Newspaper Clips
May 9, 2015

Pranab's Moscow visit to boost India-Russia education ties

President Pranab Mukherjee being received by by Igor Morgulov, Dy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia and other dignitaries from India & Russia at Vnukov International Airport, Moscow.

The President has arrived in Moscow with Higher education honchos from IIT, DU and ISI to sign MoUs

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pranabs-moscow-visit-to-boost-indiarussia-education-ties/article7184061.ece

President Pranab Mukherjee landed in Moscow on Thursday for a visit aimed at reaffirming old ties between Russian and Indian soldiers who fought together during the Second World War, but also at restoring education ties between the next generation of young Russians and Indians. At least eight MoUs will be signed between Indian institutes and Russian Universities on Friday, with a high- power delegation of higher education officials travelling with the President.

Among them are directors of IIT Delhi, Mumbai and Madras, the Indian Statistical Institute, the Institute of Engineers (India) as well as the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University. “The purpose is to recognise Russia’s strength in scientific and technological research, and to build a network students and professors who can

conduct joint research together," Secretary in the Department of Higher Education Satyanarayan Mohanty told *The Hindu* onboard the President's special aircraft.

Equally important, admit officials, will be finding new ways of attracting Indian students to Russia, after a sharp decline in numbers since the Soviet era when thousands used to study medicine and other high education degrees here. By 2001-2002, the number was down to 130 after the uncertainty caused by the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In contrast, the US attracts more than 1 lakh Indian students a year while, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada account for nearly all the rest of the students going abroad for higher studies.

"One reason is language difficulties in Russia, the other is that with the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of the scholarships for Indian students dried up," explained Mr. Mohanty.

The MoUs will be signed on the historic Moscow State University campus that dates back to 1755, and Delhi University students can soon look forward to the option of studying some courses here as well. "There is the possibility in the near future of our students drawing credit from each of the two institutions, and I expect DU students to find Moscow an attractive destination, and likewise for MSU students to find Delhi University attractive too," DU Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh told *The Hindu.*

Russian education officials say the key will also be to encourage students and universities to collaborate on research rather than only come as students, as both India and Russia are known for their high standard of innovation, particularly in the IITs. According to Edward Crawley, the president of the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, along with the Tomsk University, one of the universities hoping to tie up with IITs, "Both the countries are interested in developing more indigenous economic capability. Reasons are different, but the outcome is same -- to become less reliant on products from the West or manufacturing from China." SkolTech, as it is called, now offers courses with English as a language of instruction and hopes to attract at least 3-4 per cent of its student population from India after the MoUs are signed and 30-40 per cent in the future, according an interview Mr. Crawley gave to the Russia-India Report news agency.

Mr. Mukherjee is on a four-day visit to Moscow, primarily to attend the 70 commemoration of victory day for World War 2, and to meet with President Putin.

Hindustan ND 09/05/2015 P-5

'टेक्टाइल' तकनीक से गणित-भूगोल पढ़ेंगे दृष्टिहीन

तकनीक

नई दिल्ली | रोहित पंवार

दृष्टिहीन छात्रों के लिए मानचित्र और गणित के रेखाचित्र आदि समझाने व पढ़ाने के लिए आईआईटी ने 'टेक्टाइल' तकनीक को विकसित किया है। इससे मानचित्र और गणित के रेखाचित्र आदि पाठ्य सामग्री को मोटी परत की तस्वीरों में बदला जाएगा, जिसे छूकर दृष्टिहीन छात्र आकृति को समझ लेते हैं।

नेशनल काउंसिल ऑफ एजुकेशनल रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग (एनसीईआरटी) ने आईआईटी दिल्ली से यह तकनीक तैयार करवाई है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के वरिष्ठ परियोजना वैज्ञानिक कामेश्वर राव ने बताया कि इस तकनीक में टेक्टाइल ग्राफिक तैयार किए जाते हैं। ये मोटी परत की तस्वीरें होती हैं। विभिन्न आकृति की इन तस्वीरों के किनारों को छूना पड़ता है। इन्हें स्पर्श करने से दृष्टिहीन छात्र आसानी से आकृति के बारे में समझ सकते हैं। यही नहीं, हर मानचित्र में उससे जुड़ा ब्योरा होता है। ब्योरा ब्रेल लिपि में होता है।

वैज्ञानिक कामेश्वर ने बताया कि अब तक कुल 25 मानचित्र तैयार किए गए हैं। सत्र 2015-16 के पाठ्यक्रम में इस तकनीक के जरिये पढ़ाने की तैयारी है। बता दें कि अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन में इस तकनीक का इस्तेमाल होता है। योग दिवस के लिए भी आईआईटी योग की टेक्टाइल किताब तैयार कर रहा है।

किताबें बनाई जाएंगी

एनसीईआरटी के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि शुरू में इस विधि से तैयार मानचित्रों आदि को प्रयोग के तौर पर पढ़ाया जाएगा। यदि विधि सफल होती है तो टेक्टाइल ग्राफिक से सभी विषयों का पाठ्यक्रम तैयार होगा। वहीं गणित, फिजिक्स आदि विषयों के फॉर्मूले समझाने में इसका इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। अधिकारी के मुताबिक हर विषय की किताबें भी तैयार होंगी।

ऐसा होगा टेक्टाइल तकनीक से तैयार मानचित्र।

महंगी है विधि

टेक्टाइल ग्राफिक से पढ़ाने की विधि महंगी है। एक मानचित्र को तैयार करने में तीन प्रक्रिया से गुजरना पड़ता है। इसमें एक खास शीट का प्रयोग होता है। भूगोल के एक मानत्रिच को तैयार करने में ढाई हजार रुपये तक खर्च आता है। रेखागणित के फॉर्मूले व चार्ट समझाने के लिए जो एक ग्राफिक तैयार होता है उसके निर्माण में ढाई हजार तक खर्च आता है।

Jansatta ND 09/05/2015 P-8

भारत का सबसे अहम रक्षा साझेदार बना रहेगा रूस : प्रणब

मास्को, 8 मई (भाषा)। राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि रूस और भारत के पड़ोस से पैदा हो रहा आतंकवाद दोनों देशों की सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है और इस समस्या से मुकाबले के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय की ठोस प्रतिबद्धता की जरूरत है। रूसी कूटनीतिक अकादमी की ओर से मानद डाक्टरेट डिग्री दिए जाने के बाद राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि भारत के इतिहास की मुश्किल घड़ियों में रूस मजबूती का एक स्तंभ रहा है, मास्को नई दिल्ली का सबसे महत्त्वपूर्ण रक्षा साझेदार है और आगे भी बना रहेगा। प्रणब ने कहा कि हमारे साझा पड़ोस से पैदा हो रहा आतंकवाद और चरमपंथ भारत और रूस की सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है। इस चुनौती से निपटने के लिए न केवल दोनों देशों की ठोस प्रतिबद्धता की जरूरत है, बल्कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय के बीच सहयोग भी आवश्यक है। मुखर्जी की यात्रा के दौरान रूस और भारत के कई शीर्ष संस्थानों ने वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान तथा प्रशिक्षण के क्षेत्र में शैक्षणिक सहयोग से जुड़े 11 सहमति पत्रों पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इन सहमति पत्रों पर राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी की मौजूदगी में दस्तखत किए गए। राष्ट्रपति पांच दिनों के रूस दौरे पर हैं। दोनों देशों के बीच हुए इन सहमति पत्रों में गणित, भौतिकी, रसायन विज्ञान और कंप्यूटर विज्ञान के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की बात शामिल है। कुछ सहमति पत्र आइआइटी-मुंबई और रूस के नेशनल तोमसेक स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी के बीच हुए समझौते पर मुख्य रूप से केंद्रित हैं जिसका मकसद संस्थानों के बीच शिक्षकों के सीधे जुड़ाव को प्रोत्साहित करना है। इसी तरह का एक समझौता आइआइटी दिल्ली के साथ हुआ है। शैक्षणिक सहयोग को मजबूत करने के मकसद से दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने रूस के एमवी लोमोनसोव मॉस्को स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी के साथ सहमति पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किया।

Ganga rejuvenation: IIT Consortium shares $100 bn financing framework

GRBMP suggests that the magnitude of the problem requires a capital expenditure of nearly 6-7 lakh crores rupees.

http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/ganga-rejuvenation-iit-consortium-shares-100-bn-financing-framework/70871/

The IIT Consortium (IITC) which is responsible for preparing the master plan for Ganga rejuvenation, has shared a draft blueprint to finance the rejuvenation and restoration of the river, at India International Centre in New Delhi.

The Consortium has already submitted the Ganga River Basin Management Plan 2015 (GRBMP) to the Government of India earlier in January.

The blueprint was a collective output of a multi-stakeholder group, IITC+ (IITC Plus) that has more than 150 national and international members. IIT Kanpur and Oval Observer Foundation, which is one of the working group members of the IITC+, has jointly organised the workshop.

Presenting a plan, Dr. Vinod Tare, Professor at IIT-Kanpur and Coordinator for GRBMP, outlined that the policy requires a paradigm shift in the approach to addressing the underlying problem.

Dr. Tare stressed the need to focus on developing Urban River Management Plans (URMPs) for the various strands of the Ganga River Basin.

GRBMP suggests that the magnitude of the problem requires a capital expenditure of nearly 6-7 lakh crores rupees (appx $100 bn) just to address the sewage, industrial effluents and municipal solid waste that is dumped into the river. It is essential that PPP models succeed as private sector capital base is crucial to compliment what the Government plans to spend.

The organisation laid down several conditions including making zero liquid discharge essential for large industrial polluters and creation of a market for treated sewage.

“The fundamental risk in a PPP type structure that the Government has to address is the counter party payment risk. If that is addressed through guarantee instruments, then this market can indeed take off,” said Sanmit Ahuja, a subject matter expert and a member of the IITC+ group.

He also presented ten advanced financial and economic instruments that can further make the PPP framework robust and bankable. These include, Ganga Blue Bonds, Shadow Tariffs, Credit wrapping and Enhancement, Water Quality Trading, Take-out Financing, F/x and Interest Rate Derivatives.

Parliamentary panel raises questions about quality of Ph.D holders

New Delhi: Raising serious questions about the quality of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) holders in the country, a http://www.livemint.com/Politics/lPL0W1AMY3kEnq4ZJFHKlM/Parliamentary-panel-raises-questions-about-quality-of-PhD-h.html

parliamentary panel has sought an evaluation report to understand why suitable candidates were hard to find for vacant teaching posts.

With over 7,000 research scholars being awarded Ph.D every year, the panel has suggested "reorienting" the entire system of evaluation of Ph.D and other research scholars.

In its report tabled in Parliament last week, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on human resource development stressed on increasing the number of research fellowships and new schemes for teaching assistantship, taking into account the shortage of teaching faculty in higher educational institutes.

Drawing attention to the quality aspect of Ph.D holders, the committee said they were rolling out of Indian universities like dime a dozen. "The Committee would like to have an evaluation report, if any, about the quality and standard of Ph.D holders across the country to understand why suitable candidates are difficult to find for the vacant positions. Maybe we need to reorient the entire system of evaluation of Ph.D and other research scholars," it said in its report.

Shortage of faculties in premier institutes such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) continues to be grim with no improvement foreseen in the near future, it said.

To address the issue, it suggested that if stricter norms for the appointment of faculty is coming in the way, then University Grants Commission (UGC) and other regulatory bodies should review them on regular basis and bring in necessary changes so as to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest. "HRD ministry should take steps to enhance the prestige of the teaching profession," it said.

Obama nominates IIT alumni Sanjita Pradhan to key post

http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/obama-nominates-iit-alumni-sanjita-pradhan-to-key-post/article1-1345423.aspx

US President Barack Obama has nominated an IIT alumni to his advisory commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

Obama on Saturday announced the nomination of Sanjita Pradhan, an MBA from the Indian Institute of Technology, along with other nominations for several key administration post.

"These men and women bring extraordinary dedication to their roles and will serve the American people well. I look forward to working with them," Obama said while making the announcement.

Pradhan, a Nepali American, is currently serving as an executive officer of the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs at the Iowa Department of Human Rights, a position she has held since 2013.

From 2010 to 2013, she served as Resettlement Director at Catholic Charities of Des Moines, Iowa.

She was previously the employment coordinator of Lutheran Services of Iowa's Refugee Cooperative Services from 2009 to 2010.

From 2007 to 2008, Pradhan was marketing coordinator at Principal Financial Group. She had served on the Advisory Board for the Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center.

IIT sought in Davangere

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/iit-sought-in-davangere/article7187049.ece

Members of Indian Institute of Technology College Horata Samiti took out a procession and staged a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner’s office here on Friday urging to pressure the Union government to set up an IIT in Davangere.

They took out the procession from Madakari Circle and culminated outside the Deputy Commissioner’s office.

They said that Davangere had a congenial atmosphere for the IIT with rail and road connectivity from every corner of the State.

“As per the Dr. Nanjundappa Committee report, the district is backward and has no major industries. So setting up IIT in the district would boost educational and economic growth,” they added.

Since there was ample land near Kondajji village there was a possibility that the surrounding area could get a boost and other institutions would also open their units.

Districts like Raichur, Hubballi-Dharwad and Mysuru already have a lot of technological institutes and universities and therefore the Centre should set up the institute here, they said.

They submitted a memorandum in this regard to Prime Minister Narendra Modi through Deputy Commissioner S.T. Anjankumar and said that the agitation would be intensified if the Union government failed to fulfill their demand soon.

IIM-L to collaborate with Danish varsity for health research

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

THE PROJECT WOULD TRY TO DEVISE SOLUTIONS FOR PROBLEMS OF INTER-ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH CARE SUPPLY CHAIN PROCESSES

LUCKNOW: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow and Aalborg University, Denmark will begin a new research project on 'Innovative Healthcare Collaboration' with a workshop at India Habitat Centre in the national capital on Saturday.

The research project will focus on identifying collaboration challenges to inter-organisational healthcare supply chain processes and solutions to address those challenges.

Officials said Indian and Danish hospitals were selected because they provided two unique settings for studying innovative healthcare collaboration. Indian hospitals have to provide low cost care to large populations by pushing the boundaries of external collaboration.

"And Danish hospitals have to develop collaboration that involves other sectors like municipalities in order to, for example, provide care to an aging population with multiple chronic diseases," said S Venkataramanaiah, associate professor in Operations Management and chairperson, IPMX-Placements, Indian I nstitute of Mana g ement Lucknow (Noida Campus).

The project will involve researchers from both the institutions and financial support from Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation as well as from IIM Lucknow.

The researchers come from the Center for Industrial Production, Aalborg University and the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. Their field of expertise is: hospital collaboration and coordination and hospital operations management and supply chains. Both groups also have ongoing research collaboration with hospitals.

As the first step in this project, the partnering institutions will organise a workshop at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, with delegates from healthcare organisations like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, King George Medical University, Lucknow, Narayana Health, ikureTechSoftPvt Ltd, Dr Lal Path Labs among others.

The workshop will be inaugurated by Freddy Svane, Ambassador of Denmark to India and the keynote address will be delivered by M Arumugam, MD & CEO, Broadline Technologies Pvt Ltd, Chennai.

IIT-K professor in US academy of science

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

KANPUR: A noted professor of the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Department at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K) Dr Manindra Agarwal has been appointed as one of the expert members to the US National Academy of Science. Dr Agarwal is the only professor who was selected for the coveted membership from the country. The 20-member Academy has 19 members from countries such as Canada, Mexico, Japan, Russia, Israel and Hong Kong. Elated over his appointment, Dr Agarwal said it was birthday gift this year. His birthday falls on May 20.Dr Agarwal is globally known for his researches. He has been awarded with Padmshri, Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Award, Clay Research Award and Fulkerson Award.

Team headed by IIT-Jodhpur director to help Nepal assess its quake damage

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Team-headed-by-IIT-Jodhpur-director-to-help-Nepal-assess-its-quake-damage/articleshow/47210035.cms

JODHPUR: Reaffirming its trust in India, Nepal has sought the neighbour's help in assessing the damage caused by the recent earthquake and preparing a report for reconstruction and restoration of the damaged structures.

For the task, the Centre has constituted a team, headed by IIT-Jodhpur director CVR Murti. Other members of the team are Ajay Chaurasia (CSIR, Roorkee), Yogendra Singh (IIT-Roorkee), R Pradeep Kumar (IIIT-Hyderabad) and Arun Menon (IIT-Chennai).

Amar Deep Sharma, spokesperson and assistant registrar of IIT-Jodhpur, said a letter to this effect was received by director Murti on Friday afternoon itself, intimating him about the request of Nepal and the decision of the prime minister's office to send a team headed by Murti.

Murti is considered an authority in the country in the field of structural engineering. He is known for his expertise in the earthquake-resistant structures.

"The team, during its five-day assignment in Nepal, will not only assess the level of damage caused by massive earthquake, but also prepare a report and give advice on reconstruction and restoration of damaged structures," said Sharma.

This assessment report will be submitted to the Indian government.

The team will help Nepal in facilitating the rapid reformation process to ensure that the country overcomes the scars of devastation and regain its pace.

Hindu ND 09/05/2015 P-2

DU not prepared for CBCS, says UGC

Kritika Sharma Sebastian

NEW DELHI: After the Union Human Resource Development Ministry's directive to Delhi University earlier this year to be cautious with the implementation of Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS), the University Grants Commission (UGC) has advised the varsity to wait before putting the system into practice.

Senior UGC member Professor Inder Mohan Kapahy said DU was not prepared to accommodate a change and that it should wait at least this year before implementing the CBCS.

"Any change should not be forced upon the University in a hurried manner. In case of the CBCS, DU is still not prepared to completely accept the system. There are many glaring issues that need to be addressed first. First of all, the University does not have enough number of permanent teachers. The number of ad hoc teachers is almost 45 per cent and hardly any of them have been made permanent. The University should first give permanent positions to teachers so that they have a big enough workforce," Professor Kapahy told *The Hindu*.

WAIT AND WATCH

DU officials however said the UGC had asked them to invite suggestions from colleges about implementation of CBCS in May and the session is supposed to begin from July.

"The UGC cannot call DU officials ill-prepared as they themselves sent us a notification to invite suggestions in May," a senior DU official said.

Though various teacher and staff associations of DU are opposed to implementation of the CBCS, the UGC has advised them not to reject the system completely. It has urged the teachers to help prepare for the same. "There is difference when you say there should be some time gap before a system is implemented and when you say that the system should not be implemented. My point of view is that the University should prepare itself before adopting the CBCS," Professor Kapahy added.

Delhi, Moscow varsities sign MoU

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

THE MOU WAS SIGNED BY DU AND MOSCOW STATE UNIV IN THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT PRANAB MUKHERJEE, WHO IS ON A 5-DAY VISIT TO RUSSIA

The Delhi University (DU) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University to offer new and 'exciting' possibilities in research and development fields.

The MoU was signed by DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh and Moscow State University rector Viktor Sadovnichy in presence of President Pranab Mukherjee , who is on a five- day visit to Russia to attend the celebration of the country's victory in World War-II against Germany.

"In keeping with the spirit and action of Indo-Russian cooperation at the University of Delhi for the last 68 years, this MoU will open new and exciting avenues for academic participation," a statement said.

The MoU will establish a wide ranging collaborative relationship in academic development, faculty-student exchange and research.

Two more MOUs are under discussion at the Delhi University (DU) to be concluded with the Russian State University of Humanities, Moscow and Tomsk State University, Tomsk for cooperation in different academic areas.

The Department of Russian language at DU, the first in the country, was inaugurated on October 2, 1947 at the initiative of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Scientists develop artifical cells from onions

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

WASHINGTON: Scientists at Taiwan's National University have developed artificial muscle cells that can contract and expand on application of a static current. Although the artificial muscle cells have better flexibility and mobility than any other substance used before, they remain relatively weak which scientists are trying to improve.