

Newspaper Clips November 24, 2013

Uncork the Necessary New Wine in a New Bottle

By S Vaidhyasubramaniam, Indian Express, Nov. 22, 2013, Hyderabad

The Department of Higher Education of the HRD ministry has recently constituted an over-arching coordinating body called the Higher Education Apex Coordination Committee (HEACC). The HEACC will be headed by the HRD minister with the MHRD Secretary, Chairman of UGC and AICTE and president of the Council of Architecture as its members. Some view this as an alternate to the National Council for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) which hit the roadblock as some felt that their power was being hijacked by NCHER. During a public hearing in early 2010, I submitted a representation on how the aggregate NCHER which represents the comity of regulators will provide an 'instant solution' to the 'constant confusion' plaguing Indian higher education. Unfortunately, the NCHER was short-circuited in full because of the short-sightedness of a few.

The proposed HEACC is intended to remove conflicts among various statutory bodies and promote interdisciplinary learning and research. It stresses on enabling and creating an "environment of joint and cross-disciplinary learning in higher education, especially in emerging and new fields of knowledge, and promote research in universities and higher educational institution with other research agencies". But the members are from a heavily burdened UGC, future-uncertain AICTE and a registration-centric Council of Architecture. Even without the HEACC, the statutory bodies cited have mutual cooperation in discharging their statutory functions. Though HEACC's intent is noble, its composition is ignoble and distantly far from its capacity to deliver the desired objective. HEACC should not be a cosmetic arithmetic addition but a pragmatic academic revolution. The chairman of HEACC is the Union HRD minister who can usher this revolution. How?

Thomson Reuters published a report on the global research and innovation impact of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Korea (BRICK). Titled 'Building Bricks,' this February 2013 report found that the BRICK nations represented the most significant and growing influence in the global economy and research landscape. The BRICK nations contribute a 23% share of the global publication output, with China alone contributing 11%. Chinese share needs to be looked with scepticism due to its rampant plagiarism and piracy. Also, the renowned magazine Economist in its cover story article of October 19, 2013 dispatch came down heavily on the "load of rubbish" being published in reputed journals which rely on modern scientists "trusting" and not "verifying". Back to the Reuters report.

Though the R&D spend as a proportion of GDP is comparatively lower, the diversity in research makes India stand tall. The Indian share is a meagre 3.4% of the global publication output, but the individual share of India in all of the 10 research areas exceeds its national average, spreading its specialisation across a wider range than China. A rare distinction that none of the other nations have. The top five areas for India are chemistry (6.4%), pharmacology and toxicology and agricultural sciences (6.1%), material science (5.9%) and microbiology (5.1%). It is everybody's comprehension that research in these areas predominantly comes from institutions that are outside the orbit of UGC, AICTE and Architecture Council. The composition of HEACC must be expanded to include nominated members from various funding agencies like DST, DBT, ISRO, DRDO, ICAR, ICMR, etc. UGC and AICTE can charter the learning contours but definitely cannot set the agenda for multi-disciplinary research in higher education. HEACC needs the accumulated wisdom from a broad stakeholder community, including research-intense public and private industry and educational institutions. In short: The new wine is necessary and will be tasty if it is uncorked in a new bottle. vaidhya@sastra.edu

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi, Date: Nov 24, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 5;

JEE e-test copy to be mailed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The candidates opting for the online mode of the Joint Entrance Examination (main) 2014 will now get the question paper with the answers marked on it after the exam. According to Central Board of Secondary Education, the paper will be mailed to all the candidates.

While the candidates giving the exam offline get to retain a copy of the question paper, same was not the case with the students giving it online as the process is completely computer-based.

The board has also released a **SAMPLE TEST ON WEBSITE** 28-point paper of frequently asked questions where it has tried to answer the concerns of the candidates.

The board said the candidates giving the exam online will be provided with sheets for rough work and calculations. CBSE also stated that practice tests can be downloaded from the official website. Also, the time given for reading instructions during the exam will not be added to the total duration of the exam.

In case of technical glitches, there are adequate buffer computers in every centre and time lost during change of systems will be compensated as every second will be recorded, the board said.

IIT-M launches Ph.D. scholarship programme

A Ph.D. scholarship programme was launched at the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras, recently to provide the next generation of researchers in India and Melbourne world-class academic supervision and support.

The Melbourne-India Postgraduate Programme (MIPP) will link the University of Melbourne with leading research institutes in India – Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore (IISC), Indian Institute of Technology – Kanpur (IITK) and Indian Institute of Technology – Madras (IITM).

The \$3 million programme, a joint initiative of the four institutions would provide 16 Ph.D. scholarships and associated support for research exchanges for the next three years. The programme will commence in 2014 and will be open to Ph. D. students enrolled at the University Of Melbourne, to be co-supervised by staff at IITK, IITM or IISC. Students enrolled in one of the three Indian institutions will have access to co-supervision with Melbourne academics.

Prof. Glyn Davis, vice-chancellor, Melbourne University, said the new programme was a value addition to Melbourne's extensive scholarship offerings.

Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT-Madras, said, "IIT-Madras looks forward to very productive collaboration between faculties of both the institutions with a vibrant student exchange programme at all levels, particularly the research scholars."

Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean, International and Alumni Relations, IIT-Madras, said, "IIT-Madras has embarked on a systematic programme of research collaboration with leading universities across the globe. We envision a four-stage process, starting with faculty interaction, leading to research scholar exchanges and joint supervision of Ph.Ds, culminating over time in joint doctorate programs."

Printable version | Nov 24, 2013 10:02:48 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-downtown/iitm-launches-phd-scholarship-programme/article5384374.ece>

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Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 24, 2013; Section: International; Page: 21;



Harvard scientists have proof yoga, meditation work

Scientists are getting close to proving what yogis have held to be true for centuries — yoga and meditation can ward off stress and disease.

John Denninger, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School, is leading a five-year study on how the ancient practices affect genes and brain activity in the chronically stressed. His latest work follows a study he and others published earlier this year showing how so-called mind-body techniques can switch on and off some genes linked to stress and immune function.

While hundreds of studies have



Study may persuade more docs to try alternative route to tackle myriad modern ailments

costs US companies at least \$300 billion a year through absenteeism, turn-over and low productivity.

Denninger's study, to conclude in 2015 with about \$3.3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, tracks 210 healthy subjects with high levels of reported chronic stress for six months. Unlike earlier studies, this one is the first to focus on participants with high levels of stress. The study published in May in the medical journal PLoS One showed that one session of relaxation-response practice was enough to enhance the expression of genes involved in energy metabolism and insulin secretion and reduce expression of genes linked to inflammatory response and stress. There was an effect even among novices who had never practised before.

In a study published last year, scientists at the University of California at Los Angeles and Nobel Prize winner Elizabeth Blackburn found that 12 minutes of daily yoga meditation for eight weeks increased telomerase activity by 43 percent, suggesting an improvement in stress-induced aging. **BLOOMBERG**

been conducted on the mental health benefits of yoga and meditation, they have tended to rely on blunt tools like participant questionnaires, as well as heart rate and blood pressure monitoring. Only recently have neuro-imaging and genomics technology used in Denninger's latest studies allowed scientists to measure physiological changes in greater detail.

"There is a true biological effect," said Denninger, director of research at the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, one of Harvard Medical

School's teaching hospitals. "The kinds of things that happen when you meditate do have effects throughout the body, not just in the brain."

The government-funded study may persuade more doctors to try an alternative route for tackling the source of a myriad of modern ailments. Stress-induced conditions can include everything from hypertension and infertility to depression and even the aging process. They account for 60 to 90% of doctor's visits in the US, according to the Benson-Henry Institute. The World Health Organization estimates stress

KINGS OF COOL

► News Corp Chairman **Rupert Murdoch** recently revealed on Twitter that he is giving meditation a try

► Other practitioners include the comedian **Jerry Seinfeld**, and **Bill George**, board member of Goldman Sachs Group and Exxon Mobil Corp

IIM Index: An evening of fun, excitement

HT Correspondent

■ lkoreportersdesk@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: The nineteenth edition of 'Index'-the trademark 'disguised' market research programme of Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, kicked off with a fun-filled weekend here on the sprawling Colvin Taluqdar College lawns on Saturday.

The event kept the crowd engaged in competitions and fun games. It started with the finals of the street play conducted last weekend at a city mall in association with UPSACS to spread awareness about AIDS. HT City is an associate sponsor of the index.

Lucknow Idol showcased the budding singers of the city, with participants ranging from college students to seven-year-old boys and girls. Acclaimed Sufi ghazal singers Pradeep Ali and Satyam Tewari judged the event and also gave a sterling performance.

Maggi Hungroo drew all Maggi-lovers in a one-minute-game of non-stop eating. The winner received several months'



■ Exciting features of the fair included a photo booth, where visitors could get their photos clicked with wacky props like huge sunglasses, masks and clown outfits.



ASHOK DUTTA/HT PHOTOS

supply of Maggi noodles. The dancers wowed the audiences with their enthusiastic performances in Footloose dance competition.

The budding entrepreneurs of IIM Lucknow participated in Magma Bizness, a competition organised by the Entrepreneurship Cell of IIM Lucknow. To win this, the stu-

dents came up with the most innovative ways of entertaining visitors at the fair, including darts, ball games, video games like counter strike and bowling.

Other exciting features of the fair included a photo booth, where visitors could get their photos clicked with wacky props. Index celebrated the multifarious handicrafts of India with

Kashmiri woollens, handmade paper and origami, jute bags and clothes with kaantha work and chikankaari.

The jaunty jalopies of Lakhnawi kothis and havelis stepped out in full glory in the vintage car display. The highlight of the event was a rock performance by Indiana band, an upcoming fusion band from Lucknow.

Someone's spying on you from IIT

Kanpur:आईआरडीई, देहरादून में बने स्पाई कैमरे की आईआईटी एयरस्ट्रिप पर हो रही है टेस्टिंग.इंस्टीट्यूट से चार किमी. की सर्कुलर रेंज की कर रहा मॉनीटरिंग.रक्षा, ट्रैफिक, डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट में होगा यूज, मिलेगा काफी फायदा



आईआईटी कानपुर से एक खुफिया कैमरे का इस्तेमाल करके कोई आप पर नजर रख रहा है. ये सुनकर आपका चौंकना स्वाभाविक है. लेकिन आप परेशान न होइए, इससे आपका कुछ बुरा नहीं होने वाला है. दरअसल, आईआईटी कानपुर की एयर स्ट्रिप पर आईआरडीई (इंस्ट्रूमेंट रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट एस्टैब्लिशमेंट) देहरादून में डेवलप किए गए एक स्पाई कैमरे की टेस्टिंग की जा रही है. ये कैमरा चार किमी की सर्कुलर रेंज में होने वाली हर एक्टिवटी पर नजर रखे हुए है. ये स्पाई कैमरा एयरोस्टेट नाम के एक फ्लाईंग बैलून पर फिट है जो कि एक किमी से ज्यादा की हाइट पर फ्लाई कर रहा है. एयरोस्टेट को एडीआरडीई (एरियल डिलीवरी रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट एस्टैब्लिशमेंट) आगरा में डेवलप किया गया है. इसकी मॉनीटरिंग इन दोनों इंस्टीट्यूट्स की टीमों, आईआईटीयंस के साथ मिलकर कर रही हैं. टेस्टिंग कम्प्लीट होने के बाद इसे इंडियन आफ़्रड फोर्सस यूज करेंगी और दुश्मन की हर हरकत पर पैनी नजर रख सकेंगी. वहीं, इसका यूज ट्रैफिक मैनेजमेंट की फील्ड में भी किए जाने की संभावना है.

प्रोजेक्ट आकाशदीप है नाम

एडीआरडीई आगरा में इस प्रोजेक्ट को, जिसमें एयरोस्टेट को स्पाई कैमरे के लिए खास तौर पर डिजायन किया जाना शामिल है, 'प्रोजेक्ट आकाशदीप' नाम दिया गया है. इस प्रोजेक्ट के डायरेक्टर के पॉल ने बताया एयरोस्टेट को 20 नवंबर को इंस्टीट्यूट की एयरस्ट्रिप पर बांध कर आसमान में छोड़ दिया गया है. इस बार इसमें आईआईटीई देहरादून के कैमरे की टेस्टिंग की जा रही है. यह कैमरा डे और नाइट, पूरी तरह से नजर रखता है.

रात में भी करता है पहचान

इस कैमरे की खास बात ये है कि रात में भी इसकी रिकॉर्डिंग एकदम साफ आती है. चार किमी की रेंज तक ये किसी भी ऑब्जेक्ट को पूरी तरह से पहचान लेता है. रात में ठीक से काम करने के लिए इसमें थर्मल इमेजिंग टेक्नोलॉजी का यूज किया गया है. टीम से मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक फिलहाल दो दिन में जो रिजल्ट आए हैं वो काफी अच्छे रहे हैं.

डेवलप करने में 20 करोड़ खर्च

स्पॉई कैमरे के इस प्रोजेक्ट के मैनेजर पुनीत गुप्ता ने बताया कि इसका ट्रायल 6 दिन तक किया जाएगा. उन्होंने बताया कि रक्षा, ट्रैफिक सहित ही डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट में भी इसका प्रयोग किया जा सकता है. इसकी कॉस्ट करीब 20 करोड़ रुपए आई है. इसकी टेस्टिंग में 30 मेंबर्स की टीम डेरा डाले हुए हैं. आईआईटी एयरो स्पेस डिपार्टमेंट के प्रो. एके घोष की मॉनीटरिंग में इसकी टेस्टिंग की जा रही है. आईआईटी स्टूडेंट्स भी इस ट्रायल पर बारीकी से नजर रखे हुए हैं.

बाक्स में लें

कैसा है एयरोस्टेट

एयरोस्टेट एक फ्लाइंग बैलून है जिसकी लंबाई 35 मीटर है और 12 मीटर का एयरो-डायनामिक्स शोप है. एक किमी की हाइट तक ये 200 किलो का पेलोड ले जाने में सक्षम है. इसमें हीलियम गैस का यूज किया जा रहा है. इसके पहले भी ईयर 2012 में इस एयरोस्टेट का ट्रायल इंस्टीट्यूट के एयरो स्पेस डिपार्टमेंट की हेल्प से किया गया था.

- See more at: <http://inextlive.jagran.com/someone-spying-on-you-from-iit-201311230004#sthash.fHZ56YXg.dpuf>