Newspaper Clips

October 10, 2016

Indian Express ND 10.10.2016

SHORTER SHORTLIST

THE HRD ministry has come up with a "point system" to grade applicants for the post of IIT director. Whereas earlier, as many as 40 candidates were shortlisted and called for interviews, only five-six candidates will be shortlisted now. The ministry hopes to save time with this exercise and limit itself to interacting with only the best candidates. This point system will be tried out for the first time for selection of IIT-Roorkee director, whose interviews are tentatively slotted for next month. Earlier, the HRD ministry interviewed over 40 shortlisted candidates for over 12 hours, before selecting a director for IIT-Delhi. Many candidates among the 40, government officials conceded, weren't bright enough for the job.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 10.10.2016 P-01

आईआईटी दिल्ली से ग्रेजुएट बंथिया

इस परियोजना की रूपरेखा भारतीय मूल के कनाडाई प्रोफेसर नेमकुमार बंथिया ने रखी। आईआईटी दिल्ली से ग्रेजुएट बंथिया कनाडा-इंडिया रिसर्च सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस के साइंटिफिक डायरेक्टर हैं। बेंगलूरु के नजदीकी गांव थोनडिबवी को 90 किमी सेल्फ-रिपेयरिंग सड़क के जरिए राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग से जोड़ा है।

IIT Ropar joins hands with IIT Mandi & PGIMER to establish Bio-X Consortium

http://www.indiaeducationdiary.in/shownews.asp?newsid=40329

The Indian institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar is collaborating with IIT Mandi and PGIMER, Chandigarh to establish a Bio-X Consortium, which will address all big challenges in the fields of healthcare and medicine. All three institutes are signing a 3-way MoU to join hands with a common goal of disease prevention and affordable health care in India. The consortium is the brainchild of Prof. S.K Das, Director of IIT Ropar who initiated this project along with the Director of IIT Mandi, Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves and PGIMER, Chandigarh to facilitate and encourage collaboration between engineering and technological experts and develop low cost diagnostics and therapy for prevalent diseases which have been affecting a large number of population in India.
Bio-X consortium is poised to tackle the complex challenges in medicine with an interdisciplinary outlook. Based on the common strengths of the collaborating institutes, current focus areas of the consortium include (but not limited to): Biomedical Imaging, Biomechanics, Biomedical Nanotechnology, Biomedical Instrumentation and Cancer Diagnostics & Therapy.

The directors of IIT Ropar and Mandi have agreed to support the consortium by providing the required seed money in form of grants, contributing to 10% of the total project cost. The seed funding will be given to projects with significant potential to initiate preliminary study opportunities and also at a later stage attract additional external funding. Currently 3 out of the 6 projects presented during initial discussions have been awarded seed grants totaling to Rs. 48 lacs. The three projects are in the field of Developing low cost low magnetic field MRI; Determination of Mechanical and Biological Osteoporotic Bone; &Surface modified upconversion nanoparticles for theranostic applications in cancer. All three projects are progressing smoothly with preliminary work/experiments underway and are expecting to apply for extramural funding within one year.

Speaking about the collaboration, Prof. S.K. Das, Director of IIT Ropar said, “This consortium is a result of months of discussions and meetings between the institutes. We aimed to develop a conglomerate or a system, where we could encourage the technological talent and experts to develop affordable medical devices and diagnostic therapies for the various wide spread diseases in India. The success of this consortium will bring a revolution in medical technology and we will enable us to provide low cost healthcare & diagnostics to the large population of India. “

Development centre inaugurated at IIT

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/development-centre-inaugurated-at-iit/article9203064.ece

A new development centre of alfaTKG was inaugurated at the IIT Madras Research Park by Toshio Takagi, president and CEO (India) of the company as a part of an industry academia collaboration on Saturday.

Speaking at the inauguration, Thanapandi Periasamy, CEO of alfaTKG India said that there were several challenges in technology developments for artificial intelligence and related avenues. “We are hoping that the research and development centre works with IIT Madras to come up with good solutions,” he said.

Siji Baba, Japanese Consulate General for India was the guest of honour and Baskar Ramamurthy, Director IIT Madras was also present on the occasion.

IISc scientists' cheap device uses parthenium to detect melamine in milk

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/574924/iisc-scientists-cheap-device-uses.html

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a low-cost handheld device that uses the extracts of the parthenium weed to detect melamine in milk and milk products.

Melamine is a compound commonly used in making adhesives and plastic.
A survey on milk adulteration conducted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2011 reported that about 70% of the collected samples were adulterated.

While adulterants like detergent, urea, caustic soda, skimmed milk powder and glucose and water can be easily detected, it is not the case with melamine. Advanced analytical techniques that require experts are used for melamine detection in milk.

In 2008, around 54,000 babies were hospitalised in China due to consumption of milk and milk products adulterated with melamine. It resulted in the death of six infants.

Parthenium poses a major problem for farmers as it is an invasive weed that hinders farming, causes asthma in human beings and various illnesses in cattle. The IISc scientists, however, discovered that if leaf extracts of this weed are used as a reducing agent in the synthesis of silver nanoparticles (creation of nanoparticles of silver) the melamine interferes with the synthesis and results in a colour change in milk. This visible change depends on the extent of this interference, and one can estimate the quantity of melamine present. This colour change can be directly observed with the naked eye.

Dr Sai Siva Gorthi, assistant professor, Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics, IISc, one of the authors of the study said: “The problem of detection of melamine can be overcome by utilising a simple way of integration of microfluidics with nanotechnology leading to a low-cost device of around Rs 5,000 that people can use at home instead of sophisticated equipment costing lakhs of rupees.”

The team has filed a national and international patent for this technological innovation. The study was conducted under the Social Innovation Programme for Products: Affordable and Relevant to Societal Health (SPARSH) project that is funded by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.

IISc, Japanese firm join hands to study agriculture sector

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/574920/iisc-japanese-firm-join-hands.html

An IoT (internet of things) development centre has been established at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in collaboration with Japanese business consulting firm alfaTKG.

The alfaTKG has been working with the Inter-disciplinary Centre for Water Research (ICWaR) at IISc as part of a MoU signed with the centre last year. A faculty from the centre said, “In Japan, farmers are small (in terms of area) just like India and grow a lot of paddy. The firm is looking at tech methods for improving water efficiency through the use of sensors.” One of the first areas of collaboration will be in the field of water and agriculture. He said that it was futile to use more water for farming as only the right amount can ensure productivity.

“Agriculture needs the efficient use of water. Many farmers do not know about sensors, which sensors to apply and for what purposes — to detect water levels, crop growth,” he added. Such information can be compiled by the use of simple and cheaper sensors available, such as in mobiles, technology that converts details in a photograph into information.

Dhanapandi Periaswamy, South Asian head of alfaTKG, spoke about developing systems and applications which can help farmers get exact information on aspects like crop status, irrigation and resource distribution. “Information on soil temperature, humidity and wind direction will also be collected and based on these data the requirement for the crop will be made,” he said.

The firm will also be looking at solutions for manufacturing sector and will focus on small and medium-scale industries. “We are looking for smart integrated solutions for manufacturing,” said Periaswamy.