

# Newspaper Clips

## May 30, 2013

HT Jaipur

# IIT-Madras designs eye-screening technology

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**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has designed an eye-screening technology that is affordable and accessible to a wider section of people.

The computing technology Eye-PAC created by the Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) at the institute is used for extracting information from eye images.

The technology can be deployed to create screening and diagnostic solutions for a range of vision-threatening diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration. This enhances visual appearance of eye images produced by

## EYE-PAC TECHNOLOGY'S INTELLIGENCE ENABLES SCREENING FOR EYE DISEASES EVEN WHEN AN EXPERT IS NOT AVAILABLE

3nethra, an ophthalmic imaging system, and locates disease signs that may lead to vision loss at a very early stage.

Dr Mohanasankar, head of HTIC and faculty of IIT-M, said, "Considering the shortage of doctors, we felt that there was a need for a technology where even non-experts can screen the eye. This can act as the first level of screening so that only the needy patients are referred to the experts."

The technology's intelligence in extracting clinically important information enables screening for eye diseases even when an expert is not available. Those who are tested positive during screening can later be sent to an expert for diagnosis.

"The ability to perform eye-examination without dilatation saves time for the patient," Dr Mohanasankar added.

Eye-PAC technology's intelligence in extracting clinically important information enables screening for eye diseases even when an expert is not available.

Those who are tested positive during screening can later be sent to an expert for referral and diagnosis.

Dr Mohanasankar said, "This capability of Eye-PAC combined with 3nethra's ability to perform

**EYE-ING SOLUTION**

**Capture image**

**Enhanced image**

**segmented blood vessels**

**Detected red lesions**

- The technology can be deployed to create screening and diagnostic solutions for a range of vision-threatening diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age-related muscular degeneration
- This enhances visual appearance of eye images produced by 3nethra, ophthalmic image system

eye-examination without dilatation saves time for the patient."

IIT Madras director, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi said, "It

is a matter of great satisfaction that IIT Madras has been able to, within two years of its inception, partner with an Indian

tech start-up to develop a world class product with tremendous impact in bridging the gap in ophthalmic screening."

Dainik Bhaskar ND 30.05.2013 P-16

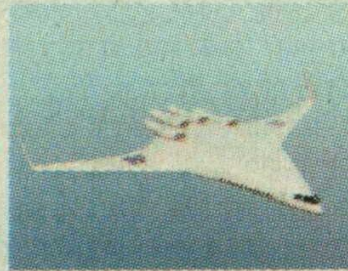
# भारतीय छात्र बनाएंगे साइलेंट एयरक्राफ्ट

यूनेस्को और एयरबस के कॉम्पटीशन के लिए चुने गए एसआरएम यूनिवर्सिटी के छात्र

एजेंसी | लंदन

यूनेस्को और एयरक्राफ्ट निर्माता कंपनी एयरबस की ओर से आयोजित की जा रही एक प्रतियोगिता में भारत से एयरोस्पेस इंजीनियरिंग के तीन छात्रों का फाइनल मुकाबले के लिए चयन किया गया है जो कि एक साइलेंट एयरक्राफ्ट यानि बिल्कुल भी आवाज न करने वाला विमान तैयार करेंगे।

चेन्नई की एसआरएम यूनिवर्सिटी के स्टूडेंट अनीता मोहली, बालाकृष्ण सोलाराजू मुराली और माइकल थॉमस और उनके मेंटर शक्तिवेल काशीनाथ भी इस टीम में शामिल हैं। वर्ष 2008 में 'फ्लाई योर आइडियाज' नाम से यह प्रतियोगिता शुरू की गई थी ताकि विश्वभर के स्टूडेंट अपनी प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन कर एक नई तकनीक इजाद कर सकें। टीम के सदस्यों ने बताया कि थर्मोइलेक्ट्रिक मैटेरियल के जरिए इंजन से निकलने वाली हीट को कम कर ऐसा किया जा सकता है। 82 देशों के 6 हजार स्टूडेंट जिन्हें 618 टीमों में बांटा गया है इस प्रतियोगिता में अपना लोहा मनवाएंगे। ब्राजील, इटली, मलेशिया के स्टूडेंट भी अलग अलग तकनीकों पर काम कर रहे हैं। सभी टीमों 12 जून को एयरबस की ज्युरी के सामने अपने आइडियाज



रखेंगे। 14 जून को यूनेस्को के हेडक्वार्टर पेरिस में विजेता टीम को 30 हजार यूरो (21 लाख रुपए) व उपविजेता को 15 हजार यूरो (करीब 11 लाख) की राशि प्राइज में दी जाएगी।

एयरबस के एग्जीक्यूटिव वाइस प्रेजिडेंट चार्ल्स चैंपियन ने कहा कि इस कंपीटिशन में बी टेक, एम टेक व पीएचडी के स्टूडेंट भी शामिल हैं। हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि दुनियाभर से आए ये स्टूडेंट भविष्य को बेहतर बनाने के लिए एक बढ़िया तकनीक इजाद करेंगे।

■ 12 जून को ज्युरी चुनेगी विजेता ■ दिया जाएगा 21 लाख का इनाम ■ विश्वभर से 6000 छात्र हैं फाइनल में ■ 618 टीमों बनाई गई हैं स्टूडेंट्स की

Business Standard ND 30/05/2013 P-9

# Traditional engineering courses rule the roost in an evolving world

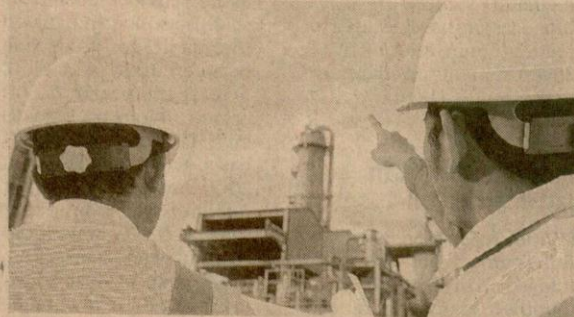
Despite introduction of several new branches of engineering, demand for regular programmes soars

M SARASWATHY & KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai, 29 May

**E**arly this month, when counselling at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) in Tamil Nadu began, merely four students opted for the institute's civil engineering course. This was at a time when the institute had about 200 seats on offer. Computer science engineering was the preferred choice, followed by mechanical and electronics & communication engineering courses.

"In the initial days, a course may not be opted for by students. All seats in civil engineering would be filled by the end of the counselling session," said the admissions director of a Chennai-based university, on condition of anonymity.

Traditionally, civil and mechanical engineering courses have been the building blocks of engineering in India. While institutes have introduced new areas such as aeronautics, biomedical and automotive engineering, traditional courses continue to attract students. "With a slowdown in the general information technology/information technology-enabled services sectors and



**GROWING DEMAND** The number of engineering and management seats in India has nearly doubled in the past five years

an economic slowdown, it is time for consolidation and back to basics," says Shankar S Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the country's technical education regulator. He said the trend was to return to core engineering branches such as civil, electrical and mechanical streams.

AICTE data say as of 2012, there were 210 engineering streams. These could be grouped into 15 major groups such as mechanical and allied, electrical and allied, computers and allied, chemical and allied, etc.

Mantha said the demand for traditional courses was due to the versatility of these courses

**"With a slowdown of general IT, ITeS sectors and economic slowdown, it is time for consolidation and back to basics"**

SHANKAR S MANTHA  
Chairman, AICTE

and the inherent capability most of these had to provide employment and create entrepreneurial avenues. Devang Khakhar, director, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, agreed. "Due to the fact that job prospects in these traditional areas are now stronger, courses such as mechanical and civil engineering have

## TECHNICAL BASE

- Traditionally, civil engineering and mechanical engineering have been the building blocks of engineering courses in India
- While newer areas like aeronautics, biomedical and automotive engineering have been introduced in institutes, civil and mechanical engineering courses continue to attract students
- According to AICTE data, 210 branches/ streams are available in engineering, which can be grouped into 15 major groups
- In 2012-13, there were 17 lakh engineering seats at the entry level in about 3,820 colleges

again become popular in the engineering segment," he says.

In 2012-13, there were 1.7 million engineering seats at the entry level across 3,820 colleges and 126 engineering institutes. In the past five years, the number of engineering and management seats has nearly doubled.

Human resource (HR)

experts say while Indian institutes have tried to offer specialised engineering courses in areas such as automation and information technology, demand for traditional courses would never fade. "Mechanical and civil engineering are the bread and butter of engineering. While demand for niche courses may come and go, that for traditional engineering subjects wouldn't disappear. Some students may take up new courses, considering the pay packages. But this doesn't mean traditional subjects have less demand," says a Mumbai-based HR consultant.

Narayanan Ramaswamy, national head (education) at KPMG, says the trend is to offer blended courses, with stronger fundamentals. "The courses are the same but are run in a different way. For example, a student now prefers to do a course in mechanical engineering and join fields such as 'mechanics', rather than specialising in this niche field," he says.

With head-hunters still positive on the segment and the process of counselling set to continue for the next two months, VIT and its likes can be hopeful.

Times Of India ND 30/05/2013 P-5

# Ministry not to intervene in FYUP

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** The HRD ministry is veering around to a non-intervention approach in the four-year undergraduate programme proposed from the current academic session in the Delhi University.

After nearly two-hour meeting on Wednesday — attended by the HRD minister M M Pallam Raju and senior ministry officials — the dominant view was that FYUP is a good initiative and should be implemented. Sources said since the admission process is barely a few days away, the ministry is unlikely to have another meeting on the issue. “Right now, the mood is to keep away from any intervention,” a source said.

In the meeting, various representations made by those opposed to FYUP were also discussed. DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh’s written clarification on each contentious point was taken up. Few officials pointed to the positive aspect of the FYUP and argued that the public opinion is not really known as only a few eminent academics

## Public debate on 4-yr course today

**New Delhi:** The left democratic teachers’ forum and All India Students’ Association are organizing a public hearing on the four-year undergraduate programme on Thursday. The hearing “FYUP: In Whose Interest After all” will be organized at the Arts Faculty from 11am where students and teachers are expected to interact with Delhi University aspirants and their parents. TNN

are opposing it. Positive media coverage, though limited, was also discussed.

Instead of delving into the merits of arguments of those opposing FYUP, the meeting took stock of the process followed by DU.

“Academic arguments against FYUP would be best answered by the varsity administration. How can you intervene if Executive Council and Academic Council of DU have unanimously approved the new course?” a ministry source asked.

Pioneer ND 30/05/2013 P-5

# UGC forbids varsities from granting affiliation to colleges

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■  
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked universities to stop granting any further affiliation to colleges offering technical or professional degrees till further communication. The crucial decision ahead of the coming new academic session comes in the wake of a Supreme Court's ruling last month that colleges do not need AICTE's approval for running MBA and MCA courses.

While the HRD Ministry has already initiated steps to bring an ordinance restoring the powers of All India Council for Technical Education, the UGC's directive has come as it is in the process of working suitable guidelines and regulations in view of the apex court ruling. The guidelines would ensure standard of teaching and learning in affiliated colleges offering professional and technical courses.

Last month, the Supreme Court had ruled that colleges affiliated to a university do not come under the purview of the definition of 'technical

institution' as defined in the AICTE Act and in such a case, AICTE cannot directly control or supervise affiliated colleges. It had ruled that AICTE was only an advisory body and colleges affiliated to various universities are not required to take its approval for running MBA programmes.

The UGC in its notice said "any dilution of standards of technical education at this juncture would also belie the trust reposed by the Supreme Court on the sanctity of the autonomy of universities.

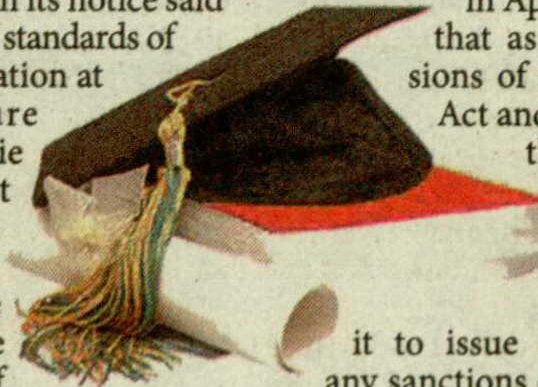
Earlier this week the HRD Ministry cleared a proposal to bring an ordinance restoring the powers of AICTE after a Supreme Court ruling that it was only an advisory body and colleges affiliated to various universities are not required to take its approval for running MBA programmes.

The proposal to amend the AICTE Act through the ordinance route was cleared by

HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju and has been sent to the Law Ministry, HRD Ministry officials said. They said since the matter required immediate attention to stop mushrooming of institutes offering management programme, the ordinance is being brought in.

The apex court in its ruling in April had said that as per provisions of the AICTE Act and UGC Act, the former has no authority which empowers it to issue or enforce any sanctions on colleges affiliated with the universities as its role is to provide guidance and recommendations.

The court also said MCA is a technical course while MBA is "not a technical course" within definition of AICTE Act. Ministry officials said the ordinance would seek to rectify the anomalies by redefining technical education and making clear mention of institutes and universities which require the prior AICTE approval.



# Helpline for students abroad on the anvil

**ON CALL** The helpline will forward complaints to embassy officials concerned

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

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**NEW DELHI:** For the 3,00,000 Indian students and researchers at universities abroad, immediate government response to crimes and threats may soon be a mouse click away.

India is ready to launch an online helpline to bring accessibility of prompt help to its growing population of students at foreign universities, who in recent years have fallen victim to a spate of crimes ranging from racist attacks in Australia to fraud by dubious US and UK universities.

The ministries of external affairs (MEA) and human resource development (HRD) will jointly run the helpline that will register and track complaints, and then immediately forward these to a designated officer at India's mission in that country.

"The portal is ready and we are just waiting for details of the designated officers at missions," SS Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) told HT. The AICTE will manage the portal and follow up complaints with the MEA.

Initially, students from 22 countries will gain. These countries - the US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, China, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago - together host over 95% of all Indian students abroad.

## PROMPT ACTION

- From racism in Australia to fraud schools like Tri Valley, India's growing student population abroad has faced multiple threats in recent years
- The MEA and HRD will jointly run the helpline that will register and track complaints, and then forward these to a designated officer at India's mission in that country.
- To start with, it will cover 22 countries. These are US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, China, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago

Indian students pursuing higher education abroad have increased from about 53,000 in 2000 to over 3,00,000 now.

Relations between India and Australia took a blow in 2009 after a series of race attacks on Indian students. Over 1000 Indian students faced the threat of deportation from the US in 2011 after California-based Tri Valley University was shut down for visa fraud.

Hundreds of Indian students at Herguan, another California university, and UK's London Metropolitan University were also threatened with deportation in 2012 when their institutions had their licenses suspended.

Rajasthan Patrika Jodhpur 29-05-2013 P-1

# एनएलयू में पढ़ेंगे आईआईटी के छात्र !

तीन शीर्ष शैक्षणिक संस्थान एक-दूसरे को बाँटेंगे ज्ञान, संसाधनों का करेंगे उपयोग, जल्द होगा एमओयू

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आने वाले समय में राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालय के परिसर में आईआईटी और एम्स के विद्यार्थी अध्ययन करते नजर आएंगे। वहीं एम्स में एनएलयू और आईआईटी कैम्पस में एम्स के छात्र-छात्राएं अपनी नॉलेज अपडेट करेंगे। एजुकेशन हब बन रहे जोधपुर के तीन शीर्ष शैक्षणिक संस्थान आपस

में अपने संसाधनों और फैकल्टी सुविधाओं का उपयोग करेंगे। इस नॉलेज एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम के लिए तीनों संस्थानों में सहमति बन गई है। जल्द ही एमओयू होगा।

## इन संसाधनों का उपयोग

ये संस्थान आपस में मानव संसाधन, आईटी, पुस्तकालय और अन्य बुनियादी सुविधाओं का उपयोग करेंगे। पाठ्यक्रम के अतिरिक्त खेल, सांस्कृतिक और साहित्यिक सुविधाओं का भी आदान-प्रदान किया जाएगा। इनका लाभ फैकल्टी और विद्यार्थी दोनों उठा सकेंगे। भविष्य में फैकल्टी भी एक-दूसरे संस्थान में सेवाएं देंगी।

## जुलाई से होगी शुरुआत

जुलाई से इस अभिनव कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत होगी। एनएलयू के कुलपति जस्टिस एन.एन. माथुर ने इसके लिए पहल की है। इसको लेकर तीनों संस्थान बैठक भी कर चुके हैं। बैठक में सैद्धांतिक सहमति के बाद अब एमओयू होगा। इसका उद्देश्य कम खर्च में अधिक से अधिक संसाधनों का उपयोग कर ज्ञानार्जन करना है। ऐसे में किसी भी संस्थान में सुविधाओं की कमी नहीं खलेगी। जस्टिस माथुर का कहना है कि आज के दौर में कानूनी शिक्षा का उपयोग तकनीक और चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में भी होता है। वहीं चिकित्सा में भी तकनीक और कानून की आवश्यकता होती है। ऐसे में यह नॉलेज एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम छात्रहित में कारगर साबित होगा।

# Earth in line of lethal gamma-ray burst

If hit, It Will Destroy Quarter Of Our Planet's Ozone Layer, Up UVB Radiation By 50%

**Washington:** Earth may be lying within the sights of a potentially lethal gamma-ray burst that can wipe out a quarter of our planet's protective atmospheric ozone, scientists claim.

A Wolf-Rayet star called WR 104, some 8,000 light years away is ripe to undergo a core-collapse supernova of the sort that could generate a seconds-long burst of dangerous gamma-rays.

"We could see it go supernova anywhere from tomorrow to 500,000 years from now," said Grant Hill, an astronomer at the WM Keck Observatory in Hawaii. "For all intents and purposes, the gamma-ray burst and optical photons from the supernova



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THREAT FROM ABOVE

would arrive simultaneously," Hill said. It has been debated whether a GRB from WR 104 — which lies in the direction of our Milky Way's galactic centre — would actually cross Earth's path. However, Hill said that given the continuing uncertainty about the star's alignment with our own, such a scenario can't be ruled out, Forbes.com reported.

If such a GRB did hit Earth's atmosphere, said Adrian Melott, a physicist at the University of Kansas, it would likely cause a 50% increase in solar UVB radiation. This would not only disrupt photosynthesis among marine and freshwater plankton, but also likely precipitate some

sort of broader extinction event, Melott said. There have been conflicting measurements of the star's rotational axis and whether WR 104's polar orientation lies 'face on' to Earth's line of sight or whether it is inclined by as much as 30 to 40 degrees. If the star lies 'pole on' to Earth that would mean that we would be directly in the line of fire of such a burst which might travel along a beam as large as 20-degrees in diameter. If indeed, the star's polar inclination to earth is 30 degrees, then Earth would be untouched.

Peter Tuthill, an astronomer at the University of Sydney in Australia, and colleagues, first found WR 104 in 1998. PTI

# More than honest govt, Indians want better job, education

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**NEW DELHI:** A good education, job opportunities and better healthcare top the list of things that Indians want to improve their lives, shows a UN survey. Globally, the top three demands are a good education, healthcare and an honest and responsive government, shows data from the UN Global Survey in 194 countries. Honesty and responsiveness from the governing class figures a low eighth on India's list.

'My World' is a survey which asks citizens of all the countries to select six key changes that they think could bring difference

to their lives from a broader list of 16 options like education, healthcare or job opportunities. It gives people a direct voice in the choices involved in drafting the world's developmental agenda.

To make voting easier, UNICEF launched its mobile application on Monday that uses an Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based system available in four languages — English, Hindi, Oriya and Tamil. To cast your vote on mobile, call 07302010000 or cast your vote online at [www.myworld2015.org](http://www.myworld2015.org).

"Given the deep penetration of the mobile phone in this country, we are hopeful

that millions of people will cast their vote," said Minar Pimple, regional director, Asia Pacific, UN Millennium Campaign. "This is a step towards making the process more participatory and inclusive. The survey is designed to engage common citizens in global conversation."

"After identifying the key problems affecting the people across the globe, the UN will develop a post-2015 agenda for the new Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," he added.

India lags behind in the pressing issues of hunger, malnutrition, infant and maternal deaths, and sanitation.

