

Newspaper Clips

May 4-5, 2014

May 4

Times of India ND 04-May-14 P-3

No sewerage in 46% of NCR

Untreated Waste Flows Into Yamuna Via Stormwater Drains

Jayashree Nandi | TNN

New Delhi: About 46% of the National Capital Region (NCR)—home to 40-50 lakh people—is not connected to sewerage networks. Sewage from these areas flows into stormwater drains that empty directly into the Yamuna. No wonder, the river is reduced to a sewage-carrying “drain”, a committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding covering of drains has said in its report.

However, the report has

However, the NCR fares better in terms of sewage treatment compared with Mumbai that treats only 15% of its 2,000mld waste, and Karachi that treats 6%

found the NCR to be better placed in terms of sewage treatment compared with Mumbai that treats only 15% of its 2,000mld sewage, and Karachi that treats only 6% of its 757mld.

The committee consisting of the secretary, department of urban development; chief executive officer (CEO) of Del-

KNOW DELHI'S DRAINS



Type	No. of colonies	Sewerage network provided
Regularized	567	541
Urban villages	135	129
Resettlements	44	44
Rural villages	189	34
Unauthorized	1,639	100

Natural stormwater drains in Delhi that empty into Yamuna according to MPD 2021

Najafgarh drain; Magazine Road drain; Sweeper colony drain; Khyber Pass drain; Metcalfe drain; Moat drain; Qudsia Bagh drain; trans-Yamuna municipal drain; Mori Gate drain; Civil Mill drain; Power House drain; Sen nursing home drain; Drain no.14; Barapullah Nullah; Maharani Bagh drain; Kalkaji drain; Okhla drain; Tughlaqabad drain; Shahdara drain; Sarita Vihar drain; LPG bottling plant drain; Tehkhand drain

“Delhi has many more natural drains that haven't been identified or restored, says

— Prof Gosain

hi Jal Board (DJB); chief engineer of Delhi Development Authority (DDA); IIT professor AK Gosain; and the chief engineer of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) was asked to respond on three issues related to drains. These are: providing open drains and maintaining natural stormwater drains that have

existed for hundreds of years, conserving and beautifying these natural drains, and the ‘polluter-pays’ principle for those who dispose of sewage or waste in these drains.

The report mainly highlights the constraints in maintaining stormwater and sewerage drains. It states that the saturation of landfills and im-

proper disposal habits of residents have polluted stormwater drains. “DDA has not allowed any landfill sites for disposal of sludge or silt” and there is “a constraint about availability of land for creating new infrastructures”, the committee has claimed. It doesn't make any conclusive remarks about the “polluter-pays” principle which NGT had suggested to deal with individuals or establishments that dump waste in stormwater drains.

“After deliberating, the committee is of the view that all the departments should adhere to their schedule and work plan to maintain proper ecology and groundwater recharge with stormwater free of pollutants,” the report concludes.

IIT Delhi professor AK Gosain has stressed that there are many natural drains in Delhi—other than those identified in the master plan 2021—that need to be preserved. “There is a need to change the strategy in principle and plans need to be modified to ensure that no sewage enters the natural stormwater drains,” said Prof Gosain contradicting the view of the rest of the committee.

Hindustan Times ND 04-May-14 P-12

CBSE gives bonus marks for erroneous questions

Vanita Srivastava

■ vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to give bonus marks to all students on 'erroneous' questions in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE mains). Students who took the exam offline, will get four marks each for a Chemistry question — unit of gas constant was not what it should have been — and students who appeared for it online on April 19 will get four marks each for three questions — one of Physics and two of Chemistry.

CBSE had uploaded answers to both the offline and online exams on April 28 and students were allowed to challenge them by paying ₹1,000 per question. More than 1,100 students had challenged the answers.

A team of experts had reviewed the questions for three days and agreed four questions had errors.

"We were expecting the Physics questions that we had

A TEAM OF EXPERTS HAD REVIEWED THE QUESTIONS FOR THREE DAYS AND AGREED THAT FOUR QUESTIONS HAD ERRORS

challenged would not be taken up. In case of the Chemistry question, for which the bonus marks have been given, it is evident that the units were wrong," says RL Trikha, director FIIT JEE.

Pramod Maheshwari, director Career Point, Kota agrees, "It is very unfortunate that the Physics questions that we had challenged for the offline exam have been rejected."

However, an IIT professor said such kind of errors are human and can happen when the papers were being set on such a large scale.

"There should not be any mistake, but sometimes errors do happen."

With a score of 355 out of 360, Andhra student tops JEE

Youth Ranked Third Also From State

Hemali Chhappia-Shah | TNN

Mumbai: Andhra Pradesh again bagged the top position in the country in the JEE (Main) exam, with Pramod Vakacharla scoring 355 of a total 360. Last year, too, another Andhra youth, 16-year-old M Viswa Virinchi, a resident of Kukatpally, secured the first rank with 345 marks.

In second position this year were Krishlay Raj from Jharkhand and Mohammad Akram Khan from Andhra Pradesh with 350 marks. While Vakacharla hails from Sulurapeta in Nellore district, Khan's family is from Adilabad district but now lives in Kothegeudem. Incidentally, both are classmates at Narayana Sri Chaitanya IIT Academy, Vijaywada, and bagged nearly the same score in their intermediate exams. Both want to enroll in the computer science engineer-

Daughter of dish washer clears exam

Adarsh Jain | TNN

Chennai: Shahul Hameed, 45, was serving idli and dosa to his customers on Thursday when his daughter called up to give the news: She had cleared the IIT-JEE (Main).

Hameed, who serves food and washes dishes for a pushcart food vendor, returned home both happy and concerned that night. Happy at his 17-year-old daughter Fathima Shadana's achievement; concerned how the family can afford her studies. Hameed, who works from 5am to 10pm, earns Rs 300.

"I am happy, but sending her to an engineering college is beyond our financial lim-

ing course in IIT-Bombay.

In Maharashtra, Akola's Kapil Vaidya, who scored 335, was not rejoicing at his achievement. Instead he spent the day in the college library, preparing for a greater

it," says his wife Bahiraat their 250sqft house.

Fathima is worried too, but says her priority now is to clear the IIT-JEE (Advanced). She is grateful to a training centre that offered to help some bright students from civic schools.

Her days started with books at 6am. After school, Fathima went to the coaching centre and returned home by 6pm. After an hour, she would be back with her books till midnight. In between, she would help her mother with the chores. "My husband and I are school dropouts," says Bahira. "Nothing is more precious for us than our children realizing their dreams."

challenge. Shalaka Kulkarni from Thane, who got a total of 306, was one of the highest scorers among girls.

In fact, as results of the JEE (Main) trickled in on Saturday, 1.54 lakh candidates,

28,666 of them girls, wanted to party but had to prepare for the upcoming JEE (Advanced). The cut-off for the entrance test to the Indian Institutes of Technology is a tad higher this year, at 115 for general category candidates compared to 113 last year. For OBC candidates, it stands at 74, compared to 70 in 2013; at 53 for Sc students and 47 for ST candidates. Scores were relaxed by 38.5% for OBC candidates and by 60.18% for scheduled tribes. The CBSE withheld 16 results as the candidates were caught cheating.

According to the official notification, "The distribution across categories will be as per the Government of India directive. OBC-NCL: 27%, SC: 15%, ST: 7.5% and the rest 50.5% will be from the Common Merit List that includes all category candidates." For instance, total candidates from the common merit list will be 75,750. A total of 13.57 lakh students registered for JEE (Main) this year across the country. Nearly 15,500 seats are on offer in 30 NITs, 850 in five IITs and another 15,000 seats in self-financing institutions.

Hindustan Times ND 04-May-14

P-12

Marginal increase in cut-off for IIT entrance exam

HT Correspondent■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: There has been a very marginal increase in the cut-off for IIT entrance exam this year, according to the scores of JEE (mains) declared on Friday night.

Nearly 12.78 lakh students had appeared for the JEE (mains) exam. The final result will be known on July 7 after all the board results are out since these will have a 40 percentage weightage. The top 1.5 lakh students from JEE (mains) would appear for the JEE (advanced) exam for admission to 16 IITs on May 25.

According to sources, the highest marks scored this year in JEE (mains) was 355 out of 360. According to information available on the JEE website, the cut-off for JEE (advanced) for general category is 115 out of 360. For OBCs it is 74, for SC category it is 53 and for STs, it is 47.

सीबीएसई ने जेईई-मेन -2014 का परिणाम घोषित किया

रैंक के लिए बोर्ड परीक्षा के नतीजों का इंतजार

परिणाम

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

आईआईटी समेत देश के प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में दाखिले के लिए आयोजित जेईई-मेन 2014 का परीक्षा के परिणाम घोषित होने के बाद छात्रों की नजर अब अपनी रैंक पर है और इसके लिए उन्हें अब बोर्ड परीक्षा के परिणाम का इंतजार है।

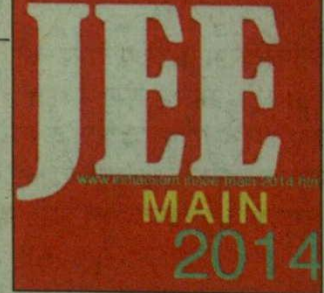
फिलहाल जेईई का रिजल्ट छात्र <http://jeemain.nic.in/> पर जाकर देख सकते हैं। शनिवार को घोषित नतीजों में छात्रों को रैंक नहीं मिली है। उन्हें बीते साल की तरह इस बार भी बोर्ड परीक्षाओं के नतीजों का इंतजार करना होगा। दरअसल, रैंक निर्धारित करने के लिए 40 फीसदी की भारांक (वेटेज) बारहवीं के अंक और 60 फीसदी प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए है। ऐसे में छात्रों को उनकी रैंक बारहवीं के नतीजे घोषित होने के बाद ही प्राप्त होगी।

बहरहाल, सीबीएसई द्वारा शनिवार को घोषित नतीजों में सामान्य श्रेणी के लिए कटऑफ 115 अंक, ओबीसी के लिए 74 अंक, अनुसूचित जाति के लिए 53 अंक और अनुचित जनजाति के लिए 47 अंक है।

परीक्षा 360 अंकों की थी। बीते साल की बात करें तो सामान्य श्रेणी के लिए बीते साल कटऑफ 113 अंक,

कितनी हैं सीटें संस्थानों में

बहरहाल, बता दें कि देशभर के 30 एनआईटी में 15,678 सीटें हैं। जेईई मेन के नतीजों से एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी, डीटीयू व अन्य तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थानों में दाखिले होंगे। वहीं 15 आईआईटी, आईटी-बीएचयू व आईएसएम के स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में करीब 9,447 सीटें हैं।



सभी श्रेणियों के लिए कटऑफ घोषित

- सामान्य श्रेणी के लिए कटऑफ 115 अंक, ओबीसी के लिए 74 अंक, अनुसूचित जाति के लिए 53 अंक और अनुचित जनजाति के लिए 47 अंक
- रैंक निर्धारित करने के लिए 40 फीसदी वेटेज बारहवीं के अंक और 60 फीसदी प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए
- जेईई-मेन की परीक्षा के लिए 13.44 लाख छात्रों ने पंजीकरण कराया
- आईआईटी में दाखिले के लिए जेईई-एडवांस की परीक्षा 25 मई को

ओबीसी के लिए 70 अंक, अनुसूचित जाति के लिए 50 अंक और अनुचित जनजाति के लिए 45 अंक था।

इस तरह बीते साल की तुलना में इस बार कटऑफ में करीब दो से चार अंक का उछाल आया है। बता दें कि इस बार जेईई-मेन की परीक्षा के लिए 13.44 लाख छात्रों ने पंजीकरण कराया था। इसमें से 11,72,538 ने ऑफलाइन और 1,72,369 छात्रों ने ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के लिए पंजीकरण कराया था।

आईआईटी में दाखिले के लिए जेईई-एडवांस की परीक्षा 25 मई को होगी। इस परीक्षा में सीबीएसई की

जेईई-मेन की परीक्षा में सफल करीब डेढ़ लाख विद्यार्थियों को बैठने का अवसर दिया जा रहा है। इस परीक्षा के लिए ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण की प्रक्रिया 4 मई यानी रविवार से शुरू हो रही है और 9 मई, 2014 तक चलेगी।

इसके बाद ई-चालान के जरिए आवेदक 12 मई, 2014 फीस का भुगतान कर सकते हैं। इसके बाद पंजीकृत विद्यार्थियों के लिए 25 मई, 2014 को परीक्षा का आयोजन होगा और 19 जून, 2014 तक इसके बाद परीक्षा के नतीजे घोषित कर दिए जाएंगे।

Why G's now in the big league

Thinking local — both in terms of faculty as well as research work — has propelled a rank outsider like IIT-Guwahati to the global list of top varsities

Naresh Mitra | TNN

Back in the late '90s, professors who were offered jobs at IIT-Guwahati (IIT-G) were scared to take them up. It wasn't the prospect of a new institute that was intimidating. "We had heard so much about insurgency-related violence in the region," says a faculty member who "risked" the assignment.

IIT-G had its work cut out when it first launched in 1994, the result of a promise made by then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi to student agitators. Apart from coaxing students and faculty to a remote location in a violence-ridden state, it had to replicate the standards of academic excellence set by the other Indian Institutes of Technology. Two decades down, they're at the top — IIT-G is the only Indian college to make it to the "100 under 50" listing of new global universities, coming in 87th on the UK-based Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

So how did this happen? Even in 2004, the IIT review board was grappling with the "special case" that IIT-G presented. The review report stated that the 285 hectare campus, located 20 km from the city centre, was in a region that suffered from "locational disadvantages". Apart from poor rail and road connections, the single track rail link from Guwahati to New Jalpaiguri was said to be prone to disruption by accidents, floods and other disturbances. The report also mentioned parents' fears of its remote location as one of the reasons why the IIT-G campus was "the last choice in any branch among all IITs" for students. Recruitment and retention of faculty was another problem heightened by the "under-developed area".

The turnaround came in the last five to six years with a new focus on recruiting locals and serving locals through research. Several members, department heads and even two former directors, DN Buragohain and Gautam Barua, have roots in the region. "It's important to connect with the local ethos," says S S Mantha, chairman of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Taking its cue from the 2004 review board suggestions, IIT-G introduced various incentives for faculty, including a special area allowance. They also offered new faculty members a "start-up research grant". In 2013, 22 projects worth Rs 1.08 crore were sanctioned under this scheme. "Our research work has been published in many international journals," says IIT-G director Gautam Biswas, calling it the institute's greatest strength.

Faculty figures are on a steady rise — in just three months, from end 2012 to March 2013, 29 appointments were made to take the total teaching staff to 325. It's come a long way from the time IIT-G was just two years old and the then director Gautam Barua went to the US scouting for talent among former IITians. Several of those he interviewed



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were not even aware a new IIT had been established. "We were mostly left with candidates not picked up by any of the older IITs," Barua says. The solution: look for talent within. "We knew the strength of the IIT system and realized that there were many bright PhDs that the IITs were graduating."

Today, the institute is attracting global talent, with about 15% faculty having graduated from top universities abroad.

The jump in student numbers has also been significant. PhD students have gone up from 895 in 2012 to 1,113 in 2013. There are even 14 foreign students enrolled for various full-time programmes. "One of our thrust areas is to develop a student care system, which can activate dormant capacity of poor performers," says Biswas, revealing that a mechanism of 'hand-holding' by well-performing students is being designed.

The institute's biggest drawback — insurgency — has also been sorted out to an extent, with violence in the area abating. Natesan Srinivasan,

mathematics professor, says up until 2003, when he joined, it was a big concern for faculty and parents alike. "Our fears went away after we saw the picturesque campus. Now thanks to our research reports making waves, we hear good stories instead," says Srinivasan, who has picked up basic Assamese. Parents, too, are more open-minded about sending their kids to the distant northeast as compared to, say, those back in the '90s.

The beautiful buildings and scenic campus are an additional plus, say educationists. Mantha believes that its success can serve as a role model for the newer IITs struggling to establish their credibility. "Building strong local ties through consultancy assignments is another Guwahati lead they can follow," he says. Over 133 consultancy projects were undertaken in 2013 with state government departments, railways, National Highways Authority of India, oil and gas sector, etc. The institute received new projects of Rs 42.6 crore in 2013, up from Rs 28.35 crore in the previous year.

The most significant indicator of an institute's success is its ability to find jobs for students and IIT-G has done well on that front. In 2013, of the 909 students registered for placements, 72% B-Tech and 100% B-Design have been placed till date. "The turnaround of IIT-G demonstrates how software can trump hardware, how a hostile geography of work is not a binding constraint for institutions of higher learning, and how disproportionate signaling value can be created by international rankings," says Manish Sabharwal, chairman and co-founder of staffing firm Teamlease Services. "This will be good for the IIT system as it will foster competition since some of the older institutions were starting to cruise on past glory."

Why IIT-Guwahati is now in the big league

By *Naresh Mitra*, TNN | 4 May, 2014, 06.57AM IST

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Business Standard

HAL sets up Faculty Chair at IIT-Kgp

HAL Chair will be responsible for carrying out research in various areas related to aerospace technologies

Press Trust of India | Kolkata May 04, 2014 Last Updated at 13:01 IST



Aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has collaborated with IIT-Kharagpur to set up a Faculty Chair at the premier institute to conduct applied research and tackle multi-disciplinary problems in the field of aerospace technology and its applications.

An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed last week in this regard by Bangalore-based HAL with the institute's department of aerospace engineering, Director, IIT Kharagpur P P Chakrabarti said.

The HAL Chair will be responsible for carrying out research in various areas related to aerospace technologies, facilitating technical consultancy, training programs and addressing other mutually agreed activities relevant to HAL.

The chair will also initiate new academic training programmes, identify and initiate specific research and development at IIT-KGP in the specific technical areas and provide technical consultancy to HAL.

It would also facilitate development of training programmes and training modules including mentoring and coaching of HAL personnel for knowledge update and capacity building, he added.

The intention is to promote R&D and academic work in new and emerging technologies in aerospace industry focusing in the field of radar, electronic warfare, avionics and aerospace systems.

"A strong research base already exists at IIT-Kharagpur, in areas of direct relevance to the future programmes of HAL and this tie-up will be mutually beneficial," Chakrabarti said.

HAL has already established three chairs at IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Kanpur and the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bangalore.

It is also planning to establish a Chair at IIT-Bombay shortly, sources said.

Hindu ND 04-May-14 P-9

AICTE chairman on UGC's moratorium

Asha Sridhar

CHENNAI: When private institutions are willing to put in infrastructure and comply by the regulator's norms, how can you stop them from being set up, said S.S. Mantha, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), on the recent one-year moratorium by University Grants Commission on setting up new engineering colleges.

Based on the number of students who will enter higher education institutions, he

said, expansion was required.

"Decisions should be made on sound principles," he said, adding that they had written to the State governments for their perspective plans to assess needs.

"For instance, we need data on how many students appeared for and passed in the class X and XII examinations, the courses they join, whether they migrate to other districts, how many drop out, etc. Based on a demographic profile, a perspective plan can help identify pockets where a women's college is required,

for instance," he said, adding that the industry needs in the districts must also be analysed.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the 15th Graduation Day of the Sri Sai Ram Engineering College on Saturday.

On processing of applications for new colleges, he said, "We have filed an application in the court seeking a two-month extension because we need at least that much time to complete the process." He said that the admission process will not be delayed if they

are given the extension soon.

One of the challenges, he said, earlier while delivering the convocation address, was the lack of metrics and planning, as a result of which they are unable to tie in the produce from the colleges to the available opportunities for students outside in the commercial world.

He said that they had received around 500 applications for polytechnic colleges across the country, of which around 24 were from Tamil Nadu. "We have approved around 100 of these," he said.

Hindustan Times ND 04-May-14 P-12

India takes up students work visa issue with UK

Prasun Sonwalkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: India has taken up the key issue of Britain closing the post-study work visa, which allowed self-financing Indian students to work here after completing their studies, gain experience and recover some of the high costs of studying.

The visa, closed in 2012 as part of David Cameron government's moves to limit immigration from

non-European Union countries, has often been mentioned as a reason for a major drop in the number of Indian students coming to UK universities.

The visa closure was one of the key issues discussed at an interaction keenly attended by students and hosted by Indian high commissioner Ranjan Mathai at India House on Friday.

Mathai said he had often raised the issue with British authorities: "Many of the students who I've

had an interaction with feel that if they'd had a chance to pay their way by staying on for a year — which the system allowed before — then it would make their taking loans and coming to the UK for education more worthwhile, more possible." He added: "I have raised this issue with British authorities, several MPs have also done so. I hope it will be reviewed."

Amidst allegations of the high commission being unresponsive and even rude in its

dealings, Mathai promised a closer engagement with Indian students, and introduced key officers to the gathering.

Deputy high commissioner Virander Paul said there was a continuing dialogue between the UGC and counterpart British organisations on the issue of recognition and equivalence of British Masters degrees in India (Most Masters courses in the UK are of 1-year duration, while Masters courses in India take two).

Growing number of Indian students now heading to France

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

New Delhi: Hyderabad-based professional Dominic Holt is currently studying the finer points of marketing designer watches, haute couture and supercars in France. A French degree in luxury management looks way better on the CV than an Indian one, he figured before winging his way to the mecca of luxe. Like Holt, an increasing number of Indian students are heading to France to do their MBAs. While luxury and brand management is very much in demand, courses such as sports management and CSR are also sought after.

“Last year, 3,000 students went to France from India,” says Vikash Golla, who heads the Delhi branch of Campus France. “As much as 75% are in the field of management,” he adds. Some like Holt are mid-career students, while others are fresh out of college. Golla says that a decade ago, France attracted only

FRENCH CONNECTION

Over 800 programmes are in English , and the faculty's international		Internships take students to other European countries and travel is generally cheap
French govt offers 300 scholarships to Indians each year. Monthly stipends cover accommodation, visa fee waiver; and in public institutions, the entire tuition fee is waived. Even private institutions are subsidized. Exchange students are also entitled to scholarships such as Charpak	University students are entitled to Caisses d'Allocations Familiales or CAF – money allocated to students by the French govt for accommodation	
Those who have done Master's and PhD courses get 5-yr multiple entry visas		Students are allowed to stay on and work for a year after completing the programme but work-permits are hard to come by

about a 100 Indian students an year. But of late, institutes like the ESC Rennes School of Business (or École Supérieure de Commerce de Rennes) have seen a surge in Indian applications.

Last September, 70 of the 210 applicants at ESC Rennes were Indian, twice the previous year's number. One reason is that all the courses at

the school are in English and 80% of the faculty is non-French. At the century-old ESSEC Business School, 50% of the faculty is 'international'. In all, France offers over 800 programmes in English.

Changes in visa rules last year have also made France more attractive. “Visa regulations now allow students to work for some time after

completing the programme and this may be a factor,” says Carole Bonani, associate dean for Faculty at ESC. This year, says Golla, around 10 students are heading to INSEAD which, according to him, has one of the most rigorous admission processes.

Golla said India's increased interest in French institutions can also be traced to the cost factor. “In France, even private institutions are heavily subsidized. And the embassy offers a range of scholarships”, he says. On average, tuition fees amount to about Rs 10 lakh per annum. However, most Indian students return home after their studies since it's difficult to land paid internships or jobs because of the language hurdle. But the Europe experience — travel, exposure, internships and group projects — radically improves their prospects back home, say students.

The writer travelled to France at the invitation of ESC Rennes

NASA finds 'club sandwich' moon

Ganymede, one of Jupiter's moons, has layers of oceans under its surface

Will Dunham

As club sandwiches go, this undoubtedly is the biggest one in the solar system. Scientists said on Friday that Jupiter's moon Ganymede may possess ice and liquid oceans stacked up in several layers much like the multi-layered sandwich. They added

that this arrangement may raise the chances that this distant icy world harbors life.

NASA's Galileo spacecraft flew by Ganymede in the 1990s and confirmed the presence of an interior ocean, also finding evidence for salty water perhaps from the salt known as magnesium sulfate.

Ganymede, which with its diameter of about 3,300 miles



NEW BEGINNINGS: With enough salt, liquid water on Ganymede could become so dense that it sinks to the bottom, fostering microbial life

(5,300 km), is the largest moon in the solar system and is bigger than the planet mercury.

A team of scientists performed computer modeling of Ganymede's ocean, taking into account for the first time how salt increases the density of liquids under the type of extreme conditions present inside Ganymede. Their work followed experiments in the laboratory that simulated such salty seas. While earlier research sug-

gested a routine "sandwich" arrangement in which there is ice at the surface, then a layer of liquid water and another layer of ice on the bottom, this new study indicated there might be more layers than that.

Ganymede boasts a lot of water, perhaps 25 times the volume of Earth's oceans. Its oceans are estimated to be about 500 miles (800 km) deep.

With enough salt, liquid water on Ganymede could become

so dense that it sinks to the very bottom, the researchers said. That means water may be sloshing on top of rock, a situation that may foster conditions suitable for the development of microbial life.

Some scientists suspect that life first formed on Earth in bubbling thermal vents on the ocean floor. "Our understanding of how life came about on Earth involves the interaction between water and rock. This (research) provides a stronger possibility for those kinds of interactions to take place on Ganymede," said Steve Vance, an astrobiologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, whose study was published in the journal Planetary and Space Science.

Ganymede is one of five moons in the solar system thought to have oceans hidden below icy surfaces. Two other moons, Europa and Callisto, orbit the big gas planet Jupiter. The moons Titan and Enceladus circle the ringed gas planet Saturn. "We're providing a more realistic view into ocean structure in Ganymede's interior. We're showing that the salinity has a tangible effect on the ocean," said Vance. - REUTERS

WORLD'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SPACELINER IS HERE

Boeing unveiled its new concept for the cabin of a future commercial spaceliner — a vision based in part on the blue-lit Boeing "Sky" interior of the company's modern airliners, as well as work on the company's CST-100 space capsule to ferry NASA astronauts on roundtrips to the International Space Station. Boeing developed the CST-100 capsule to compete for NASA's space station crew launch business after the agency retired its space shuttle fleet. NASA will be selecting one or more companies in August, with the aim of reaching flight operations in 2017. Based on NASA's needs for the vehicle, Boeing developed a cabin that seats four crew members, while reserving a fifth space for either a fifth passenger or additional cargo. — WWW.SPACE.COM



जज्बा : आइआइटी के छात्र-छात्राओं ने बेकार वस्तुओं से बनाए खिलौने, इनसे खेल-खेल में बच्चे सीख सकते हैं विज्ञान की बातें

बगैर पैसे खर्च किए मनोरंजन के साथ ज्ञान भी

अरविंद कुमार द्विवेदी, दक्षिणी दिल्ली

एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार गरीबी के चलते देश के 60 प्रतिशत से अधिक बच्चों को खिलौने नसीब नहीं होते। बहुत से बच्चे चाइनीज खिलौनों के संपर्क में आकर कई तरह की बीमारियों के शिकार हो जाते हैं। आइआइटी की छात्रा ख्याति गुप्ता काफी समय से खिलौने के ऐसे विकल्प पर काम कर रही हैं जो सरसता-सुलभ और पर्यावरण हितैषी हों। उनके विजन की दो प्रमुख बातें हैं। पहली- खिलौना ऐसा हो जिससे खेलकर बच्चे सिर्फ समय की बर्बादी न करें, बल्कि उससे कुछ सीखें भी। दूसरी- खिलौना घर की पुगुनी व बेकार चीजों से तैयार किया जाए, ताकि उस पर पैसे खर्च न हों और कचरे का सद्परयोग भी हो जाए।

फरीदाबाद की रहने वाली ख्याति गुप्ता आइआइटी दिल्ली में मैथमेटिक्स एंड कंप्यूटिंग संकाय की छात्रा हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि बच्चों को खाली समय में टीवी देखते, लड़ाई-झगड़ा



करके समय बर्बाद करते हुए देखती थीं तो दिमाग में आता था कि काश ऐसा कोई खिलौना होता जिसके साथ ये बच्चे स्वस्थ मनोरंजन कर सकते। और खिलौना इनमें वैज्ञानिक अभिरूचि भी पैदा करता। इनके मन में तमाम सवाल पैदा करता ताकि ये उनके

कैसे-कैसे खिलौने

कामज का खरगोश, दूधपिक व कड़ी पुआल की पदनबकरी, गेहूँ की पुआल की बांसुरी, घागा व माविस से बनी ट्रेन, पुआल से बना स्पाइरल सांप, पानी की खाली बोतल और गुब्बारे से बनी कार, अखबार से बनी कई तरह की टोपियां, टॉर्च के बेकार सेल व चुंबक से छोटा पंखा, पेपर हाउस, मैजिक पेपर फैन, कागज की बांसुरी, चुंबक व प्लास्टीक से बना विड जेनेरेटर, कागज से बनी उड़ने वाली मछली, रॉकेट बैलून, पेपर क्रो, आइसक्रीम रिटक से बनी विलप आदि कुछ खास खिलौने हैं। इनसे बच्चे गुरुत्वाकर्षण, ध्वनि, प्रकाश, चुंबकत्व आदि के बारे में रोचक जानकारी प्राप्ति कर सकते हैं।

जवाब ढूंढने की कोशिश करते। आइआइटी दिल्ली की राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना (एनएसएस) के तहत शुरू किए गए 'टॉयस फ्रॉम ट्रेश' प्रोजेक्ट ने तो जैसे ख्याति के सपनों को पंख दे दिए। इस प्रोजेक्ट का मकसद था बेकार वस्तुओं से शिक्षापरक खिलौने तैयार करना।



प्रोजेक्ट के प्रेरणास्रोत अरविंद गुप्ता रहे। बेकार वस्तुओं से खिलौने बनाने संबंधी उनके वीडियो देखकर ही ख्याति और उनकी टीम को यह विचार आया। प्रोजेक्ट में आइआइटी के रवि सिन्हा, नवजोत कौर, सीरीत सहाय और वैभव गर्ग शामिल रहे। प्रोफेसर राजेश प्रसाद

प्रोजेक्ट कोऑर्डिनेटर और ख्याति टीम लीडर हैं। टीम ने 67 खिलौने बनाए। टीम के सदस्यों का कहना है इन खिलौनों से बच्चे विज्ञान की उन बातों को आसानी से समझ सकते हैं जिन्हें समझाने के लिए कितनी तरीका उबाऊ लगता है। टीम के मेजर रवि सिन्हा ने बताया कि हम मुनीरका क्षेत्र के मोहल्लों में जाकर बच्चों को खिलौनों का डेमो दिखाते हैं और उन्हें इसका वैज्ञानिक पक्ष बताते हैं। बच्चे इसे आसानी से समझ सकते हैं। बच्चों को इन खिलौनों को बनाने का तरीका भी बताया जाता है।

रवि सिन्हा ने बताया कि हम सरकारी और प्राइवेट स्कूलों में भी इन खिलौनों का डेमो दिखाने की योजना बना रहे हैं। इसके लिए हम स्कूलों से संपर्क भी कर रहे हैं। बच्चों और अभिभावकों से मिल रही अच्छी प्रतिक्रिया के कारण राजधानी के अन्य इलाकों के मोहल्लों और स्कूलों में भी डेमो दिखाने की योजना है।

रविवार विशेष पेज नं० 6

How to make money and influence your bank balance? 3 IITians find a Chinese way

Sunday, 4 May 2014 - 10:30am IST | Place: Mumbai | Agency: DNA



- Ravi Jakhar, Rohit Sharma and Aditya Agrawal

Cheap Chinese items have always inspired jokes in India.

But three IIT-BHU graduates — Ravi Jakhar, Rohit Sharma and Aditya Agrawal — are trying to break that age-old myth by providing affordable and quality devices through their Mumbai-based start-up ICE X technology.

The 2004 batchmates, Ravi, Rohit and Aditya floated their company in 2011 with a seed fund of Rs3 crore and a team of six people, which has grown to 20 people. They conceptualised tablet PCs and smartphones, keeping Indian needs in mind and got it manufactured from Shenzhen (China).

Before putting up the products for online sale, the three took all precautions to remove bugs to create quality products. "The first batch of our products came out in the market in 2012. The encouraging response pushed us to innovate more. We are now designing routers, portable charger and other accessories," says Aditya Agrawal who hails from Varanasi and also holds a management degree from IIM Indore.

Aditya, 32, was working with Ernst and Young, Rohit, 31, was running a gaming company and Ravi, 31, was employed at All Cargo till 2011 when they decided to work together after a lot of market research.

They knew that the key lay in innovation and credibility; so, outsourcing the non-core activities would help the business grow faster.

In its first year, ICE X technology clocked a sale of Rs10 crore from its own brand and Rs40crore from other brands. The company signed a three-year contract with Rajasthan Royals in 2013 for their limited edition tablet

— ICE extreme pro. The Rs8,000 tablet (5,000 pieces were launched) became a huge hit among youngsters because of its dual core processor, dual sim, 3G calling and a jewellery box like cover that gave it a royal touch.

On quick success Aditya says, "The credit goes to affordable price, our commitment for quality and our own servicing centre. We wanted to break the myth of poor quality of Chinese products. All big companies, including Apple, outsource their manufacturing to China. Our success also says Indians are ready to pay a little more if they get quality product."

Theirs is the only Indian company providing solutions on 3-D printing, wireless charger and 22-language keyboard. Aditya says, "We will soon launch a tablet PC with 22-language keyboard for which we have tied up with an Israeli company. The tablet, which also has a calling facility, will enable users to use any of 22 Indian languages."

Since excise duty on ready devices is less than the components imported so it's always cheaper if we get the products assembled in China.

The company provides online solutions for repair considering the busy schedules of people. Customers can register their complaints and the devices are picked up from their home, repaired at Bhiwandi and delivered back to home for which they have tied up with a courier company. Soon, they will send engineers directly to customers.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi, Date: May 4, 2014, Section: Spl Report, Page: 13:

IISc, BANGALORE

Set up in 1909, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has become one of the premier institutions of research in India. Located on a 400-acre campus in Bangalore, the 100-year-old institute houses 40 departments and offers PhD and MS programmes in science and engineering.

The degrees offered by the institute are broadly classified into degrees by Research (PhD, integrated PhD, BS (core science and interdisciplinary topics) and MS (Engg), and degrees by coursework (ME/MTech/MBA/MDes).

"Anyone with a masters degree

students go abroad (and return to India later) for post-doctoral work," he adds.

The post-doctoral fellows at IISc are mostly from other Indian universities with less or no facilities to carry out modern research. They are trained for a few years at IISc and then either take up a suitable job in India or go abroad. IISc collaborates with various government organisations like DRDO, ISRO, Bharat Electronics Limited, Aeronautical Development Agency, National Aerospace Laboratories, CSIR, Department of IT (Government of India). IISc also works with private industry and

Power of research

SOUTH INDIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN AS THE HUB FOR RESEARCH WITH PREMIER INSTITUTIONS BEING LOCATED IN THIS REGION. **SANGEETHA NAMBIAR AND NIDHI ADLAKHA** PICK A FEW OF THE PROMINENT ONES



PHOTO: JUSTIN GEORGE



or a four-year bachelor's degree (in Science and Engineering) can apply for the programmes. The procedure for selecting candidates is through a variety of routes such as GATE, JAM, and JES," says Prof MRN Murthy, Molecular Biophysics Unit.

"The thesis submitted to IISc for the award of the PhD degree is of the highest international standards. Students take five to six years to complete their work. Most

research labs like Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Google Inc, General Motors, Microsoft Research, IBM Research, Boeing, Robert Bosch Foundation, and so on. Training at IISc is of the highest standards and scholarships are available for all students as they are all meritorious, says Prof Murthy.

"Graduates of IISc have occupied prominent positions in R&D laboratories and research insti-

tutes of the country. Many of them have also carried out excellent work," says Prof Murthy. According to Saurabh Aggarwal, who is pursuing research on 'Information Exchange in Social Groups' at the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, "Faculty standards at IISc are at par with those in the top universities across the world. The supportive and caring nature of the faculty acts as add-on to de-stress research life. Students are given enough freedom to choose the problem in the area of our interest."

"Many of my friends have joined world class universities such as MIT, University of Texas (Austin), UIUC, and more, for their higher studies. Also, friends desirous of joining industry have been placed in various research labs/companies such as IBM, Nvidia, HP, Intel, Microsoft," he adds.

IIT MADRAS

One of India's premier educational institutes, IIT Madras has nurtured a number of industrial consultancy and sponsored research projects. Located in the heart of the city, the lush campus near the Guindy National Park, IIT Madras is a residential institute with nearly 550 faculty, 8,000 students and 1,250 administrative and supporting staff. Over the past five decades, IIT Madras has served a huge clientele comprising of State and Central governmental agencies, public and private sector industries, and international institutions.

"The Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research

(IC&SR) is an independent section of the Institute, headed by Professor Krishnan Balasubramaniam, who also heads the Centre for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE). "IIT Madras pro-

R&D labs of companies such as Nissan, Caterpillar, Tata Elxsi, and government organisations such as TCoE, DRDO, ARI, to be present in close proximity to IIT Madras in order for

OVER THE PAST FIVE DECADES, IIT MADRAS HAS SERVED A HUGE CLIENTELE COMPRISING OF STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRIES, AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

notes joint research between its faculty, scientists, and students with governmental organisations such as DRDO, ISRO, DAE, HAL, as well as industries in India and abroad. Currently, IC&SR has about 400 projects with government organisations and more than 800 industry projects," he says.

"The IIT Madras Research Park was created to facilitate the promotion of research and development by the institute in partnership with industry, assisting in the growth of new ventures, and promoting economic development. "The IIT Madras Research Park assists companies with a research focus to set up a base in the park and leverage the expertise available at IIT Madras. The Park fosters (a) IITM incubated startup companies, (b) close interaction between

them to leverage the ongoing research and available expertise at IITM. This allows for a unique ecosystem where technology developers and technology transitioners work together on disruptive ideas," he explains. While a lot is being done to enhance research facilities, he also says we need to focus on new research areas: "Such areas may include, but are not limited to data analytics, nano devices, low cost sensors and networks, low cost and low power medical devices, to name a few. We also need to work on areas with local implications that solve the current needs of the people."

TIFR, HYDERABAD

The TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (TCIS) is the first centre of the new Hyderabad campus of

the prestigious Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. TIFR is a national centre of the Government of India under the umbrella of the Department of Atomic Energy. The site of the 209-acre campus, adjacent to the University of Hyderabad, was found to foster research and higher education in the region and the permanent campus of TCIS is now under construction. Prof Sriram Ramaswamy, Director, TCIS, says, "We have a high-quality and enthusiastic group of PhD and project students. Faculty and students are encouraged to function in an environment that encourages collaboration and multidisciplinary approaches to research problems."

"Currently we offer in both physics and chemistry an integrated PhD programme for students who have completed a three-year Bachelor's degree, and a PhD programme for students who have completed a degree beyond the three-year bachelor' (for example BTech, MSc, and MTech). A similar programme in Biology is expected to begin in the future," says Sriram.

Speaking of their long-term plan, he explains, "TIFR Hyderabad is projected to have around 250 faculty and 2,000 students and postdoctoral fellows. By the end of 2015, TCIS will have around 25 faculty and 150 students in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, working on research areas classified broadly into Light, Life and Matter. Our faculty strength will be 14 by end-June, and we are rapidly recruiting outstanding faculty members."

NRI scientist crafts frugal science tools

Padmaparna Ghosh | TNN

Imagine every child in the world with a microscope in his pocket. Manu Prakash, a bioengineering professor at Stanford University, has made it possible. His innovation — a do-it-yourself origami-based microscope — costs less than a dollar to make and can magnify objects more than 2,000 times.

Called the Foldscope, it looks like a sheet of paper but can be cut and folded into a device that does the same job as the heavy, bulky microscopes. Prakash expects this to change our perceptions of how the world works by merging our intuition about what we can see with the unaided eye with what we can't. "It's a whole new way of looking at the world," he says.

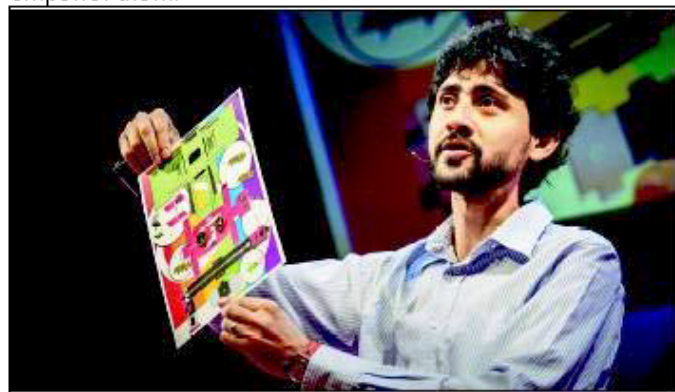
The Foldscope is just one of the ways Prakash is trying to make science and its joys more accessible to the world. He and a graduate student George Korir have invented a \$5 chemistry set, which was inspired by the working mechanism of the miniature music box. Much like the Foldscope, the minuscule "21st century chemistry set", based on microfluidics, has wide, openended applications. "We are trying to bring complex chemistry protocols to people around the world," says Prakash. "This will enable anybody to run complex chemical assays — say test milk for urea or other poisonous adulterants or test the quality of soil in your farm."

Born in Meerut, Prakash went to college at IIT, Kanpur. His childhood, he says, taught him how limited access to scientific tools is. He remembers constructing a lot of scientific instruments as a child just because they were things he could not buy. In fact, the Foldscope was not his first attempt at making a microscope. Using lenses from his brother's broken spectacles, Prakash had, at 10, tried to make a cardboard tube microscope. It didn't work but he fondly remembers the journey. He explains, "Sometimes, the lack of resources fuels creativity. I am not interested in the final product but the journey of making people curious about the world we live in."

Prakash and his team are now choosing 10,000 beta users around the world to put the Foldscope to whatever use they want. They now have people from 130 countries working on the project, including an Indian scientist who is trying to train local farmers to cultivate a specific fish which kills insect larvae. "Every farmer will need a microscope to test if the ciliates (microscopic organisms) are doing well or not. This is a great example of what we are trying to do," says Prakash.

Prakash and his team will also be starting field work in India on an oral cavity scanner, OScan, with material cost of just a few dollars. It uses smartphones to create detailed images of the oral cavity and is especially useful for diagnosing oral cancer.

Prakash believes solutions to big problems will come from people who can put effort, focus and passion into local problems. "If kids today only think about the salary package that awaits them, we have missed the whole point of education. We need to train the next generation to identify problems, tackle them, create new fields and industries. That only comes if we enable and empower them."



A FIELD DAY: Prakash and his team are now choosing 10,000 beta users around the world to put the Foldscope to whatever use they want

Hindu ND 04-May-14 P-10

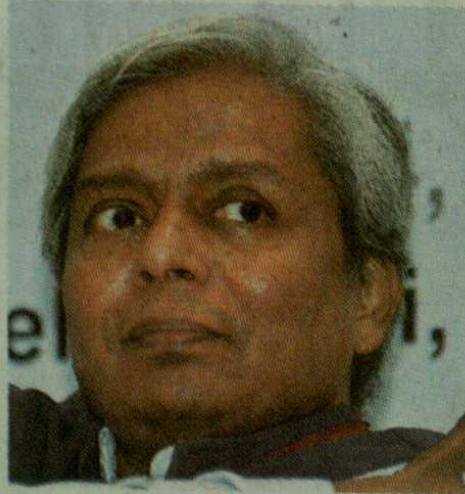
Biotech Secretary makes it to U.S. Academy

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: The Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, K. VijayRaghavan, has been elected a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. VijayRaghavan, who is also a Distinguished Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, joins a select group of Indians which includes the former NCBS Director, Obaid Siddiqi; National Research Professor C.N.R. Rao, evolutionary biologists Raghavendra Gadagkar and Madhav Gadgil, and aerospace engineer Roddam Narasimha.

Members are elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Membership is a widely accepted mark of excellence in science and is considered one of the highest honours a scientist can receive. Dr. VijayRaghavan is one of 21



K. VijayRaghavan

new foreign associates elected this year. He was recently elected Fellow of the Royal Society (London) and is also the recipient of several prestigious awards such as the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, the J.C. Bose Fellowship and the Infosys Science Prize in Life Sciences.

He says, "Thanks all... And, we all should not forget to thank all those who manage this environment every day, making sure we all can do our science unfettered. Congrats to all of you then and lots more to do and lots more fun to be had doing science."

Dr. VijayRaghavan's initial training was in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur. He then decided to pursue a career in Life Sciences research and did his graduate studies on genetic analysis of flight muscle at the Tata Institute of Fundamental research in Mumbai. He was a postdoctoral fellow and Senior Research Fellow of the California Institute of Technology. Thereafter, he returned to India to set up a laboratory for Drosophila developmental genetics and with Obaid Siddiqi and colleagues, worked to establish and develop the NCBS. His work has been on the brain-muscle interface and how cells and individuals make decisions that lead to their merging their identities to achieve an effective system function, according to a release.

"Vijay's election to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences is a proud moment for all of us," says NCBS Director Satyajit Mayor.

May 5**Business Line ND 05/05/2014 P-13**

DBT Secretary elected to US National Academy of Sciences

OUR BUREAU

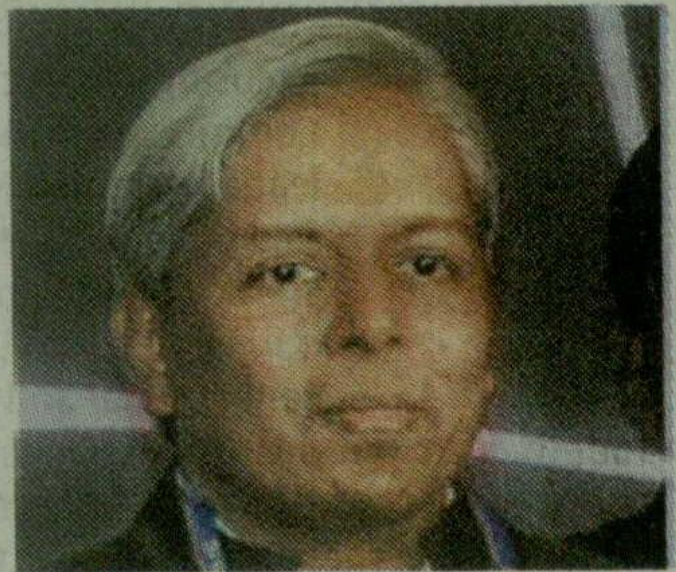
Chennai, May 4

K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, has been elected a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, according to a press release.

VijayRaghavan, who is also a Distinguished Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, is one of 21 foreign associates elected this year. He was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (London).

Members are elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their achievements in original research. It is a widely accepted mark of excellence in science and is considered one of the highest honours that a scientist can receive.

The release, quoting VijayRaghavan, said: "Thanks all. All the ku-



K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology

dos go to the terrific students, research fellows, post docs and collaborators here and all over the world who have done wonderful work in a wonderful environment."

Satyajit Mayor, Director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, said: "Vijay's election to the US National Academy of Sciences is a proud moment for all of us."

HT.Com ND 05.05.2014 P-6



■ Anil Rajvanshi (above), was honoured by the University of Florida, one of the US' top varsities, for his remarkable work in the area of rural development

FILE

University of Florida honours Indian engineer

KS Jayaraman

Anil Rajvanshi, a renewable energy pioneer of India, Saturday was honoured by the University of Florida, one of the leading universities in the US, for his "groundbreaking" work in rural development.

Rajvanshi is the first Indian to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honour the University of Florida can bestow on persons who have graduated from the university and have excelled in their chosen field.

A mechanical engineering graduate of IIT Kanpur, Rajvanshi earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1979. He joined its faculty for two years before returning to India in 1981 to run his own rural non-governmental organisation, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), at Phaltan in Maharashtra.

The award was presented to Rajvanshi by Cammy Abernathy, dean of the

University's College of Engineering, at the commencement convocation in Gainesville, Florida, in a glittering ceremony webcast alive via internet.

"NARI has done groundbreaking work in agriculture, renewable energy and sustainable development," the university said in a statement read out during the presentation.

"Rajvanshi has devoted the last 33 years to applying sophisticated science and technology to solve problems faced by rural communities in areas of energy, water and income inequality," it said.

Rajvanshi's work on rural development has won him several national and international awards as well as induction into the Solar Hall of Fame. The awards include Jammalal Bajaj Award and the Platinum Jubilee Award of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India, and the Energy Globe Award of Energy Globe Foundation — a non-profit organisation in Austria. **IAN S**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: May 5, 2014; Section: Education Times; Page: 39;



IIT-B'S MOOC

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, launched its first three massive open online courses (MOOCs), in collaboration with edX, an online learning venture of Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States. IIT-

Bombay's first MOOCs on the global platform are 'Introduction to computer programming, part 1', 'Introduction to computer programming, part 2' and 'Thermodynamics'. IIT Bombay and edX, which joined hands last year, are going to start the courses by July this year. The three courses will be

available to students across the world.

India's MIT basks in Nadella-Suri glory

Institute recalls them as fairly average in their batch of 1989; students attribute success stories to the environment here

TIKA SHARMA PUNTI
Manipal, 4 May

A large banner congratulating Satya Nadella, the newly appointed chief executive officer of global technology giant Microsoft, welcomes you as you enter his alma mater here, the Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT). Another is going to be put up soon — for Rajeev Suri, who recently took charge as CEO of Nokia. MIT is obviously hoping many more such banners would come up in the days to come.

While it's business as usual on the 188-acre campus, with students preparing for the coming end-semester exams, one can almost feel the celebratory undertone in the corridors, the canteen and common areas. A mere mention of the two illustrious alumni gets students charged up.

"Nadella and Suri remain at the back of our mind. It adds to our confidence that both studied on the same campus where we are," says Prateeksha, a third-year student from Assam.

The list of illustrious alumni does not end at these two names. As one enters the office of Director Vinod Thomas, a list of around 10 names who've made it big is made available. Thomas reads out names from this list and repeats them. "We are not making any claims. The fact is that Nadella and Suri were not toppers at the college and they remained mostly unnoticed those days."

Besides Nadella and Suri, MIT is the alma mater of Banmali Agrawala, now the CEO and president of GE South Asia; Anant J Talaulicar, chairman of Cummins India, and P V Sridhar, a senior director, operations engineering, at Apple Inc, among others. It is also alma mater of Arun Shenoy, a nominee for the Grammy Awards in the category of Best Instrumental Pop Album in 2012, and celebrity chef Vikas Khanna.

In its 57th year, MIT-Manipal has a little over 2,000 students qualifying from its 16 undergraduate



ALL ABOUT THE MANIPAL INSTITUTE

QUICK FACTS

- Established in 1957 by T M A Pai
- 16 undergraduate, 24 postgraduate programmes
- Approved by AICTE & accredited by NBA
- Residential campus with over 7,500 students, 500 faculty
- Wi-Fi-enabled campus
- MoUs with more than 15 foreign universities
- Innovation centre to foster ideation, innovation & incubation
- 100 technical and non-technical student clubs

*EC: Electronics and communication engineering

RANKING

2 in *Electronics for You's* Top 50 Private Engineering Colleges of 2011

12 in *Mint's* Top 50 Private Engineering Colleges of 2009

24 in *India Today's* Best Engineering colleges of 2012

31 by educational portal *Shiksha.com*

LIST OF ILLUSTRIOUS ALUMNI & BATCHES

SATYA NADELLA (EC, 1988) – CEO, Microsoft
RAJEEV SURI (EC, 1989) – CEO, Nokia
BANMALI AGRAWALA (Mechanical, 1984) – CEO & president, GE South Asia
ANANT J TALAULICAR (Mechanical, 1984) – chairman & CEO, Cummins India Ltd
ASHOK KRISHNAMURTHY (Electrical, 1986) – Former VP, Juniper Networks; founder & CEO, Xsigo Systems (acquired by Oracle for \$220 mn)

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Electrical, 1985) – Member of Parliament, Bangalore Urban; chairman & CEO, Juniper Capital; FICCI president; former CEO & founder, BPL Mobile
P V SRIDHAR (EC, 1979) – Senior director-operations engineering at Apple Computers, Inc
GLENVILLE DA SILVA (Chemical, 1979) – VP business development (Asia) at Volvo Construction Equipment
ARUN SHENOY (Computer, 1999) – Music composer; Grammy nominee

THE 'RAJEEV SURI' FACTOR

Manipal Institute of Technology invites its 'silver alumni batch', the batch that graduated 25 years earlier, to the campus for an alumni meet each year. This year, it is the turn of the batch of 1989, which includes Rajeev Suri, the new CEO of Nokia. The college says around 200 of his batchmates would be present at the event. It sent an invitation to Suri, too, but is yet to get a confirmation.

HONOURS SHOWER

MIT Manipal has contacted both its outstanding alumni, Satya Nadella and Rajeev Suri, to congratulate them. The two have responded, expressing their gratitude. The institute is planning to honour them with its University Honorary Doctorate and Distinguished Alumni Awards during their next visit. Students might get to interact with them.

and 24 postgraduate courses each year, plus around 10 PhDs. The institute has 18 departments and about 550 faculty members.

Placement hope

While the hype over the illustrious alumni continues, students hope this means better job placements. The average compensation offered to MIT Manipal graduates during campus selection is only ₹5-7 lakh a year, less than half at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). That's perhaps why Thomas laughs when told his institute is now being compared with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Cambridge.

"We are beginners when it comes to global colleges," says Thomas, himself an alumnus of MIT Manipal, who took up his current role in 2012. "We are beginners even in comparison to the IITs," says the former student of IIT-Madras.

Even as current and older

students of MIT Manipal agree it lacks the competitive edge and illustrious placements of the IITs, all unanimously say the curriculum and style of teaching of the institute inculcates leadership and managerial skills, along with technical expertise.

"There is a culture of learning at MIT. It's not about course books and exams alone," said Elvin Jacob, an alumnus of sister-institute Manipal Institute of Communications (MIC), who studied at the university for five years and has had close communication with peers at MIT-Manipal. "In the five years I was at Manipal, there was always this excitement across the MIT campus, to take part in the several activities. Students of MIT hardly ever went back to their hostels in the evenings; they were always at the campus, taking part in the hundreds of activities that are held there."

The institute has a little over 100 technical and non-technical student groups.

Some of the interesting ones include Mafia – a music and fine arts club and Formula Manipal, which develops a racing car every year and takes it to international car racing events. Last year, the car developed by the Formula Manipal Group was awarded the second best cost-effective car at an international event.

Additionally, the college has a state-of-the-art curriculum, a significant part of which has been developed keeping in mind industry requirements. MIT-Manipal has several industry-sponsored courses, in alliance with companies such as Cisco and Schneider. Unlike the IITs, it reserves the last semester (the eighth) for "student mobility", where there are no classroom studies and students have to go to industry and work.

Recently the college also started offering one module in management across all courses, aimed at helping these engineers become better leaders in their future jobs. "This

course looks to ensure that students learn beyond just technology. They are trained on soft skills and leadership skills that they would require in the workplace," says Thomas.

In line with the growing trend of entrepreneurship and innovation, the institute in 2007 set up a Manipal University Technology Business Incubator. This provides facility, technology assistance and mentorship to projects of its students for 18-36 months; it holds 32 patents.

Student selection

Thomas says the institute's success also lies in the selection of students given admissions every year. With the average fees for the four-year course (excluding hostel expenses) at close to ₹10 lakh, the air-conditioned campus mainly attracts children of upper middle-class families with strong financial backing, who might be more risk-taking, said Thomas. "We are

attracting a particular segment of students," he explained. "We get students from all across the country but since this is a residential programme, they have to bear these expenses, which means these are kids whose families are reasonably positioned."

The institute does have a small reservation for students on a merit-cum-means basis in its National Online Entrance Exam. Interactions with some of the current students showed most come from families that are comfortable in bearing the college fees and expenses of the (optionally) air-conditioned hostel, which can go as high as ₹70,000 a year.

Despite the high cost, the college saw over 45,000 applications this year against 39,000 for the previous batch. Thomas believes the Nadella and Suri factor will reach students as a message. "Nadella and Suri have given us great visibility, more than what any advertisement campaign could," he says.

'We select students only on merit'



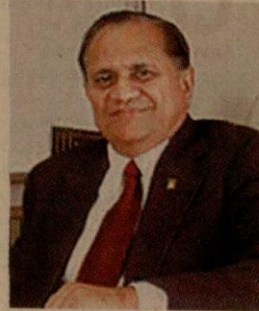
RAMDAS M PAI

President and chancellor, Manipal University

Manipal University recently saw two of its alumni – Satya Nadella and Rajeev Suri – take up top jobs at Microsoft and Nokia, respectively. In an email interview, the university's president and chancellor **RAMDAS M PAI** explains to **Itika Sharma Punit** what it means for the university and Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT). Edited excerpts:

What are your thoughts on the recent success of two of your alumni?

I have immense satisfaction that the facilities we have provided for students in our institutions are being well utilised by the students. We know the two alumni who have recently shot into international fame had put in a lot of hard work in their student days here and, hence, could attain such a status. Even at the stage of our admissions, we select students only on merit, and this has naturally contributed to the success of the students.



What is MIT's contribution to the success of its alumni?

MIT provides all the facilities and necessary atmosphere to the students to study well with the guidance and stimulation provided by the faculty. MIT takes pleasure that its contribution in shaping the students has been worthwhile.

Has the institute seen a surge in the number of applications for admission this year?

We have not seen any unusual surge in the number of applications but the institution has been able to be recognised as one of the best in the country in the private sector.

How did the faculty and students react to Nadella and Suri's success?

The mood of the MIT faculty and students is naturally upbeat when their alumni have been able to rise to such positions. We have not had any internal celebrations to mark the achievements of the two alumni as yet.

Has the university contacted Nadella or Suri? Do you plan to facilitate the two?

Manipal University has contacted both of them and congratulated them on their success. They have also responded expressing their gratitude to the institution. We are planning to honour them with our University Honorary Doctorate and Distinguished Alumni Awards during their next visit to Manipal, and also provide them an opportunity to speak with the current students.

There is a buzz that the college might increase fees as the demand for admission rises?

The revision of fees does not depend on the rush for admissions. It depends on the cost of education. If the running cost of the institution goes up, naturally, the fees will have to be revised. The fee fixation is done by a committee according to the direction of the University Grants Commission.

SCIENCE INNOVATION POLICY AND THE NORTH-EAST

A REGIONAL APPROACH TO SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IS THE ONLY OPTION FOR THE STATES OF THE NORTH-EAST, WRITES RANGAN DUTTA

The National Science and Technology and Innovation policy Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced in the Kolkata session of the Indian Science Congress has not yet received good response. It was, therefore, heartening to note that the Indian Science News Association, whose bi-monthly magazine *Science and Culture* has been published since 1935, organised a national seminar on this subject in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at the Bose Institute, Kolkata., on 26-26 February.

It must be noted that while the previous science and technology policies envisaged an integrated system, the accent of the new policy is on innovation, both in products and processes, not just for application in large industries but also in small and micro industries and suitable for commercial application for value addition.

This element was somewhat missing or inadequately stressed in previous policies, while it is now stated in the 2013 policy that in theory science and technology and innovation could exist in disconnected spaces rather than in a mutually supportive role as in Japan and Korea. Thus the former situation, as it seems to exist in India, could offer sub-optimal innovation output while the latter could optimise the same without much additional cost. This is a bold initiative summed up in the acronym SRISHTI – Science, Research and Innovation System for High Technology path for India.

The policy recommends a number of steps, such as expanded inter- and multi-disciplinary research, inter-university programmes and industry-academia collaboration in R&D to create an innovation eco-system. It calls upon the states to develop S&T vision as a part of the national STI vision.

While this may be realised in a state like Tamil Nadu or West Bengal which have a network of R&D institutions and industrial base, in the North-east, given the spatial distribution of its population, the rather small size of five states and limited R & D infrastructure, a regional approach would be the only option.

This is because the eco-system for innovation cannot be state- or area-specific as the products have to be industry- or activity-specific, which knows no boundaries. The innovative product must stand the test of the market.

However, the scope of a North-east STI policy is vast. The region needs an integrated water policy encompassing conservation of river systems, wetland, sustainable ground water use, development of waterways in a manner that will protect the rich bio-diversity and conserve forests

and environment.

A scientific land use policy is not in place in the North-east as the state land use boards have not been functional; as a result, there has been haphazard growth of urban areas and surface transport system. There is also much scope for value addition through innovation in manufacturing, particularly in medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME) in handlooms, bamboo and cane crafts, manufacture of hand tools, electrical and agricultural implements, as there has been no dedicated R&D for the MSME sector that employs a large workforce, specially women in the informal sector of the economy.

Another potential area for R&D is pharmaceuticals because the North-east, being a biodiversity hotspot, is endowed with numerous herbs and medicinal plants which could provide a base for the industry. What stands in the way is not just capital but capacity to innovate pharmaceutical products and to attain standards capable of meeting the exacting quality specifications of markets – domestic and international, particularly in South East Asia.

The focus of STI policy for the North-east should also have a “Look East” angle, including Nepal and Bangladesh markets in matters such as R&D in construction of hill roads, bridges and structures so that the research output of the region is made suitable for adaptation in these countries.

In this way, the North-east STI policy could serve as an integrative force in the upper sub-Himalayan region. As of now, the North-east, with her network of 17 universities, including deemed universities, like IIT Guwahati, could emerge as provider of knowledge and innovation, capable of forging partnerships with South East Asia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.

To achieve this, the North-east needs a STI regional vision and the will to improve its S&T infrastructure. This may begin with a hard look at science education at the high school and secondary levels with a view to improving the teaching of science and mathematics and laboratory facilities. Systematic and regular training of teachers in these subjects is essential to ensure that a larger number of students of the region go for the science stream. A study on the subject, based on higher secondary examination statistics of the states for the year 2010, suggests that Assam has the dubious distinction of having the lowest percentage (six) of students under the state board in the science stream.

Many of the action points for the North-east under the new STI policy cannot be left to the states only, such as the action under the national programme on climate change, and would require consultation with all stakeholders including S&T institutions, NGOs and cooperatives, industry, entrepreneurs and the broad civil society. A suitable platform for these initiatives could be the North Eastern Council, as its mandate includes regional planning.

THE AUTHOR, A FORMER ASSAM CADRE IAS OFFICER AND SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT IN THE OFFICE OF THE PSA TO THE GOI IS PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE-ASIA-PACIFIC, NEW DELHI



BREAKTHROUGH

Super PCs to match the brain

Microchip makes your PC work like a human brain

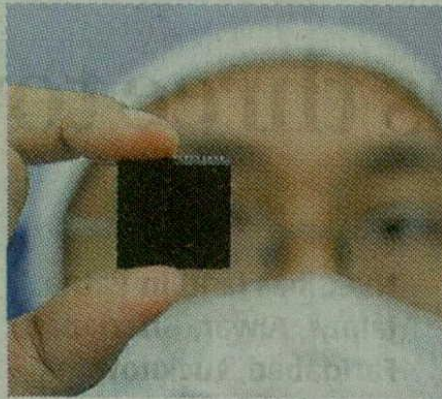
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, May 4

Distressed at the slow speed of your personal computer? Here comes a microchip that would give your PC a speed that is 9,000 times faster than an average one. Modeled on the human brain, Neurogrid chip can simulate one million neurons and billions of synapses or brain connections.

Speed up

That is a vast improvement over previous brain simulations but still only a fraction



of the roughly 80 billion neurons in the human brain, researchers said.

No match for nature?

“From a pure energy perspective, the brain is hard to match. Not only are personal computers slower, they take 40,000 times more power than the brain to run,” said Kwabena Boahen, a bio-engi-

neer at Stanford University whose brainchild the chip is.

Neurogrid has of 16 custom-designed Neurocore chips in a device the size of an iPad.

Possible avenues

This can open up windows into understanding the human brain and developing new forms of computing patterned after brain circuits.

Now, the scientists are working to adapt Neurogrid for controlling prosthetic limbs for paralysed people.

The chip can translate brain signals into movements of the limb, without overheating the brain, media reports said.

Times of India ND 05/05/2014 P-13

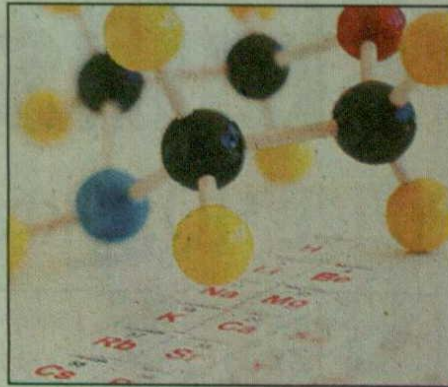
Existence of elusive element 117 confirmed

Tetra Images/Corbis

Berlin: The periodic table is about to get crowded with the addition of a new, super-heavy element. Researchers, including some from India, have created atoms of element 117, matching the heaviest atoms ever observed, which are 40% heavier than an atom of lead.

The decay properties measured by an international team working at the GSI accelerator laboratory in Germany match previous data, strengthening the case for official recognition of element 117 as a new element. The finding marks an important step towards the capability to observe still more long-lived superheavy nuclei.

The experiment was performed by an international team of chemists and physi-

**CREATED IN LAB**

cists headed by Christoph Düllmann, from SGI Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the Helmholtz Institute Mainz. The team included 72 scientists and engineers from 16 institutions in Australia, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.

Elements beyond atomic

number 104 are referred to as super-heavy elements. Although super-heavy elements have not been found in nature, they can be produced by shooting accelerated beams of nuclei at the heaviest possible target nuclei. In the new research, the special berkelium target material, essential for the synthesis of element 117, was produced over 18 months. Atoms of element 117 were separated from huge numbers of other nuclear reaction products and were identified through their radioactive decay.

These measured chains of alpha-decays produced isotopes of lighter elements with atomic numbers 115 to 103, whose registration added to the proof for the observation of element 117. AGENCIES

आरिवरी चरण में आईआईटी के लिए हो सकती है कड़ी प्रतिस्पर्धा

एम सरस्वती
मुंबई, 4 मई

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) में प्रवेश पाने के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) एडवांस 2014 में शामिल होने वाले विद्यार्थियों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कड़ी हो सकती है, क्योंकि इस बार कट ऑफ मार्क पिछले साल की तुलना में ज्यादा है और इस साल टॉप 20 पर्सेंटाइल का दायरे में भी प्रतिस्पर्धा का स्तर बढ़ सकता है।

जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा 2014 के पहले प्रश्नपत्र में (बीई, बीटेक जैसे पाठ्यक्रम के लिए आईआईटी में प्रवेश हेतु) सामान्य श्रेणी के लिए कट आफ 115 है, जो पिछले साल 113 थी।

इस साल आईआईटी के लिए 13,50,000 अभ्यर्थी शामिल हुए थे, जिसमें से सिर्फ 1,50,000 ही जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण हुए हैं और ये अभ्यर्थी अब जेईई एडवांस परीक्षा 2014 में शामिल होंगे। राव आईआईटी के रणनीति व योजना के प्रमुख चंदन दीक्षित ने कहा कि

कट आफ बढ़ी है, इसकी वजह यह हो सकती है कि ऑनलाइन परीक्षा तुलनात्मक रूप से आसान थी।

आईआईटी परीक्षा की तैयारी कराने के लिए प्रमुख केंद्र राजस्थान के कोटा से 27,000 से 30,000 विद्यार्थी चयनित हुए हैं, जहां राँव आईआईटी, रेजोनेंस और करियर प्वाइंट सहित कई और कोचिंग संस्थान चलते हैं। कुछ अध्यापक चुनाव ड्यूटी पर हैं, जिससे यह डर है कि कुछ बोर्डों के परीक्षा परिणाम में देरी हो सकती है। जो विद्यार्थी 25 जून 2014 तक 12वीं या समकक्ष परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण नहीं कर सकेंगे, उन्हें जेईई मुख्य परीक्षा 2014 की रैंकिंग में शामिल नहीं किया जाएगा।

आईआईटी प्रवेश से जुड़े एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि अगर कुछ राज्यों की बोर्ड परीक्षाओं में देरी होती है, जो सेंट्रल बोर्ड आफ सेकंडरी एजुकेशन (सीबीएसई) और इंडियन स्कूल सर्टिफिकेट (आईएससी) जैसे अन्य बोर्डों के विद्यार्थियों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ सकती है।

Hindustan ND 05/05/2014 P-3

जेईई-एडवांस टेस्ट की फीस दोगुनी हुई

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए होने वाली जेईई-एडवांस परीक्षा का शुल्क दोगुनी बढ़ा दिया गया है जिससे छात्रों को हैरानी है। सामान्य छात्रों के लिए एंट्रेस एग्जाम का शुल्क एक हजार से बढ़ाकर दो हजार रुपये कर दिया गया है। सुपर-30 के संस्थापक आनंद कुमार ने केंद्र सरकार ने इस शुल्क वृद्धि को वापस लेने की मांग की है, क्योंकि गरीब छात्रों को इससे कठिनाई हो रही है।

जेईई-मेन परीक्षा में टॉप रहने वाले

डेढ़ लाख छात्रों को एडवांस में बैठने का मौका मिलता है जिनमें से करीब दस हजार छात्र आईआईटी के लिए चुने जाते हैं। एडवांस टेस्ट का आयोजन आईआईटी संस्थान खुद करते हैं जिसके लिए इस बार दो हजार रुपये शुल्क रखा गया है।

बता दें कि इस बार जेईई मेन के शुल्क में भी बढ़ोत्तरी हुई थी जो 800 से बढ़ाकर एक हजार किया गया था। इस मामले में मंत्रालय का कहना है कि इस मामले में आईआईटी स्वतंत्र होते हैं, सरकार का उसमें कोई दखल नहीं होता।

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Harvard, IIM grads give Amethi a manifesto of, for and by people

Pankaj Jaiswal

■ pjaiswal@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: While the jury's still out over which way the wind will blow in Amethi — so far a Congress bastion — a group of graduates from Harvard, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) have shed light on what the people of the constituency want from their political representatives.

The Lok Sangrah Abhiyaan, a group of young professionals, has come up with a citizens' manifesto for Amethi, based on discussions with residents of the district, and handed it over to some key contestants. The group has around 15

members and as many volunteers.

Amethi will witness a high-profile race between Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, AAP's Kumar Vishwas and Smriti Irani of the BJP.

"The manifesto was ready a few weeks ago and has been given to Irani, Vishwas, the BSP's Dharmendra Pratap Singh, and Rahul's campaign in-charge," said Vinod Yadav, 38, convener of the group. The Harvard graduate left a lucrative corporate job to work for people's development.

The manifesto is a compilation of the demands of voters from 500 villages and the town, say group members. The Lok Sangrah Abhiyaan held marathon discus-

sions with villagers.

"Political parties impose their unilateral manifesto on voters. It should be the other way round; people should put forth their demands," said Yadav.

Yadav said the step has had the intended effect — while Vishwas has released an Amethi-specific manifesto, Irani is reportedly coming out with one too.

Amethi, however, is only the starting point for the group eyeing a national platform for their mission of making parties more people-centric. "We wanted to start from a politically important place," said Arun Gaurav, 27, who did his B Tech from IIT-Kanpur and then studied at IIM-Lucknow.

Times of India ND 05/05/2014 P-13

Heart-attack vaccine may be tested in India

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

Stockholm: Swedish scientists who have developed a vaccine that has shown tremendous promise against coronary artery diseases and strokes are keen to test it in India. Atherosclerosis is a condition where arteries become clogged up by fatty substances (such as cholesterol) which form plaque. This causes arteries to harden and narrow, blocking the blood supply to the heart and triggering a heart attack or a stroke in the brain. The vaccine prevents plaque accumulation.

Carani B Sanjeevi from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm is in final-stage talks with Indian medical institutes to test the vaccine on Indians. Sanjeevi, who is from the Institute's department of medicine and is an adviser to its innovation office, wants the vaccine to be specific to Indians who

are known to be genetically prone to heart attack.

Speaking to **TOI** at the India Unlimited Festival organized by the Indian embassy here, Sanjeevi said, "Trials may soon take place in India. We are in discussions with top medical institutes which will develop the vaccine with Swedish researchers for the Indian market."

As many as 45 million coronary artery disease cases

HOPE FLOATS

were diagnosed in India in 2010

and the figure is expected to go up to 60 million by 2015.

Vaccination against the receptor that the T cells (a type of white blood cells) use to recognize bad LDL cholesterol can block the immune reaction and reduce the disease by 70%. The vaccine has been successfully tested on animals and the researchers now hope to develop it into a treatment for patients with a high risk of myocardial infarction and stroke.

Combination of choice and merit to determine minor courses in DU

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After days of confusion among students and in colleges, the Delhi University has finally come out with a set of guidelines to allot minor courses (or DC II) courses to the first batch of the four year undergraduate programme students.

The university had constituted a committee to look into a fair way to allot courses after it was reported that each college was formulating its own guideline to do so.

According to the guideline, all colleges will allot DC II courses on the basis of a combination of choice and merit.

“In case the number of students’ option for a particular subject as DCII exceeds the number determined by the college for that particular subject then the allotment should be done in order of merit on the basis of the aggregate of marks obtained by a student in all the Foundation Courses and Applied Language Courses of semester I,” a circular issued by the university administration read.

The college will also have to keep in mind the reservation policy while allotting the courses.

The university has, meanwhile, left the choice of offering two separate courses or just one to the college. The minor subjects could be offered as a set of six papers of the same subject over two semesters or as a combination of three papers of two DCIIs over two semesters.

It will be up to a college to decide the minimum number of students required to start a particular DC II course.

The university has also got a large number of requests from colleges to start a DC II course in management studies. It has therefore come out with clear guidelines on the topic.

Those colleges that can ably manage to run a DC II course in the subject by using the faculty they already have, may do so but without changes in the faculty strength of any department.

While colleges are supposed to offer those DCII options for which they are running an honours course, there are some exceptions.

A college can offer a DC II course with an honours course if a department of that subject exists in the college already.