

Newspaper Clips

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CATCH THEM YOUNG

A RECENTLY-HELD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL EDUCATION FOCUSED ON INTRODUCING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE SCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM. **NEHA BHATIA** REPORTS

Ganesh Chandra

With the Right to Education Act coming into effect, prioritising excellence in school education needs to be recognised.

According to Kapil Sibal, minister, human resource development, there is an urgent need to constantly evaluate and push the boundaries of the primary and secondary education system.

Sibal was speaking at a three-day international conference, 'Excellence in School Education' held at IIT Delhi. The event saw a broad spectrum of discussions related to school education. This is the second annual conference bringing together 600 participants from the academic sector across the country.

The conference brought together leaders and policy-makers to discuss the challenges being faced inside and outside the classrooms. The broad objective of this conference was to explore issues of leadership, systems and processes, and curricula pedagogy and assessment.

The concerns addressed in the seminar ranged from school and society to the emerging domain of school leadership, effective leadership, learning organism vs organisation, school management processes, growth with quality, etc. With school principals as the primary audience, the sessions focused on the changing roles and responsibilities of principals, from mere headmistresses to change-agents, from administrators to leaders.

Vinayshil Gautam, conference chairman, emphasised that strong academic leadership can result in making the school education system more creative and interactive. That, Gautam stressed, would ultimately lead to positive institutional changes in the school education system.

More than hundred papers were presented during the three-day conference, making definitive recommenda-



tions to develop academic leadership, case studies of successful teaching models and documenting best practices followed internationally.

Elaborating more about the case studies, Surendra Prasad, director, IIT-Delhi shared, "The schools must foster freedom of thought and engage the child in understanding, challenging and improving social and econom-

ic structures. The issues of management of education need to be answered. Schools have grown in size and complexity. As a more informed parent body raises the issues of relevance and accountability, the challenges are many with few models of success. The needs of different demographic groups clearly differ from one another. The case studies presented in this conference have been carefully selected to represent schools that have successfully responded to the needs of the first, second and the third generation learners."

The conference also addressed issues

that include quality of education, developing new teaching curriculum and innovative methods of teaching and assessment.

Harish Chaudhary, conference coordinator, said, "The conference attempts to push the boundaries of our thinking capabilities for improvements in quality school education. This is our small effort of instituting positive change in the school education system."

As part of the deliberations of the workshop, participants were reminded of the primary role of education — to develop competent citizens equipped to confront the realities of the next generation. With this central thesis, ideas were developed and shared.

Speakers at the conference included Vinayshil Gautam, Shantha Sinha, Mathew Rich, Anthony Denapoli, Grace Pinto, Raja Ram Sharma, GS Madhav Rao, Govinda, AK Sharma, Atul Temurnikar, Peter McLaughlin and Sunil Batra, among others.

QUALITY IN EDUCATION

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 1, 2010; Section: Education Times; Page: 53;
(President of Yale University), Debashis Chatterjee (director of IIM-Kozhikode), and Sanjay Dhande (director of IIT-Kanpur) on October 28.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Yale University, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Kozhikode, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur has recently formed a partnership. A memorandum of understanding was signed by Richard Levin

Semesters here to stay, says new VC of Delhi Univ

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: The semester system is not only here to stay, it will soon be expanded further in Delhi University, despite teachers' resistance to it.

Speaking to TOI in his first interview to the media after taking charge, new DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh said the curriculum of more courses would soon be revised to enable a switch to the semester system in the next session. He added that he was open to suggestions and due process would be followed for implementation of the system at the undergraduate level.

Teachers have been up in arms against the university for implementing semes-



ters in 13 science courses in this session — a watered down decision from the university's original roadmap of a complete switch to semesters from 2010-11.

Asked if the semester system would continue in these courses, Singh said, "Has the university changed its stand? It hasn't. I alone can't take a decision."

He further said that students' interest was his top priority and the revision of curriculum would be taken up in due course of time.

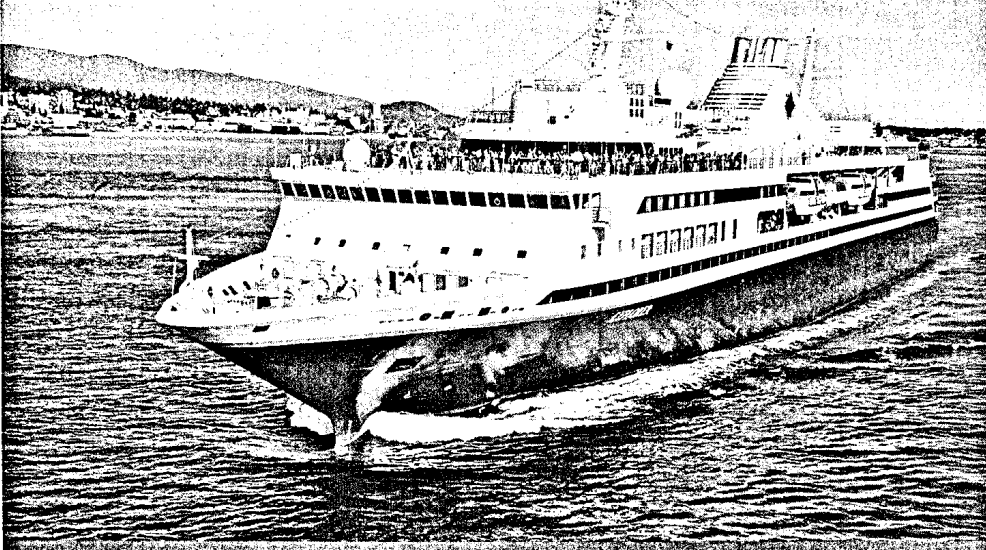
If all goes as per the original plan, he said, semesters in the rest of the undergraduate courses should be introduced simultaneously from the 2011-12 session.

"We will start the process soon. Ideally, all courses should be taken up at one go. It (semesters) is a national policy," Singh said.

Teachers have been protesting against the system, saying that the new mode of assessment was introduced without their consultation or approval.

Times of India ND 01/11/2010 (Education Times) p-1

Around the world in one semester



TRAVEL BROADENS ONE'S HORIZON. FOR STUDENTS ABOARD THE MV EXPLORER THAT IS LITERALLY THE CASE. PROFESSOR GAYLE ALLARD FROM IIE BUSINESS SCHOOL, SPAIN, ACCOMPANIED BY STUDENTS IS PARTICIPATING IN A SEMESTER AT SEA PROGRAMME. S CHANDRASHEKAR REPORTS



(Left to Right) Christian Bolorinos, Victoria Bolorinos, Gayle Allard, Elisabeth Bolorinos and Jose Bolorinos

ous, were the students still on land and in regular classes. Apart from the classes, projects and exams (all of which, the students sheepishly admit, are prepared for at the last minute), interested students are given the opportunity to take part in any other projects they wish to. "For example," Elisabeth adds, "a group of American students built a water-purifier and donated it to a village in Ghana."

Each classroom is equipped with flat-screen televisions, DVD players and wireless internet access and the ship itself is fitted with a range of laboratories and libraries. In addition to detailing the more academic pursuits possible, Christian adds, "We also have recreational facilities — a host of board games, a swimming pool, a gym and even a basketball court."

So, how easy (or difficult) is it going to school on the seas? Jose and Elisabeth explain, in unison, "The programme really only works if the student has an open mind about the world around him. He/she has to be perceptive, curious and culturally sensitive. Unfortunately, not all the students are that open to new experiences." Jose continues, "A couple of days before we dock at each country, we have one or two students from that country host a few sessions where we're given basic information about the place — safety tips, cultural orientation, etc."

Allard explains, "As faculty members, we spend a lot of time (far more than we do otherwise) researching into the specifics of each country's problems and highlights. For example, when I teach my class, we will read Indian economic policy and employment issues while we are actually docked at Chennai. That way we can instruct the students while keeping context in mind." For the statistically inclined, there are well over 35 professors onboard, teaching subjects from Anthropology to Theatre and Religious Studies.

Incidentally, did you know that there are no Saturdays or Sundays while at sea? Or Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and so on. "It can become very difficult to actually remember days and dates if you're at sea for long periods of time; so, instead of all that we have A and B days. For example, we start with A day. The next is B... the next is A again and so on. That's all! The only problem," Jose admits, "is that we sometimes forget which is A and which is B!"

"We study as we go," says Gayle Allard, a professor of Economic Development at the IIE Business School in Madrid. Her four children, Elisabeth, Jose, Christian and Victoria Bolorinos nod in agreement, while dining at Taj Mount Road in Chennai.

To begin with, let us introduce the Semester At Sea programme; started in 1963 by the Institute for Shipboard Education (a non-profit organisation), which has organised and created a series of international voyage-based learning experiences, for students of colleges and universities from across the world. The objective is simple — to allow the students to read for the courses that they have selected, against the backdrop of international travel and an understanding of the various facets of their chosen research areas, in the context of real-world situations. MV

Explorer is a 25,000 tonne, seven-decked cruiser that can carry up to 836 students.

Christian Bolorinos, who is studying Graphic Design, will read on Indian Art, during the time that he is docked in Chennai. Victoria Bolorinos, his sister, is reading Creative Writing and will undertake a session in understanding Indian Poetry. Similarly, for those students who have enrolled for (or are interested in) Business and Economic Development, the programme organised the onboard visit of members of the Tata Group.

As for the extent and intensity of the Explorer's travels, Allard lists out the countries that the students have set foot on, since setting off in September. "We first docked at Canada and then crossed the Atlantic to go to Spain, Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius and India. We leave Chennai on the October 27 and will

head to Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama, before heading back home."

Furthermore, the 600-odd students and staff aboard the Explorer (the number does not include the crew) have been lucky enough to have with them The Most Reverend Dr Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town. The universally-acclaimed statesman, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, is hugely popular among the students. "It has been an incredibly wonderful experience having him on board. Despite his age, he gets up early every morning and has breakfast with the students. His mere presence is such an inspiration," says Elisabeth.

The set of courses offered on each voyage, Allard says, is decided by the University of Virginia and constitutes a syllabus and pedagogy that is no less rigor-

THE SET OF COURSES OFFERED ON EACH VOYAGE IS DECIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND CONSTITUTES A SYLLABUS AND PEDAGOGY THAT IS NO LESS RIGOROUS, WERE THE STUDENTS STILL ON LAND AND IN REGULAR CLASSES

'OUR RESEARCH FACILITIES ARE GOOD BUT INFRASTRUCTURE IS A HUGE LETDOWN'

Three days ago, when professor Dinesh Singh took over as the new Delhi University vice-chancellor, right in the middle of the semester imbroglio, all sections of the university hoped that this is one problem the mathematician would solve well. The withdrawing of the teachers' strike following the HC order could not have come at a more opportune moment for the new VC. But in a free-wheeling interview with Neha Pushkarna at his Kalkaji home, DU's man of the moment conceded he has no magic solutions. Excerpts:

What was your first reaction as you took over as the VC of one of the biggest universities in the country? I had a strange feeling of calm. I remembered my father who is no more.

Students in all colleges must have access to good laboratories, libraries, recreation facilities and teachers should have a decent office space. How else can they do quality research? There should be better funding and technology for colleges



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay

TAKING OVER IN TROUBLED TIMES: The semester impasse is far from over and DU's international ranking has slipped

In a way my career has run parallel to his. He was also a professor of maths in DU. He had also become the pro-vice-chancellor and then the vice-chancellor of Delhi University for a brief period in 1980. He signed my wife's degree and also my sister's. I have also taken up the same positions.

You have joined at a time when the varsity is going through turbulence. Will the stand-off between teachers and the university end now? I will work with a spirit of cooperation. We need to work together for the betterment of the university. I am open to suggestions but the students'

interest will be the uppermost for me.

Will there be semesters or the annual mode at undergraduate level? Has the university changed its stand? It hasn't. I alone can't take a decision.

The implementation of OBC quota is complete but the infrastructure in many colleges is still not adequate. How do you plan to solve the problem of overcrowding in classrooms and lack of space? For that, we plan to use IT. Students will not have to sit in the same classroom. They can sit in adjacent classrooms and a large screen will be put up there. They can see the teacher on the screen even if he/she is in another room. The lecture will also get recorded this way so that the teacher can work on it later. We will make it happen soon.

Though the admission process has been reformed and made simpler in the last few years, students still vie for only a handful of colleges. What

stops DU from creating new brands? I have a plan for that. Students in all colleges must have access to good laboratories, libraries, recreation facilities and teachers should have a decent office space. How else can they do quality research? There should be better funding and technology for colleges.

TOI EXCLUSIVE

DU's ranking was 254 in QS World University Ranking in 2007 which slipped to 371 this year. What are your plans to take the university to global standards? Our research facilities are good but infrastructure is a huge letdown. The quality of our students is also one of the best in the world. But we will have to become more professional. We need a website which is more user-friendly. The university, I feel, often misses out on the credit due to it for the research work done by the college faculty. They after all are a part of the university and for that we have to make sure that teachers feel a greater sense of attachment, their missions

are fulfilled and they are given enough encouragement.

DU is one of the least expensive universities. Do you think student fee needs to be hiked? That's not my concern right now. DU is not short of funds.

Are the funds allocated to the university enough? Or do you think DU is the pampered one here? Government has been very generous to us. It's not being pampered, we need the money. Lot of infrastructure is coming up in the university.

What changes can we expect? The Dhaka campus close to north campus will have some extraordinary hostels for girls and boys and also faculty accommodation. It will be a mini-campus in itself. These will be undergraduate hostels and I will make sure that students from all colleges get a quota there. Since the Metro will

We plan to use IT. Students will not have to sit in the same classroom. They can sit in adjacent rooms and a large screen will be put up there. They can see the teacher on the screen even if he/she is in another room. The lecture will get recorded so the teacher can work on it later

be close by, students from all colleges can stay there and know about different colleges from each other.

What do you think about the common entrance test for all universities as proposed by the MHRD? I think it makes a lot of sense. It's tedious for students to go through different tests.

Do you think teachers' performance should be evaluated by students?

There should be constant interaction between students and teachers to learn about each other. There should be a procedure by which a teacher can know what students think... Did I teach slow or should I have referred to more books? It is important to have a critic around.



PEOPLE SPEAK

WE MUST LET STUDENTS DECIDE

I think the incident should have been handled more sensitively than the way it was done. Time has changed now we must trust our students and let them decide what is good for them. And if anything offensive happened, let the college administration take appropriate action. Nothing can be achieved by suspending or criticising the students.

AK Ghosh, professor, IIT Kharagpur

ALL FESTS ARE MONITORED

All festivals are monitored. There is a whole bunch of faculty that guide students from time to time. This happens across all IITs, I believe. Festivals are meant to promote art and culture among students. Moreover, there are less chances of vulgarity or obscenity because usually the faculty is involved in the fests.

Shashi Mathur, dean of students, IIT Delhi

A LOT MORE HAPPENS DURING RAGGING, THIS IS A NON-ISSUE

If the idea is limited to fun and there is no vulgarity, then there is no problem. There is a lot more that happens while ragging, this is trivial, a non-issue actually.

Ishaan Gupta, student, IIT Delhi

STUDENTS ARE OLD ENOUGH TO DECIDE HOW TO BEHAVE

IIT is an old and venerated institution. I don't see the necessity of any political party interfering with what is going on inside its campus. From my experience at the college, it generally used to happen that when students got together, they would organise impromptu events just to have fun. In any case, students are old and mature enough at this stage without anybody interfering and telling them how to behave.

Gaurav Kapoor, 2003 batch alumnus from IIT-R

IITs WON'T TAKE LIP FROM MORAL POLICE

The moral brigade has targeted the IITs this time – a contest named 'Love, Lips and Lipstick' at IIT-Roorkee's annual fest caused protests and invited action, but students and teachers feel that's unfair

Anjali Chandra and Renu Singh | TMN

It was an impromptu idea that turned into a harrowing experience for students at IIT-Roorkee's annual cultural festival Thomsa. On Thursday, the fest had a contest named 'Love, Lips and Lipstick' where boys holding lipsticks in their mouths had to apply it on their girl partners. But as soon as this news got out, youth groups in the state staged protests against the "obscene competition", demanding action against the institute.

A complaint was registered at the local police station too. Deputy SP Kamlesh Upadhyay, in charge of the investigation, said, "We acted on a complaint we received and sent a suo moto notice to the IIT administration asking them about action taken in this regard. The authorities replied that students involved have been suspended. The event's organisers say this event wasn't in the original schedule, and was inserted by some students. They've set up a committee to look into the matter." A dean of the institute, when contacted, said, "I have nothing to add or delete to what the police has told you."

NETA MATTER

Uttarakhand education minister Govind Singh

Bisht has ordered an inquiry, saying they wouldn't "tolerate any obscenity". While ABVP secretary Raj Singh Pundir has threatened to "lock the IIT gates if no action is taken," Manoranjan Mishra of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha says that they can't "condone this even in the name of modernity."

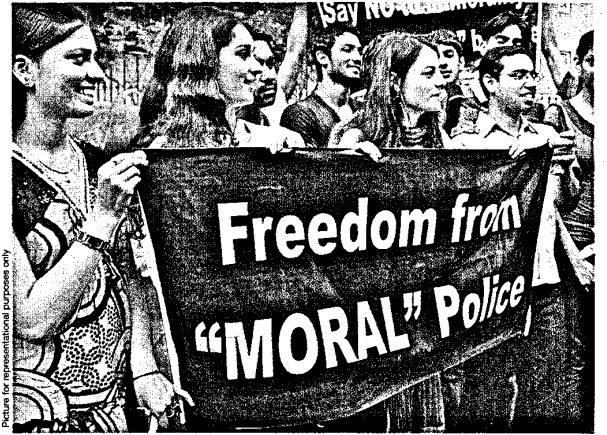
WHAT RUBBISH, SAY STUDENTS

Students have reacted strongly to this wave of moral policing on campus. B.Tech student Anshad Goswami, a member of the organising committee at Thomsa-10, says, "This was an informal event and student participation was voluntary; no IITian was involved. We didn't think it would become controversial. It wasn't decent but its representation has left all students hurt. Girls whose video clips were shown repeatedly on TV immediately left the institute." Chirag Sidana, B.Tech student at IIT-K, says, "We are mature enough to decide what's good and bad for us. It should be left to students to decide what sort of events they want in their cultural fest." And the teacher and the taught agree on this. On conditions of anonymity an IIT-R teacher said, "I don't see the reason for all this hullabaloo. How are youngsters supposed to have fun? This entire event has been completely misrepresented."

Inputs from Caroline O'Cuiz



The 'Lipstick' event at IIT-Roorkee



Lab-made liver raises hope

Breakthrough May Lead To Customized Transplant Organs

London: In a breakthrough which could pave the way for customised transplant organs for patients, scientists claim to have successfully grown miniature human livers in the laboratory.

An international team, led by Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in North Carolina in the US, created working livers the size of a walnut by sowing seeds of human cells onto scaffolds derived from animal livers.

The original cells were subsequently replaced with immature human liver cells before being fed nutrients and oxygen in a bioreactor; and, after a week in the laboratory bioreactor, the livers seemed to be growing and functioning like a normal human organ, say the scientists.

According to them, the research raises the prospect of growing livers that can be transplanted into patients or used to test the safety of experimental drugs.

Team member Pedro Baptista

An international team, led by US scientists, created working livers the size of a walnut by sowing seeds of human cells onto scaffolds derived from animal livers

said: "Our hope is that once these organs are transplanted, they will maintain and gain function as they continue to develop."

The new research was presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in Boston on Saturday, where the scientists explained how they had first stripped the cells away from ferret livers using a mild detergent, leaving only the collagen support structure.

This scaffold, which provided shape and structure for the new livers, were then "seeded" with hu-

man liver cells that were introduced using the blood vessel network that remains intact after the decellularisation process.

However, it could take five or more years for the technology to find its way from the laboratory into hospitals, say the scientists.

The next step, explained the scientists, is to see if the laboratory-grown organs will continue to function after they have been transplanted into animals. Only then will it be possible even to consider their use in humans.

"We are excited about the possibilities this research represents, but must stress that we're at an early stage and many technical hurdles must be overcome before it could benefit patients.

"Not only must we learn how to grow billions of liver cells at one time in order to engineer livers large enough for patients, but we must determine whether these organs are safe to use in patients," said project director Shay Soker.

Times of India ND p-17

01-Nov-10

India's first South Pole expedition on climate

New Delhi: India's first national expedition to the South Pole to study climate change patterns over the past few hundred years will be flagged off on Monday. Science and technology minister Prithviraj Chavan will flag off the expedition on November 1 to kick off the international celebrations of the centenary of the first man to reach the South Pole in 1911.

Being led by Dr Rasik Ravindra, 62, this is the first time that India is leading a 40-day expedition to the South Pole. The team will leave for Maitri, India's second permanent research station in Antarctica, and will be back in mid-December.

It will conduct various scientific experiments on their way to the South Pole,

including raising short cores at regular spacing along Maitri for the study of variability of snow chemistry and particulate matter.

The team will also study bed rock topography and sub-surface ice structure, glacial-geomorphological landforms along the plateau. It will collect meteorological parameter along the 2000-km long traverse, data on atmospheric aerosol and magnetic data.

The eight-member expedition team will bring samples, which will give vital information about climate change that has taken place in the last thousands of years. The news of India's maiden expedition to South Pole is well received by Antarctic Treaty nations. TNN

Times of India ND
01-Nov-10 p-21

An alarm clock that helps beat the blues with a fake dawn

London: Now, you can beat the blues with a fake dawn, thanks to an alarm clock.

The new clock invented by a British firm creates an artificial dawn that cures a depressive illness, seasonal affective disorder.

Cambridge-based Lumie insists its dawn simulator Bodyclock Active clock can banish the blues. "Simply set the time you need to be awake and choose your sunrise length — 15, 20, 30, 45, 60 or 90 minutes. The light inside Bodyclock Active will gradually start to brighten up over your chosen sunrise length to provide you with your own personal sunrise.

"By the desired wake-up time, the light will be at its full brightness and you will have woken up naturally and gently, the way nature intended," the a spokesman of the firm said.

The firm claims this benefits a person's body clock so you wake up feeling refreshed at the time of your choosing. As a back-up alarm, you can also choose a dawn chorus of bird-song or roosters crowing. PTI

Times of India ND 01-Nov-10 p-21

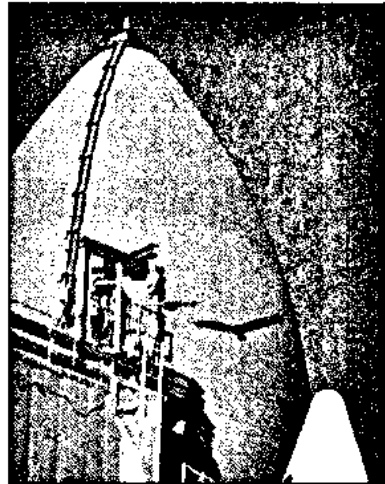
Of mice and men: A space odyssey for rats on Discovery's last voyage

Washington: When the space shuttle Discovery lifts off on its final flight next week, its six astronauts will be accompanied by an unusual team of co-passengers — 16 rodents.

The rodents, who will be on a historic mission of their own, would be part of a scientific experiment to investigate spaceflight-induced immune-system impairment which makes astronauts vulnerable to infection by viruses and bacteria.

Nasa has been studying the phenomenon aboard its space shuttles for more than 25 years, collecting data from laboratory animals and astronauts themselves.

The new mouse experiment — a collaboration between teams at the Universi-



REUTERS

COUNTDOWN: Discovery's last launch has been rescheduled for November 3, due to a leak in the space shuttle's orbital manoeuvring system

ty of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston and Nasa's Ames Research Centre in California — will be the fi-

nal immunology investigation planned for the shuttle programme, a UTMB release said.

"Since the Apollo missions, we have had evidence that astronauts have increased susceptibility to infections during flight and immediately post-flight — they seem more vulnerable to cold and flu viruses and urinary tract infections," said Roberto Garofalo, a professor at UTMB Health and principal investigator for the project.

"We want to discover what triggers this increased susceptibility to infection, with the goal both of protecting the astronauts themselves and people with more vulnerable immune systems here on Earth, such as the elderly and young children," Garofalo added. PTI

Times of India ND
01-Nov-10 p-21

Eating almonds can help fight off virus: Study

Want to keep common cold and flu at bay? Eat almonds every day, for a recent study has found that eating the nuts could help the body to fight off viral infections. Researchers from the Institute of Food Research in Norwich in the United Kingdom and Italy's Policlinico Universitario have found that naturally occurring chemicals found in the skin of almonds boost the human immune system's response to viral infections. The study revealed that almond skins improved the ability of the white blood cells to detect viruses while also increasing the body's ability to prevent viruses from replicating and so spreading inside the body.

Hindustan Times, ND 01-Nov-10 p-7

E-helper to facilitate DU students prepare for exams

Joyeeta Ghosh

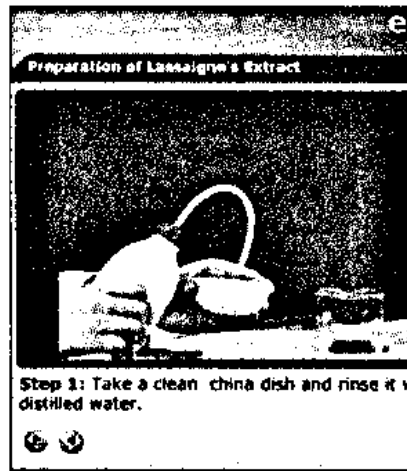
■ joyeeta.ghosh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi University's Institute of Life Long Learning (ILLL), in its endeavour to help students beyond the classrooms, had launched an e-learning portal in June this year that will have two new features soon.

The portal, which has features such as e-quizzes, e-lectures, e-labs and e-lessons and e-classes, has come up with e-helper and e-paper to help students prepare for the examinations better.

E-helper will have web pages dedicated to each discipline with questions and answers. A panel of experts will not only help students answer the queries but will also advise students on which books to refer.

"This feature will make the portal more interactive. The idea is not only to put up e-lessons, lectures and quizzes for



■ A web grab of Delhi University's e-learning portal

reference but also receive feedback from students and help them understand the lessons better," said AK Bakshi, director of ILLL.

Another new feature is the e-paper, which is similar to a question bank. Students can refer to a compilation of question papers over the years for each subject topic wise. "It will

have an exhaustive range of questions not only from DU but other as well," added Bakshi.

Interactive crossword, a new addition, has also been made to the e-quizzes section of the portal. With the new addition, the section will have crosswords that will have around 10-across and 10-down one-sentence questions whose answers shall be of one word.

At present, these crosswords are available for chemistry and commerce, but will soon be available for other disciplines too. A hint feature provides the student alphabets of the correct answer one by one.

The crosswords will help the students learn the key words, phrases and their meaning in a fun-filled manner. All the new features, which are primarily designed for the undergraduate students, are expected to be operational within the next 15 days.

Hindustan Times, ND 01-Nov-10 p-10

Indo-US varsity deals incentives set for launch



A countdown: Part II

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and the US have finalised the contours of the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative. Details of the ambitious project may be unveiled during US President Barack Obama's visit in early November.

Indian and US universities that establish partnership programmes will be eligible for financial grants from the two governments under the project.

Tiding over differences over implementation, India and the US have agreed to form a joint working group (JWG) to pick the universities that will receive awards, sources said.

Earlier, India wanted the University Grants Commission (UGC) to implement the project while the US wanted the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) in charge.

The Initiative was announced by Obama during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's

KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

- Each country will provide \$ 5 million over a five-year period.
- The USIEF will disburse the US grant to American institutions picked by the JWG, while Indian institutions selected will be awarded grants by the UGC
- US will pay selected university a grant between \$200,000 and \$250,000 for partnership programmes over three years
- US institutions that include training for Indian faculty members will be get preference

visit to the US last November. Despite repeated talks, the two countries have only recently firmed up the project.

"President Obama's visit was our deadline to finalise the project which both the President and PM Singh are very keen on," a source said. India and the US are also working on setting up an Indo-US higher education council that will consist of senior government and non-government representatives.

India and the US have traditionally had strong educational ties. Most top Indian higher educational institutions have partnerships with reputed American institutions.

But both governments have concluded that they need to incentivise partnerships — especially in collaborative research and faculty training — more, especially because of the adverse impact of the recession on American institutions.

"The incentives are critical to continue and further build our ties because the recession has forced top US universities to reconsider their financial bottom-line. We do not want the recession to hurt Indo-US educational ties," a source said.

Under the Initiative, each country will provide \$ 5 million over a five-year period. The USIEF will disburse the US grant to American institutions picked by the JWG, while Indian institutions selected will be awarded grants by the UGC.

The US will pay each selected university a grant between \$200,000 and \$250,000 for partnership programmes over three years. "We recognise that faculty development is a key area of concern in India and that we can aid India in that respect..." the official said.

Institutions that have identified their partner universities will be given preference during selections," sources said.

TOMORROW: AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE

We would like a lot more chimneys

SUMITA KALE



Half the world is exposed to smoke from biomass fuel, three times more than the number of smokers

2010 IS THE Year of the Lung with October 14 marked for the first time ever as World Spirometry Day, a day to check your lung function. This day is just a reminder that while chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (asthma, chronic bronchitis, etc) or COPD is currently the fourth leading cause of death worldwide, it is predicted to move up to third place in another two decades, overtaking TB and HIV. What is important to note is that each country has to seek its own solutions as there is significant difference in the factors behind COPD across countries. In high-income coun-

tries, smoking is the largest risk factor, accounting for 73% of COPD mortality, while in low and middle income countries smoking is related to 40% of COPD mortality and another 35% is due to indoor smoke from cooking with biomass fuels.

Led by the western world, the negative impact of smoking has been accepted and there has been significant, though still not sufficient, government intervention, even in India—through taxes, rules on smoking in public places, etc. But there is another larger, more vulnerable set of population at risk in developing countries. Half the world, about 3 billion people, is exposed to smoke from biomass fuel, three times more than the number of smokers. Within these households, it is the women and infants who bear the highest burden of smoke, as they hover around the stoves.

How widespread is the problem in India? More than 60% of rural households use firewood for cooking, 14% use dung cakes, and 13% use straw, shrubs, grass, etc. Even in urban India, where LPG is the preferred fuel for cooking, almost a quarter of households use wood as cooking fuel. LPG, which is the

Fuel used for cooking				Place for cooking		
% of households	Total	Rural	Urban	% of households	Urban	Rural
LPG	23.8	7.6	57.6	Indoors, in separate room	59	34
Electricity	0.4	0.3	0.8	Indoors, no separate room	27	34
Kerosene	1.8	0.5	4.4	In a separate building	4	10
Wood	52.8	65.4	26.5	Outdoors	9	22
Others	21.1	26.2	10.7	Others	1	0

Source: DLHS-3, 2007-08
Source: NFHS-3, 2005-06

safest fuel, has the lowest use in rural households and in states like Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh, less than 10% of all the households use LPG.

Despite an already bloated subsidy bill, there is a proposal by the oil ministry to subsidise gas connections to the rural poor, by waiving the security deposit of Rs 1,400 per connection. The aim is to cover 10 million new gas connections in villages every year till 2015, and the subsidy is to be shared by the Centre and the oil PSUs' CSR funds. But it is unclear whether the gas cylinder will thereafter be subsidised enough to make it affordable to the poor. Given the large number of households that need to be covered, the financial viability of

such a programme has to be well understood at both the macro and the micro level before implementation.

If LPG is not a financially viable option, what is the solution then for indoor smoke? It is important to understand the local context in which households use solid fuels, to see where change can be affected easily and effectively. The problem is worst for those poor households that cook in the same room they live in, that make up a third of India's rural households. In both urban and rural areas, 9 in 10 households that use biomass fuels cook on an open fire, without diverting the smoke through a chimney. NFHS 2005-06 showed a higher prevalence of TB in households that do not have a special

room for cooking and also found much lower levels among households that have a chimney compared to those that did not. The survey, however, did not find a correlation between overcrowding and TB levels, pointing to the presence of the chimney as the biggest influencer on lower TB prevalence.

The fact that indoor smoke is a health hazard has been on the government radar for many decades now, and a smokeless chulha with chimney has been included in the houses provided under the Indira Awas Yojana. But despite numerous programmes and NGO intervention, smokeless chulhas have not been adopted in large numbers. Researchers who have cared enough to investigate put down a number of reasons for this. Adoption of smokeless chulhas is higher in households where women make the decision to change and where women have higher schooling levels. In many households, there is resistance to change, concerns about maintenance, non-compatibility with the fuel of choice, etc. Experience at ARTI (Appropriate Rural Technology Institute) shows that a successful stove is one that works with different biomass fuels, adapts to people's needs when

cooking different kinds of food and accepts different, non-standard cooking vessels. The design of the chimney is also important; it should be easy to transport, assemble, clean and repair. Above all, the entire cooking mechanism has to fit in with the lifestyle and location of the household. As SEWA has discovered in Gujarat, what is most important is not just training women to use the new chulha properly, but also interacting with them over time to ensure that there is correct use and maintenance.

It is vital that the government recognises that a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach will not yield results. Thankfully, there is a ray of light here. As part of its National Biomass Cookstove Initiative, the new and renewable energy ministry has recently tied up with IIT Delhi and the X Prize Foundation to launch a global cook-stove competition. Greater collaboration between the government and NGOs working in this area will go a long way in innovating to reduce the burden of COPD and improve life for women and infants in the poorest of Indian households.

The author is chief economist at Indicus Analytics Pvt Ltd

MASTERING BITS AND BYTES

Schools need to integrate new technology into their MBA teaching. But doing so still involves plenty of trial and error

IN the world of business they call it "the consumerisation of IT": employees who are used to powerful smart phones and tablet computers in their personal lives are now demanding similar tools in their professional ones. Now business schools are also coming to terms with students who are increasingly tech savvy. Some even see the way they integrate technology with pedagogy as an opportunity to differentiate themselves from the B-school pack.

The beauty of MBA courses is that students can try out new technologies without fear of a serious backlash if the trials don't pay off. "The threat level is just a grade, not a career," explains Michael Koenig, the director of MBA operations at the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business, which is among the vanguard of schools incorporating new technologies in their programmes.

Yet there are still concerns about whether new technology in the classroom will enhance the MBA experience or diminish it. Some professors fret that embracing gadgets for the sake of appearing "wired" will detract from the quality of classroom discussions. That has not deterred schools from experimenting. Innovations designed to help students man-

age information more efficiently, interact with their peers wherever they are and imbibe important business lessons via virtual simulations are all being tested.

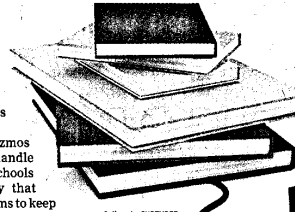
The pioneers are discovering that some technologies are not yet ready for prime time. Consider the experience of Darden. In a recent experiment the business school gave a random sample of MBA students Kindle DX e-readers, as well as standard printed handouts and textbooks for their first-year courses. It then encouraged them to use the electronic versions instead of the paper ones.

The students did just that—and many concluded that the Kindle's limitations were too great to justify its widespread adoption on the programme. Switching between text, graphs and charts, they complained, took far longer than on paper-based alternatives. This made it hard for them to keep up with fast-paced class discussions. Nevertheless, some schools are toying with the idea of testing the

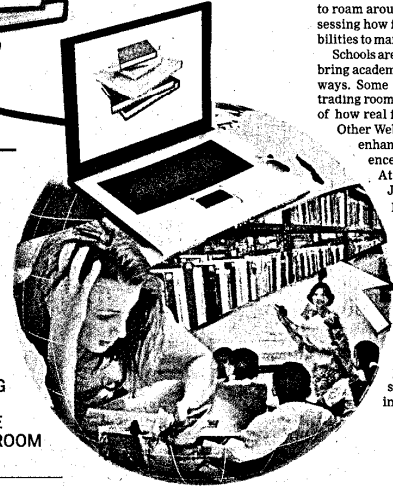
Apple iPad to see if that has greater success.

As well as trying out gizmos designed to help students handle large volumes of content, schools are also using technology that helps members of study teams to keep in touch with one another. Darden, for instance, has equipped some classrooms with widescreen TVs and software that allow students who are off campus to share data and opinions with those who are on it. "Our job is to stretch skills as well as minds," says Koenig, who points out that many executives now need to be able to influence virtually teams they rarely meet face-to-face.

Duke University's Fuqua School of Business has taken this a step further, installing a Cisco "Telepresence" system in one of its lecture theatres. Giant plasma screens and cameras display life-size video images of people in remote locations to an entire class. The school reckons the new system allows professors seamlessly to include over-



Collage by SURENDER



THERE ARE STILL CONCERNS ABOUT WHETHER NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM WILL ENHANCE THE MBA EXPERIENCE OR DIMINISH IT. SOME PROFESSORS FRET THAT EMBRACING GADGETS FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARING "WIRED" WILL DETRACT FROM THE QUALITY OF CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

seas participants in class discussions, although further refinement is needed before it can accommodate large numbers of folk joining all at once.

INSEAD, which has campuses in France and Singapore, as well as an executive education centre in Abu Dhabi, has turned to Second Life, a popular virtual world, to help bring students together. It has constructed a cyber campus in which its MBAs can interact and it has begun to integrate Second Life into a few of its courses. One elective, focusing on business-to-business marketing, requires students to roam around the virtual world assessing how firms are using its capabilities to market their wares.

Schools are also using technology to bring academic theory to life in other ways. Some institutions use online trading rooms to give students a taste of how real financial markets work.

Other Web-based simulations that enhance the classroom experience are becoming popular.

At Stanford, for instance, James Lattin, a marketing professor, has worked with the school's IT team to create a Web-based programme that lets students work in, and run, a sales team tout-ing a disruptive new product. Using the simulation to teach them about the challenges of sales forecasting has produced far better results than simply lecturing, he says.

Financial Express ND 01/11/2010

p-11

Some kind of foreign investment law is needed

Jayant Yadav

INDIA introduced financial reforms in 1991 and although the reforms were revolutionary in nature, the government was hesitant in opening up all the sectors to foreign investors. As a result, the reforms were half-hearted.

After two decades of the reforms, the scene is changing. A major section of the Indian economy is now open to the foreign investors. At the same time, there are sectors where the permissible percentage of FDI is way below the sufficient level. Prominent among these sectors are insurance, retail, banking and defence. While retail has a 51% cap in single brand outlet, in insurance, defence and banking, the FDI limit is 26%, 26% and 49%, respectively.

If we compare India with other developing countries, we are way behind them in attracting FDI. Last year, while China got an FDI of \$90 billion, for India the figure was only \$30 billion. According to Anand Sharma, the commerce minister, the country aims to attract \$50 billion of FDI up to 2012. This can only be realised if India fully opens up the earlier mentioned sectors.

Earlier this year, in the Indo-US CEO forum in Washington, the finance minister told that the gov-

ernment may increase investment cap in insurance from 26% to 49%. This is a welcome step. A higher FDI will unshackle the insurance industry and drive growth. Similarly, the retail sector also has a huge potential in terms of investment. Its benefits are improvement in supply chain, skill development, opportunity for greater sourcing from India, and productivity improvement and growth in market size.

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Other sectors such as banking, defence and civil aviation are in want of more investment, which is only possible by opening the doors to foreign players. They will bring in much-needed sophisticated technology, knowledge transfer, linkages and spillover to domestic firms.

In order to maintain and bolster the current rate of growth, it is

necessary for the government to raise the investment cap in the sectors where the permissible level of investment is low. This will have a trickledown effect on the other sections of economy and will result in higher growth. The government can also think of some kind of foreign investment law, which facilitates an efficient FDI delivery and management mechanism.

*The author is a student of MBA
(International Business) 2010-12,
IIFT, New Delhi*

Sudhir Chowdhary

Subramaniam Ramadorai might be a man of few words, but he makes his opinions known in a frank and straight forward manner. Take for instance his views on the ongoing BlackBerry controversy: "The call for a ban seems to be unreasonable and draconian. We need a more balanced approach for lawful interception."

Ramadorai is not only an industry veteran but also a global icon. He has been associated with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for the past 38 years. He took over as CEO in 1996 when the company's revenues were at \$160 million and has since then led the company through some of its most exciting phases, including its going public in 2004. In October 2008, he stepped down as CEO, leaving a \$6 billion global IT services company to his successor and is now the vice-chairman of the company. He is also the chairman of Tata Elxsi, Tata Technologies, CMC and CRL.

Nowadays, this Tata veteran has taken on the role of chairman, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS), an initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). In a wide ranging interview, Ramadorai talks about internet governance issues, including data protection, privacy, security, communications infrastructure, and coordination and technical management of the internet. Excerpts:

Being a TCS veteran, what is the role you see for yourself at BASIS?

It is an exciting new challenge for me taking on the role of BASIS chair. BASIS has a strong reputation in the ICT sector and I am particularly looking forward to broadening and strengthening BASIS activities to support business objectives in developing regions around the world.

At BASIS, I see my role in a number of ways. One is mentoring a lot of young people. Because at the end of the day, we want to produce more leaders—technical and general management leaders—because the demand will always be phenomenal. Second is looking for strategic opportunities where the company should look at 3 to 5 years down the road etc, where you perform a lot more of strategic role and a mentoring role rather than any operational role from a day to day basis.

The BlackBerry security issue still remains unresolved. How important is the issue of internet privacy in this regard?

The internet security and privacy of any data or any conversation is of paramount importance. There is no question about it. But I think the solution to that is not by just banning the usage of anything, but more importantly by certain ways of doing it. We need to upgrade and modernise intelligence and investigating agencies so that they are equipped with the latest tools and technologies to intercept data. We need to provide organisations like the National Technical Research Organisation with requisite funding to enhance their capabilities so that they can assist law enforcement and investigating agencies. And then pre-

INTERVIEW: S RAMADORAI
VICE-CHAIRMAN, TCS

'BlackBerry ban will disconnect India from rest of the world'

pare a lawful interception policy that can be implemented uniformly with full cooperation of industry in a way that supports the needs of investigating agencies and protects the data security needs of corporations. Bans and calls for bans aren't a solution. They'll disconnect India from the rest of the world.

So the challenge of misuse is rooted not just in one device or technology, but in society in general?

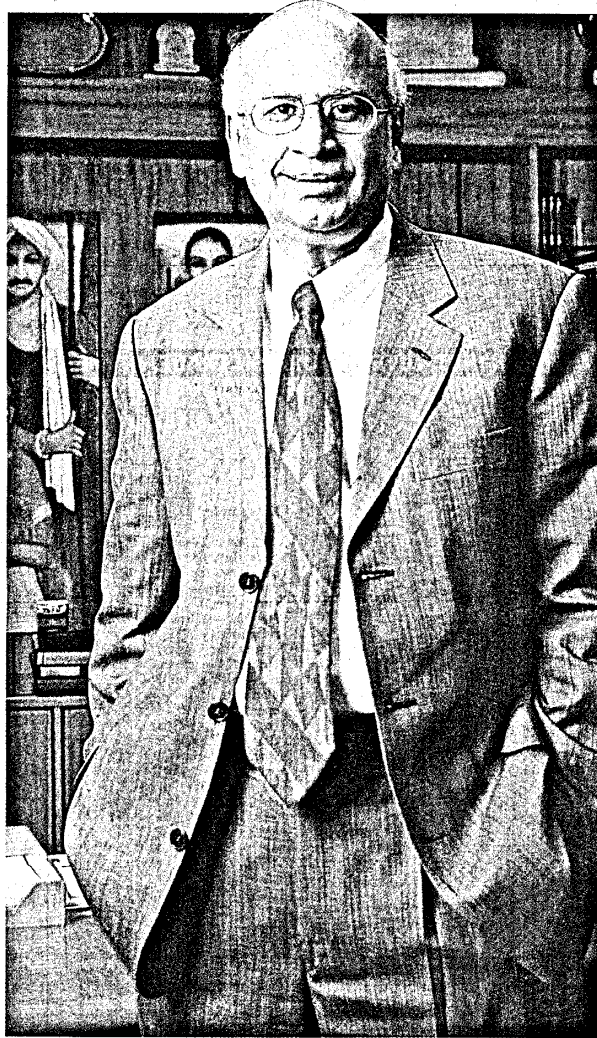
Everything starts with that because the greed is what makes people do wrong things. But ultimately the technology or the underlying infrastructure permits them to do it for good or bad. So the whole issue of data privacy, data security, and monitoring has to happen whether we like it or not. Having said that, what is the best way to ensure that the right protections are available and that's

We need to upgrade and modernise intelligence and investigating agencies so that they are equipped with the latest tools and technologies to intercept data

what is being attempted. In any system, even in a bank if it is a conventional bank, frauds do happen. We had the security scam when we had the regulations in the stock exchange. We have had the Wall Street problems because of excessive greed. So I think that we have to keep pushing the way we learn and do things and collaborate. At the end of the day, some of this mishaps have to be minimised, but to say that it can be completely eliminated is a very impossible task.

E-governance programmes such as Aadhaar are being rolled out on a grand scale. How will internet governance benefit the common man in the country?

When you look at the UID project and any database that exists which can be monetised or used as a medium for serving the citizens in terms of government to



citizen, or business to business, or citizen to citizen. I think it becomes extremely important because that is the source of the data and source of services around the data for the citizens. So I think that anybody who provides a service to the citizens is going to be governed by a set of rules regulations. The latest being if you saw the launch of the mobile trading based on Sebi's approval. It is again a way to increase the accessibility to a small investor or a retail investor in any part of the country.

Mobile or Internet-based trading is going to be very fundamental beyond the screen-based trading or the broker-based trading which we currently do. I think that democratising the whole access of anything to the citizens is the fundamental premise on all of this and that's what we need to ensure that the digital divide or the digital inclusion happens.

What are the learnings from the recently held Internet Governance Forum in Lithuania, which could benefit the global internet community?

The biggest learning was the collaborative call for action where multi stakeholders get together and then publish the proceedings at the end of the sessions. All the sessions were streamed also so that you could participate in an online mode from any location. And then there were issues that are of relevance today, whether it is commerce we talked about, whether it is the data security and the privacy, or the social networks and the impact of that on the society. So they go from very broad topics to very specific topics as it is applied on the ground.

Finance, micro financing was another topic that was discussed at length. The proceedings are published and people must go through those proceedings to see what is really happening in the world including in India. And also the commitments of countries

when Lithuania was chosen; Lithuania is one of the earliest to adopt 4G and they have already deployed 4G on the ground.

Similarly when we had the meeting in Egypt, that was a committed country which wants to come into the set of developing nations where internet as a medium is going to be used extensively. Hyderabad was chosen before that because our country is definitely wanting to be in the policy making as well as a commitment by the Internet Governance Forum that India is important and they should participate in the policy making because of the size, scale, and the number of citizens we are going to be impacting.

What is the role that BASIS has played in establishing a positive environment in which policy makers could accelerate the development of information society?

I think the key role they have played is in terms of a number of policies where there is equal opportunity for anybody. They have published a number of standards making with regard to transactions, whether they are payments through the internet and or data privacy or data interchange. They also have the capacity building related issues with regard to how do you ideate, how do you implement, and how do you carry it forward.

BASIS is enabling one at a very basic level and understanding of what the internet does, as well as engaging a lot of policy makers and lot of youth to deliberate on the happenings.

What kind of opportunities BASIS could bring to the corporates in India?

Corporates are going to be using more and more of this medium as a way to disseminate and or sell their products and services. Underlying that is the whole issue of data security, data integrity, protecting client's information etc. I think that the corporates must participate to influence some of this decision making, otherwise it will be purely academic or a government or a country which will take the lead and then put the policies, which may be not the right way to do it or it may be detrimental to the commerce itself.

If you look at India, it is one of the most critical growth part of the world. And with the kind of broadband vision of the country with regard to touching every part of the country through broadband, the last mile could be a wireless broadband and then the optical fibre may reach as close to the village or as close to the distribution point.

I think it is only a question of time before every form of service is going to ride on top of this broadband infrastructure. And then the necessary policies and the learnings for commerce is going to be very critical. So to that extent, it is extremely important for us to understand what happens in these forums based on the learnings and on the needs. Any experience we build here can be taken to other parts of the world.

PANIIT CONCLAVE MONTEK EMPHASISES ON NEED FOR COMMITMENT AMONG NATIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Need to envision sustainable development for India: Bhutan PM



Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Lyonchhoen Jigme Y Thinley and R S Pawar during the PanIIT conclave in Greater Noida. AMIT MEHRA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GREATER NOIDA, OCTOBER 31

BHUTANESE Prime Minister Lyonchhoen Jigme Y Thinley on Sunday lauded the role of the Indian Institutes of Technology and spoke of IITians as "global leaders" during the closing plenary session of the Eighth PanIIT Conclave 2010 on "Building a Sustainable Future: The Green Society". Thinley appreciated the role of IITs in India's growth. "You have in fact exceeded that role." He underlined the challenges that India faces in the

face of rapid growth. "The challenge faced by India is to see that the growth that has taken place sustains. You have to ensure the sustainable development of India."

Addressing the gathering of IIT alumni, he said, "We admire you. As a well-wisher of India, the increase in its GDP also raises our prospects."

He, however, maintained that there is a conflict between green and growth. "When we talk of sustainable development, we talk of survival."

Thinley also said the prosperity achieved by India in the last 20 years is "amazing".

"But the question now is, how to sustain that development? There can be no sustainable future without a sustainable past and present."

"According to estimates, we will need three times the resources available on this planet by 2050. Where shall we get that from?"

At the three-day PanIIT Conclave, inaugurated by President Pratibha Patil on Friday, various speakers, including industrialists, academicians and former IITians, gathered for brainstorming and networking.

The theme of this year's

Conclave was "Sustainable Transformation — Our New India".

Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who was among the speakers, also emphasised on the challenge India is facing in the wake of climate change and the need for commitment among nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Jeffrey Sachs also addressed the gathering through video-conferencing from New York.

About 2 lakh IITians from across India and abroad have come to attend the conclave.

Indian Express ND 01/11/2010

p-14

Vocation at school

India's jobs challenge needs meaningful ways of skilling the labour force

SPEAKING at the 8th pan-IIT conference last week, Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal dropped a hint on how to tackle this problem by highlighting the need for a comprehensive skill development programme and a Vocational Education Qualification Framework; the latter would help enable students to opt for a vocation as early as in standard VIII under the CBSE system. That would, in turn, enable school leavers to be directly employed as skilled workers by the secondary sector — mainly manufacturing, but also construction.

The challenge of creating jobs is a daunting one: agriculture continues to over-employ people who need to be absorbed into either industry or services. Many jobs have indeed been created in the broad category of white collar services over the last two decades. Unfortunately, fewer have been created in what could be broadly called "blue collar" industry and service sector jobs (skilled machine operators, electricians, plumbers, skilled masons to name a few) — perhaps because of a shortage of skills. But it's important to change that. There is after all, a limit to which white collar services jobs

can absorb India's fast-growing workforce. Remember, post-liberalisation, there is little room for relatively "unskilled" workers in white collar jobs (the omnipresent class IV employee in the government). And, in an economy where skills are scarce, the challenge too will be to pro-actively offer people chances to constantly retool their skill sets.

Integrating vocational education as an optional stream with regular schooling would be a good way to mainstream the acquisition of skills at a relatively early age. The economy is certainly going to need plenty of vocationally-trained skilled workers over the next decade. At the very least, the government is committed to spending \$1 trillion on infrastructure between 2012-2017. That will obviously involve a massive amount of skilled work, which will require plenty of skilled workers to execute it. Also, once there is a greater demand for, and higher premium paid to skilled workers, people will inevitably begin to abandon their reflexive prejudice in favour of white collar services jobs. That would be a start of a genuinely virtuous circle.

'Centre should stop interfering in IITs'

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 31

AT the Pan IIT Conference that concluded on Sunday, bigwigs of the Indian Institutes of Technology were unanimous on improving their brand value and quality. But there was one among them who sought drastic reforms and a change in the governance system of India's premier technology colleges — B Muthuraman, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Kharagpur.

Muthuraman made two critical observations. First, he felt the IIT Board of Governors were becoming redun-

dant with no more than a "two-way conversation" between the IIT Director and the Chairman alone. Second, he said it was high time New Delhi stopped interfering in the IITs even though it was the funding agency.

Calling for separation of teaching and administration, Muthuraman said while there had been sweeping changes in the last 50 years, there was no change in the way the IITs were being governed.

"This is untenable...will crack. The IITs are bursting at their seams and some fundamental changes are needed," Muthuraman said during a plenary session on "The IIT system-

Vision and Emerging Challenges".

Muthuraman said making the IIT Director in charge of everything — from teaching to the IIT real estate, hospitals and IIT marketing — was like asking an outstanding surgeon to run a hospital.

He said the negative effects were being seen at IITs already, with a definite erosion in quality of students being churned out of the institutes visible to recruiters.

Terming the current system of Board of Governors at IITs an ineffective one, Muthuraman pointed out that the board had no real powers at all.

He said there was a need to switch to a

12-15 member Board of Governors with representatives from alumni, industry, academics from other institutes and make it an effective administrative body.

Muthuraman said decisions were not taken at the Board, teachers were unavailable for students and the IIT infrastructure was bursting at its seams.

Other panelists consisting of IIT Directors and Chairmen of IIT Board of Governors said the institutes needed to actively pursue research, make a mark on international academic rating charts, rejig their governance structures and focus on quality to retain their brand equity.

Economic Times ND 01/11/2010 P8

IIMs, IITs asked to encourage students to opt for rural sector

PTI

NEW DELHI

IN AN effort to bring in professional hands in rural development sector, the government has suggested IIMs, IITs and other select institutes to design a matching curriculum in their courses to encourage young talents towards the "emerging opportunities" in the field.

The suggestion was made to the select professional institutions by the rural development ministry at a workshop organised by it in Rajasthan on October 20. Union minister for rural development C P Joshi suggested the professional institutes that the students can undertake internship to associate themselves with the process, said a ministry official.

"This will be mutually beneficial as the youth of the country will get exposure to issues related to rural development and grassroot development process will be strengthened through professional support," the official said.

A month ago, the ministry suggested to the states to create a panchayat service cadre and appoint at least four persons — one with a degree in MBA and another in engineering — in each panchayat for the implementation of various rural development schemes,

promising that it will provide them funds to meet initial expenditure on salaries for eight years.

The ministry proposed that 80% of the salaries of these staff will be given by the Centre in first year and it will gradually be reduced and finally the responsibility for payment will totally be left on the states after eight years.

The proposed scheme, in its first phase of implementation, will be applicable to the districts where over ₹100 crore funds of NREGA is being spent or to the panchayats where population is between 4,000 to 5,000.

"We need dedicated and professional hands in rural areas for better implementation of government schemes. There is huge shortage of dedicated staff in panchayats. The proposal made to states with respect to creation of panchayat service cadre is worked out to give it a final shape after we received views and inputs from the states," the official said.

The ministry has also asked the states to appoint dedicated staff in each panchayat for effective implementation of rural development schemes.

"For this too, the ministry wants that candidates to be appointed should have a degree in MBA or engineering," the official said.

Tribune ND 01/11/2010 p-1

₹ 80 cr needed to restore IAS glory

Director of the prestigious institute calls for industry donations to fund repairs of the 1888 building

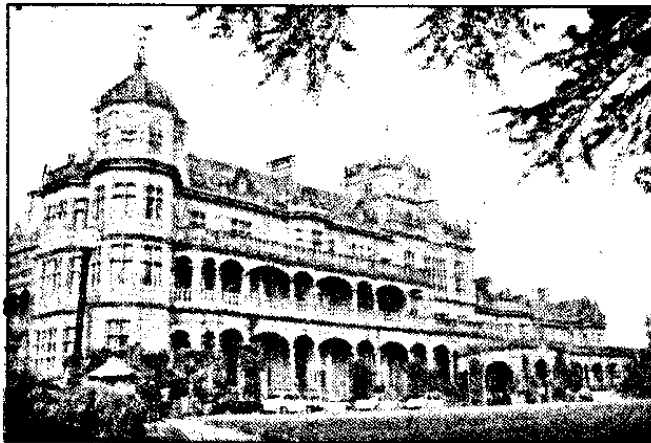
PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 31

The Viceregal Lodge housing the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) here is looking towards industry titans like Ratan Tata, Anand Mahindra and the Narayan Murthy family to bestow on it the same generosity they have showered on Harvard and other foreign universities.

The imposing Victorian edifice, which remained the residence of the Viceroy of India during the British rule and later the Rashtrapati Niwas, is waiting for industry giants to help push through its conservation and restoration plan, which has failed to take off for want of funds.

The institute came into being on October 20, 1965, and has been a temporary home for scholars and researchers from all over the world in quest of academic research. A heritage structure completed in July 1888 under Lord Dufferin, it not only remained the seat of power, but was also witness to several events in the history of India before Partition. It is today threatened with



The Indian Institute of Advanced Study building in Shimla. Tribune photo: Amit Kanwar

- The heritage structure (The Viceregal Lodge) was completed in July, 1888, under Lord Dufferin
- It remained the residence of the Viceroy of India during the British rule and later the Rashtrapati Niwas
- The Indian Institute of Advanced Study came into being on October 20, 1965. It is now spread over 110 acres.

structural distress and deterioration, including cracks in stone masonry, even as it is under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The leakages along the roof and rotting of structural wood have necessitated restoration and repair which would require funds to the tune of about Rs 80 crore. The campus is now spread over 110 acres.

"The generosity shown by Ratan Tata in giving \$50 million to Harvard Business School, and \$10 million by Anand Mahindra to Harvard Humanities Centre is certainly appreciable, but it has set us wondering; why can't some philanthropist fund our own conservation plan," quips Prof Peter Ronald de
Continued on page 8

₹ 80 cr needed to restore IIAS glory

From page 1

Souza, Director of the IIAS.

He says he will be personally writing to philanthropists to help execute the master plan using adaptive principles, prepared painstakingly by experts headed by conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah.

The restoration master plan, which has been approved by the governing body of the institute, will also be pursued with the Planning Commission of India by submitting the proposal to the Human Resource Development Ministry. However, getting the money doesn't seem an easy task and "to get it in one go is almost next to impossible".

"I like to describe the institute as "a great idea in a grand building" and I hope the government will also realise its unique character as we cannot be clubbed in a cluster with other institutes," says de Souza, emphasising the stature and uniqueness of the institute. However, he adds that the government has been very supportive so far and the budget of the IIAS has doubled over the past three years.

आईआईटी की ब्रिगेड ने चलाई अनूठी मुहिम

मंजरी चतुर्वेदी ॥ नई दिल्ली

दुनियाभर में अपनी प्रतिभा का लोहा मनवा चुकी आईआईटी ब्रिगेड सिर्फ अपने तकनीकी ज्ञान से देश की तरक्की में अपना योगदान नहीं दे रही, बल्कि अपने अनुभवों और ज्ञान से देश व समाज के लिए कुछ रचनात्मक करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ चुकी है। अपनी इस नई मुहिम को उसने नाम दिया है 'ऑवर न्यू इंडिया'।

आईआईटी के लगभग दो लाख से ज्यादा पूर्व छात्रों ने इस मुहिम में अपना योगदान देने के लिए शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, बोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग, नए उद्यम व रोजगार की संभावनाओं की तलाश, ग्रामीण

विकास, समाजसेवा जैसे क्षेत्रों को चुना है। इसका खुलासा हुआ इन दिनों एनसीआर में चल रहे तीन दिवसीय पैन आईआईटी कॉन्क्लेव में। इस कॉन्क्लेव का उद्घाटन राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा सिंह देवी पाटिल ने किया है। गौरतलब है कि पैन आईआईटी, आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों का संगठन है। इस कॉन्क्लेव में लगभग 5000 पूर्व आईआईटी छात्र भाग ले रहे हैं। पैन आईआईटी रीच फॉर इंडिया, सीड, गुरुकुल, पंचरत्न जैसी योजनाओं के जरिए राष्ट्र निर्माण का काम कर रही है। पैन आईआईटी 2010 कॉन्क्लेव के को-चेयरपर्सन हरि पदमनाभन के अनुसार, 'रीच फॉर इंडिया' मानव संसाधन की एक ऐसी चेन है।

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आईआईटी : ऑनलाइन आवेदन आज से

जो छात्र जेईई के लिए फार्म भर कर आवेदन करना चाहते हैं उन्हें पत्र 12 नव. से मिलेगा

कार्यालय संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी और प्रतिष्ठित प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों में दाखिले के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन एक नवंबर से शुरू होगा। बैंक से आवेदन पत्र 12 नवंबर से मिलेगा, जबकि परीक्षा 10 अप्रैल को होनी है। ऑनलाइन आवेदन पर नौ सौ रुपये और ऑफलाइन आवेदन (बैंकों में उपलब्ध आवेदन पत्र) पर छात्रों को एक हजार रुपये शुल्क देना होगा। अनुसूचित जाति व अनुसूचित वर्ग के छात्रों और

सहूलियत

- ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने वालों के लिए शुल्क 900 रुपये
- अंतिम तिथि 20 दिसंबर, प्रवेश परीक्षा 10 अप्रैल को होगी

लड़कियों को क्रमशः चार सौ व पांच सौ रुपये शुल्क देने होंगे। आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख 20 दिसंबर है। ज्ञात हो कि देश के सात मुख्य आईआईटी संस्थानों व दस अन्य बड़े प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों में लगभग नौ हजार सीटें हैं। आईआईटी-दिल्ली, मुंबई, रुड़की, गुवाहटी खड़गपुर, कानपुर और चेन्नई के अलावा आईटी बीएचय और आईएसएम धनबाद में दाखिलों जेईई से ही होता है। अंतिम तिथि जमा करने की तारीख 20 दिसंबर है।

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आईआईएम और आईआईटी ग्रामीण विकास पर ध्यान दें

नई दिल्ली (प्रेट्र)। सरकार ने आईआईएम और आईआईटी को ऐसे पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करने की सलाह दी है जिन्हें पढ़कर छात्र देश के ग्रामीण विकास की ओर रुख करें। सरकार ने इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों के अलावा अन्य उच्च स्तर के संस्थानों को भी यह सलाह दी है। सरकार का मानना है कि संस्थानों को अपने छात्रों को ग्रामीण विकास क्षेत्र में पैदा हो रहे अवसरों का पाठ्यक्रमों के माध्यम से याद दिलाना चाहिए। ताकि वह इस क्षेत्र में अपना सहयोग देते हुए विकास के भागीदार बनें। ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने राजस्थान में आयोजित एक कार्यशाला के दौरान संस्थानों को यह सलाह दी। मंत्रालयों के अनुसार छात्रों के रुझान से क्षेत्र में विकास और अच्छा हो सकेगा।

Amar Ujala ND

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आईआईटी-जेईई के ऑनलाइन आवेदन आज से

फरीदाबाद। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान की संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा आईआईटी-जेईई के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रक्रिया सोमवार से शुरू हो जाएगी। इस परीक्षा का आयोजन 10 अप्रैल, 2011 को होगा। इस प्रवेश परीक्षा में हिस्सा लेने के लिए अभ्यर्थी एक नवंबर से 15 दिसंबर तक ऑनलाइन व 12

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- ऑफलाइन आवेदन 12 नवंबर से होगा
- 10 नवंबर को होगी इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा

दिसंबर तक ऑफ लाइन (फॉर्म खरीदकर) आवेदन कर सकते हैं। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान की संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा आईआईटी-जेईई की तिथि की घोषणा होने के बाद छात्रों को आवेदन प्रक्रिया शुरू होने का इंतजार था। आईआईटी जैसे देश के प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में प्रवेश लेने के लिए आईआईटी-जेईई की परीक्षा क्लीयर करना अनिवार्य होता है। प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रक्रिया एक नवंबर से शुरू होने जा रही है। वहीं दूसरी तरफ फॉर्म खरीदकर आवेदन करने के इच्छुक छात्रों के लिए ऑफलाइन आवेदन प्रक्रिया 12 नवंबर से शुरू होगी।

दस अप्रैल को इस परीक्षा का आयोजन दो भागों में होगा। पहले प्रश्न पत्र की परीक्षा सुबह 9 बजे से दोपहर 12 बजे तक और दूसरे प्रश्नपत्र की प्रवेश परीक्षा दोपहर 2 बजे से शाम 5 बजे तक आयोजित होगी। ब्यूरो