparency and ease of delivery of educational services. She held several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the conference. Her initiative saw consensus between E-9 (the group of the most populous countries), Saarc members and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group.

She also held strategic bilateral meetings with select countries with proven success in improving education such as Japan, Norway, Finland and Brazil.

IIT-Bombay is my target: Science topper

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Jaipur/IIT-Bombay-is-my-target-Science-topper/articleshow/47423669.cms

JAIPUR: It's a double bonanza for Divyansh Pareek, a student of SMS School who scored 97.8% in class XII exam.

Pareek had scored 317 marks in JEE-Mains and now he has got the highest marks in class XII science stream as per the data available from the different sources.

He missed the cent per cent figure by just one mark in maths and physics. He, however, scored 100 marks in informatics practice.

He said, "As I was preparing for the JEE exam, so I was used to solve those questions which were considered tough by others. I think the CBSE should repeat such questions as its aim is to prepare us for tough competitive exams in India and abroad."

His interest in science developed after he appeared in the NTSE exam in class XII. He also qualified for Kishore Vigyanik Protsahan Yojna. While others may play games, watch TV or take a stroll to de-stress, Pareek prefers to interact with his parents every day and share his difficulties.

"I live in a joint family and love to interact with all my family members. While some may give you tips, others boost you morale.

Son of a chartered accountant, Pareek is confident of clearing IITs. "I am eyeing to study in IIT-Bombay. I have just appeared in the JEE-Advanced and I am sure to clear this exam," said elated Pareek who loves listening to music during his free time. Sharing his success mantra, he said, "I never made any attempt to learn anything new in the last days. I never curtailed my sleeping hours. This helped me in relieving stress."

New IIT-B code to curb pupil malpractice

http://www.asianage.com/mumbai/new-iit-b-code-curb-pupil-malpractice-588

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) has decided to crack the whip and curb malpractices by students who bunk lectures, cheat on their assignments and resort to copying in exams. While in the past there were unsaid rules for the same, the absence of codified penalties resulted in errant students being let off. However, the code of ethics aims to address the issue and make students more disciplined.

According to the draft code of ethics, which was prepared last week, students bunking more than 80 per cent of lectures would be assigned a DX, which roughly implies failure. Penalties in the form of FR (failure rate) have also been assigned for students who mark the attendance of absent students. Stricter penalties like a semester failure, grade failure and zero marks have been assigned for cheating and copying in lab tests, assignments, projects and semester exams. The penalties for some other excesses by students involves community service that can range from 50-200 hours.

Speaking about the need for a code of ethics, Radhika Goel, an alumnus, said that it was a good move. "Students joining IITs are the smart ones but the freedom on the campus coupled with leniency shown by professors makes them resort to short cuts that harm them in the long run," she said.

Faculties on the campus, however, had a different view and said that leniency was not aimed at encouraging students to do wrong but to ensure that they do not resort to drastic measures in the event of strict disciplinary action for the mistakes they commit. "Students tend to lose focus and get disinterested in the subject of their choice. If failed, they will not improve hence such students are given pass grades, but in no way are they allowed to resort to malpractices," said a professor, who did not wish to be named. Techfest 2015 manager Anuraj Gupta said the code of ethics was needed. "Since last year, departments have started taking undertakings from students called code of honour so that they do not cross their limits in academic and social circles. As the undertaking is not binding and mandatory, students tend to become apathetic towards it as they progress," said Gupta.