

# Newspaper Clips

**November 30, 2010**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 30, 2010; Section: Editorial; Page: 18;

*A group of Indian-Americans wants people to recognise that yoga is indebted to Hinduism*

## Yoga's appeal is universal

The Hindu American Foundation's 'Take Back Yoga' campaign asserts that yoga is part of Hinduism and people must be made aware of this link. This unnecessarily complicates matters for practitioners of a set of techniques to mental, physical and spiritual well-being. That these practices are of global relevance is attested to by their international popularity. Around 15 million practise yoga in the US alone, indicating the tremendous appeal of things Indian to people regardless of faith, colour or creed. Yoga gives cultural weight to Brand India, enhancing it by displaying the multifarious facets of our society.

Subsuming yoga strictly within Hinduism misconstrues both the practice and the faith. Undoubtedly, there is a multiplicity of forms of yoga, but they may be practised by anyone. To constrict the varieties of the art within any particular religious, cultural or even personal order detracts from the universal availability and applicability of yoga by imposing ownership on the common fruits of Indian civilisation. After all, India has always been

an inclusive culture. Nor has yoga been practised exclusively by Hindus.

Second, the campaigners in their eagerness to demonstrate the uniqueness of Hinduism actually rob it of its intellectual coherence as a way of life. They mistakenly suppose Hinduism to have a fixed core – as in the Semitic religions – that generated a set of

### ■ TIMES VIEW ■

fixed, institutionalised practices. Regardless of whether Hinduism produced yoga, there is no hard and fast rule associating yoga solely with the followers of the faith. Rather than focus on indebtedness and ownership, Indians everywhere would best serve the art of yoga and their fellow humans by demonstrating its applicability to one and all, regardless of what they believe in. Yoga's popularity beyond the land of its invention shows that it is universal.

## Faith is the inspiration

In yet another attempt to deny Hinduism's unique contribution to humanity, many people have questioned the fact that yoga originates in the Hindu faith. Such attempts ought to be thwarted at all costs. This is not to say that

people don't have the right to view yoga as a secularised practice in the modern

### ■ COUNTERVIEW ■

Ajay Vaishnav

world. But surely that doesn't mean they should go to the extent of denying that it is an integral part of the Hindu religion. The history

of yoga as described in our religious texts makes it peculiar to Hindus.

Yoga forms one of the six classic systems of Hindu philosophy. The earliest Vedic texts, the Brahmanas, Vedic Samhitas and Patanjali's Yoga Sutras and the like talk at length about

the ascetic practices of tapas and various asanas. The term yoga itself has been derived from the Sanskrit word 'yuj', which means 'to unite'. Practised by devout Hindus down the ages, yoga is a mystical and meditative practice designed to unite the soul with the eternal. It is, therefore, not correct to view it as just a physical and mental therapy. If anything, yoga insists on using physical training as a means to attain the higher goal of spirituality as defined in Hinduism.

The argument that yoga is not exclusive to Hindus, since it has been practised by followers of other faiths, does not cut ice. It is to fail to see that certain belief systems were offshoots of Hinduism. In that sense, yoga forms the core of a spiritual tradition that spans the history of the Indian civilisation. In fact, you don't find yoga or anything like it in any other culture. Hence the practitioners of yoga should be made conscious of the unique traditions it originates in. Given this, the Hindu American Foundation's 'Take Back Yoga' campaign makes sense and should be supported.



# **Times Of India ND**

## **30/11/2010 p-19**

### **Global temperatures may rise by 4°C in 50 years**

**W**orld temperatures could soar by 4°C by the 2060s in the worst case of global climate change and require an annual investment of \$270 billion just to contain rising sea levels, recent studies suggest. Such a rapid rise, within the lifetimes of many young people today, is double the 2°C ceiling set by 140 governments at a UN climate summit in Copenhagen last year and would disrupt food and water supplies in many parts of the globe. Rising greenhouse gas emissions this decade meant the 2°C goal was “arguably impossible”, an international team wrote.

Hindustan Times, ND  
30-Nov-10

p-15

## SEPARATE PANEL TO MONITOR ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCES

**Chetan Chauhan**

■ chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** After the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT) hinted at "conflict of interest" in environment ministry's presence in appraisal and environment approval process, a separate body would be set up to look into the matter.

As a result, the environment ministry has proposed the National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) to bring in transparency, accountability and predictability in the clearance process.

Ministry's approval process has been questioned and its own committee on alleged environment violations in Posco's steel plant in Orissa termed the approval given to the project as faulty. This year alone, the National Environment Appellate Authority had quashed ministry's three environment approvals citing violation of norms. The IIT-Delhi, which was asked to examine the environment ministry's approval process, said the presence of the ministry in the appraisal and approval of both Vedanta Resources and Posco lead to a "perception of conflict of interest".

Highlighting another loop-hole in the clearance process, the institute said the ministry is dependent on the project proponent for the data and there is no mechanism to validate the same.

"Lack of mechanisms to validate the data provided by the project proponent might lead to subjectivity," the IIT's report said.

Working on the IIT recommendation, the ministry floated framework of NEAMA in place of earlier proposed National Environment Protection Authority, whose independence was being opposed by the ministry officials.

The IIT's view has also been endorsed by the Planning Commission, which stressed an autonomous, multi-disciplinary appraisal and monitoring agency with scientific rigour.

The new agency will conduct both environment and coastal regulation clearances. The ministry has also proposed to increase penalties and fast track them for alleged environment violations under the Environment Protection Act.

# Miracle drug unlocks secret to eternal youth

## Reverses Biological Clock; Turns On Enzyme To Help Mice, Rendered Infertile By Age, Sire Litter Again

**London:** Scientists have found a way to reverse aging, unlocking the secret of eternal youth and paving the way for a drug to keep one "forever young".

Lives could be longer and healthier, free from illnesses such as Alzheimer's and heart disease, with skin and hair retaining their youthful lustre.

Increasing the number of years of healthy life would greatly ease health service costs and reduce the burden on families of caring for frail relatives, the Daily Mail reported, citing the journal Nature.

The research, carried out by oncologist Ronald DePinho of Harvard University, reversed ef-

fects of ageing in animals for the first time in experiments on mice.

Before treatment, the mice's skin, brains, guts and other organs resembled those of an 80-year-old person.

But within just two months of being given a drug that switches on a key enzyme, the creatures had grown so many new cells that they had almost completely rejuvenated.

Remarkably, the male mice went from being infertile to fathering large litters.

The breakthrough centres on structures called telomeres - tiny biological clocks that cap the ends of chromosomes, protecting them from damage.



**FOREVER YOUNG:** The drug switches on a key enzyme, which can rebuild telomeres or tiny biological clocks that cap the ends of chromosomes

With time, the telomeres get shorter and shorter, raising the odds of age-related diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Eventually the telomeres become so short that the cells die. An enzyme called telomerase can rebuild the telomere caps but is normally switched off in the body.

DePinho succeeded in shocking the enzyme back to life in mice that had prematurely aged in a way designed to mimic the human ageing process.

He expected the technique to halt or slow the ageing process and so was stunned to find that it reversed it.

DePinho believes it should be

possible to make a pill that does the same in people.

But there are important caveats. High levels of telomeres can fuel the growth of cancers, and one drug is unlikely to smooth away all the problems of ageing.

"There are multiple mechanisms that conspire to lead to ageing. So, although we think that telomeres are important, there are other factors that come into play," DePinho was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail.

Steven Artandi, a telomere expert at Stanford University, US, described the study as "beautiful" but cautioned that an anti-ageing drug is still more than ten years away. IANS

# This gun can even target hidden foes

**London:** After nine years of war in Afghanistan, the American army in the country has been reportedly provided with the latest game-changing "revolutionary" rifles called the XM25, which have the capacity to figure out an enemy, even when he is hidden behind buildings or other barriers.

According to Fox News, the XM25, designed by Minnesota's Alliant Technologies, has been in development for about seven years and the first prototypes have been provided to US combat units in Afghanistan earlier this month.

The XM25 counter defilade target engagement system is reportedly a high-tech rifle that can be programmed so that its 25 mm ammunition does not necessarily explode on impact, but it can be set to detonate either in front of or behind a target, meaning it literally



**GAME-CHANGER:** The XM25 allows users to decide where its ammunition will detonate, thus enabling the army to target enemies hiding behind barriers

will go through a wall before it explodes and kills the enemy, the report said.

It also has a range of roughly 2,300ft,

nearly the length of eight American football fields, which enables it to fire at targets well past the range of the rifles and carbines that most soldiers use these days, the report added.

Lt Col Christopher Lehner, project manager for the semi-automatic, shoulder-fired weapon system for the US army's programme executive office soldier, said that the XM25 is a "game-changer" that will lead to new ways of fighting on the battlefield, beginning this month in Afghanistan.

"With this weapon system, we take away cover from (enemy targets) forever. Tactics are going to have to be rewritten. The only thing we can see (enemies) being able to do is run away," Fox News quoted Lt Lehner, as saying.

The 5kg, 29inch system costs up to \$35,000 per unit. ANI

**Times Of India ND  
30/11/2010 p-19**

## **Paracetamol use in childhood may cause asthma, allergies later**

**Wellington:** The use of paracetamol for infants may be linked to the development of allergies and asthma later on.

But more research is needed to clarify this and the benefits of paracetamol use for fever control still outweigh the potential of later allergy development, said Julian Crane, a professor at Otago University in Wellington and author of a report. "The problem is that paracetamol is given quite liberally to young children," he said. "There's a lot of evidence suggesting that something is going on here. It's not completely clear-cut, that's the problem."

The report, which has appeared in 'Clinical and Experimental Allergy', is based on a study on use of paracetamol for 505 infants and 914 children in Christchurch, New Zealand. REUTERS

**Times Of  
India ND  
30/11/2010  
p-19  
Biological  
alchemy: Cells  
tricked into  
changing roles**

**New York:** Suppose you could repair tissue damaged by a heart attack by magically turning other cells into heart muscle, so the organ could pump effectively again.

Scientists aren't quite ready to do that. But they are reporting early success at transforming one kind of specialized cell directly into another kind, a feat of biological alchemy that doctors may one day perform inside a patient's body.

"Everyone believes this is the future of so-called stem-cell biology," says John Gearhart of the University of Pennsylvania, one of many researchers pursuing this approach.

The concept is two steps beyond the familiar story of embryonic stem cells, versatile entities that can be coaxed to become cells of all types.

Scientists are learning to guide those transformations, which someday may provide transplant tissue for treating diseases like Parkinson's or diabetes.

It's still experimental. But at its root, the novel technique is really just harnessing and speeding up what happens in nature: a versatile but immature cell matures into a more specialized one. AP

# IIT to remove ceiling fans to curb suicides

**KAUTILYA SINGH**

KANPUR, NOVEMBER 29

THE four-member team at IIT-Kanpur, probing the suicide of Civil Engineering student Madhuri Sale, has come with a plan to help prevent suicides in hostels: replace ceiling fans with pedestal fans.

In the last five years, eight IITians have committed suicide—five of them hanged themselves in their hostel rooms. Another proposal is to end allotment of single rooms to students—now, a student gets a single room from the second year.

Sale, 21, a resident of Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh

and a fourth-year student at IIT-K, hanged herself from the ceiling fan with a rope on November 17.

A four-member committee comprising Prof Omkar Dixit, Prof Mukesh Sharma, Prof A K Ghosh and member of the student gymkhana, C Rahul, was formed to probe the reasons.

A source told *The Indian Express*: “We have a strong reason to recommend the replacement of ceiling fans with the pedestal fans in the institute hostels. By replacing the ceiling fan with pedestal fans, we can at least remove one option for students who are depressed due to some reasons or the other.”

He claimed that the committee was against the concept of allotting a single room to one student. “With regular interaction with room partners, the students get an opportunity to express their emotions. Even if students are given a room, the wall between two such rooms should be demolished, so that the students get their desired space as well as the company of a fellow student,” he added.

He said that efforts have been made to reduce the Internet “addiction” of students. “The Internet speed has been reduced considerably between midnight and 8 am so that students do not

download stuff during this time,” he added.

The panel, however, is yet to find why Sale committed suicide. “Sale was a good student, and had a Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) of 5.8 which is pretty good, and she had done well in most of her exams. She was a brave girl who came from financially poor background and had done considerably well in the past three years,” he said. He asserted that poor academic performance was not the reason behind her suicide.

The faculty member said her suicide was a shock for the faculty as well as the students.

## FINAL IIT PLACEMENTS BEGIN TOMORROW

## Students expected to be spoilt for choice

VINAY UMARJI &  
KALPANA PATHAK  
Ahmedabad/Mumbai,  
29 November

It could be an early Christmas for students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) this year. The final placement process, which kicks off on December 1, is expected to be a season of bonanza, with recruiting companies queuing up once again after a two-year lull.

According to IITs, there is an increase of at least 15-20 per cent in the salaries being offered on campus. Going by the buoyant pre-placement offers (PPOs), many IITs are comparing this year's placements to the 2007 levels.

"Already over 140 firms have

confirmed their participation in the final placement process at the campus. We expect salaries to rise by 15-20 per cent this year, given the buoyancy in the market," said a training and placement member at IIT Kharagpur. The institute, which has already received 44 PPOs, is likely to see close to 1,500 students taking part in the placement process.

In terms of sectors, information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services (ITeS) is set to lead the pack, followed by manufacturing, automobile, finance and banking, consulting, market research institutions, and aeronautics, to name a few. "While firms from the IT and ITeS sector have been overwhelming in number, almost

over 50 per cent, automobile sector has also been quite demanding this year particularly. With a successful PPO season behind us, the final placement scenario is definitely going to improve as compared to last year.

Already out of the 15-odd PPOs that we received, the highest salary is reported to be at Rs 12 lakh as against Rs 9 lakh last year," said Saurabh Basu, faculty in-charge, training and placements at IIT Guwahati.

So far, over 100 firms have already given their consent for participation in the final placement process at IIT Guwahati.

In all, 647 students, including 250 from MTEch, will be participating in the process that begins Wednesday.

At IIT Kanpur, where a batch of 850 will be taking part in the placement process, firms like

Boeing and HAL, representing the aeronautics sector have already confirmed their participation.

"Some people have already started arriving and we have already begun distributing and rationing the days for students. Around 50 firms have confirmed their acceptance of our invitations and we expect the number to increase as the days go

by," said Sanjeev Kashalkar, registrar at IIT Kanpur.

After December 14, the IITs would take a break for the inter-IIT sports meet. The institutes would reopen in the first week of January 2011 and resume the placement process, which may be open till June 2011.

IIT Roorkee has so far received 52 PPOs, the highest among all the IITs till now this year. The institute says over 100 companies have already confirmed participation and the salary levels are up by 13 per cent so far. The highest offer on campus till date is Rs 18 lakh yearly, against Rs 16 lakh made last year.

"Response from the companies is very good. We would be placing around 1,100 stu-

dents. The placement levels could be compared to that of 2007," said P K Jain, chairperson, IIT Roorkee.

IIT Bombay, which has received registrations from 200 companies so far, would be placing around 1,300 students. A placement official said the institute has received 12 PPOs so far.

IITs and other higher education institutions had hit a low in placement offers during the global financial turmoil in the last couple of years. So much so that while students at some of the IITs had received regret letters from companies, a few major banking and finance recruiters did not participate in the placements, resulting in a dip in salary offers.

**ACCORDING TO IITs, there is an increase of 15-20 per cent in the salaries being offered on campus**

# फीस तय करने के लिए मिले छूट

## आईआईटी पर बैठक में काकोदकर कमेटी ने दिए महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

कानपुर। देश की सभी 15 आईआईटी को विश्व के टॉप संस्थानों में शुमार कराने का खाका तैयार कर लिया गया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (एमएचआरडी) की छह सदस्यीय समिति ने इस संबन्ध में महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव दिए हैं।

डिपार्टमेंट आफ एटामिक एनर्जी होमीभाभा के प्रोफेसर और इस समिति के चेयरमैन डा. अनिल काकोदकर का कहना है कि आईआईटी को वास्तविक स्वायत्तता मिलनी चाहिए। आईआईएम की तर्ज पर आईआईटी को खुद की फीस निर्धारित करने की छूट दी जाए तभी



देश के प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर डंका बज सकेगा। काकोदकर समिति की महत्वपूर्ण बैठक सोमवार को आईआईटी कानपुर के आउटरिच सभागार में हुई, इसमें समस्त आईआईटी को आर्थिक स्वायत्तता देने का सुझाव दिया गया। कहा गया कि इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर का प्लान बजट एमएचआरडी से मिले। शिक्षक, कर्मचारियों का वेतन सहित अन्य खर्च आईआईटी उठाएगी। आय

### आईआईटी के हास्टलों से हटेंगे सीलिंग फैन

कानपुर। आईआईटी की सिविल इंजीनियरिंग अंतिम वर्ष की छात्रा माधुरी साले की आत्महत्या से चिंतित प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान प्रशासन ने गर्ल्स और ब्वायज हास्टल के सभी कमरों से सीलिंग फैन हटाने का फैसला किया है। आत्महत्या की जांच कर रही संस्थान की चार सदस्यीय कमेटी ने कहा है कि गर्ल्स हास्टल में बाल फैन लगाए जाएं, ताकि फंदे से लटककर जान देने की गुंजाइश न रहे। यही नहीं बीटेक अंतिम वर्ष की छात्राओं को सिंगल रूम में रहने की इजाजत नहीं दी जाएगी।

के आंतरिक स्रोत बढ़ाए जाएंगे। विश्वस्तर के शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति में सैलरी का मानक आड़े नहीं आएगा। समिति का कहना है कि मंत्रालय यदि कमजोर आय वर्ग के विद्यार्थियों को पढ़ाना चाहता है तो उन्हें स्कालरशिप दे। कमेटी ने एमएचआरडी के

अधिकार सीमित करने का भी सुझाव दिया है। कहा है कि आईआईटी के चेयरमैन, निदेशक, बोर्ड के सदस्यों की नियुक्ति का अधिकार बोर्ड आफ गवर्नर (बीओजी) को दिया जाए। ताकि वास्तविक स्वायत्तता बरकरार रखी जा सके।