

Newspaper Clips

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Art of cooking sans pollution is IIT's message to women in villages

Naveed Iqbal Posted online: Tue Oct 15 2013, 01:40 hrs

New Delhi : Students of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, have taken on a new project — to educate women in villages about pollution-free means of cooking.

Project 'Aanch' works on a simple ideology — something as essential to life as cooking shouldn't kill. It will focus on women in Bhatti mines village, on the outskirts of the capital, and help them understand the environmental and health benefits of using pollution-free fuel to cook.

Most of the households in the area use traditional wood-fired stoves, which have poor fuel efficiency and high levels of indoor air pollution, which leads to regular coughing and other respiratory problems.

Women in the village are also faced with the burden of collecting fire wood for fuel, a task which requires them to go deep into the forest at least twice a week.

Under the new scheme, their traditional stoves will be replaced with modern, smokeless versions, which will check indoor air pollution levels and create a positive impact on the health of these communities.

The new stoves, which will have higher efficiency, are also expected to check felling of trees for fuel.

"The project also aims to generate employment opportunities for rural people as everything, from manufacturing the stove to installation and maintenance, will be handled by the people themselves," the project team leader Divish Gupta said.

The new chulhas (stoves) have been designed by the students themselves, who have tested the devices for various parameters such as safety and emission level. According to the students, they trained four women in the community to manufacture the chulha locally and to sell it within their community. It has also been ensured that raw materials to make the chulhas are available locally.

"We have tied up with Philips, which provided us with the model of a smokeless chulha. The new stoves cut down particulate matter as well as carbon monoxide emissions by more than 50 per cent. This, along with a chimney, ensures that whatever emissions are produced, are removed from the house," Gupta said.

The team comprises 23 students from second year to fourth year as part of the Enactus chapter at IIT-D. The students spend two days a week and educate the members of the Bhatti Mines community in Chhatarpur.

The group has been working with the community for six months and claims to have created grassroot entrepreneurs, who will eventually inspire other women in the community.



The days of humble college fests seem to be over, with IIT Delhi shelling out 25 lakh for just one band

Samarth Goyal

samarth.goyal@hindustantimes.com

The annual fests of the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) have always been considered elite, but now these annual dos seem to have another huge differentiating factor: their budget. At a time when most colleges in Delhi University spend anything between ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh on their annual fests, IITs shell out almost 10 times the amount. Last year IIT Delhi reportedly spent ₹1 crore on its fest, Rendezvous. "It is easier for us to get sponsorship since leading corporates and private banks know they will get maximum visibility at our fests, and also be able to reach out to future MBAs, technocrats, all of who participate in our fest," says a member of the organising committee of IIT Delhi's fest.

No surprise then that this year IIT Delhi is shelling out ₹25 lakhs just to get the American Alternative Rock group Hoobastank to their

annual festival in October. The Reason hitmakers who will also perform in another venue in Delhi and Bangaluru, usually charge much more. "We are paying ₹25 lakhs, and the rest of the cost is being shared by the other two organisers where the band is also performing," shares an insider from the IIT festival committee.

And it's not just IIT Delhi, this year IIT Mumbai will witness a live performance of Mike Portnoy, the American drummer, and co-founder of Progressive metal band, Dream Theater, at their annual fest Mood Indigo. "Right now, a majority of the youngsters want to listen to progressive rock/metal. Hence this choice," says Parth Loya, the festival's media manager, unwilling to put a figure to their budget this year. Sources peg the budget at IIT fests across the country as anywhere between ₹75 lakh to a crore. "The IITs are the most prestigious, big companies readily sponsors them," says a sponsor.



L-R Doug Robb, Dan Estrin, Jesse Charland and Chris Hesse

'WE ARE SO EXCITED TO BE BACK IN INDIA!'

American alternative rock band Hoobastank couldn't be more thrilled to perform in India again. The band, who performed in Shillong earlier this year, will be performing at IIT Delhi's festival Rendezvous on October 18, and at a city cafe, before moving on to Bangaluru. Chris Hesse, the drummer, spoke to us over the phone and said he did not believe coming to India again would happen so soon. "After we played in Shillong, I thought it would be a long time before we would come back again. I can't believe that we are here so soon, we couldn't be more

excited," he said, adding, "The Indian crowd is more intense and involved in the show than crowds in the US. Although I am used to my home crowd, the Indian crowd is just amazing!" He also revealed he is a huge fan of Indian food, especially chicken tikka masala. "Oh I absolutely love it. In fact, it's not just that, I love everything about Indian food, I think it's the best cuisine in the world!" he said. Chris adds that his father is a huge Bollywood freak with whom he gets to watch a lot of Hindi films.

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IIT Roorkee working on providing affordable healthcare

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R), situated in the hilly state of Uttarakhand, is also embarking on two other projects – providing the best of healthcare at affordable costs to remote villages in the hill state as well as effective water harvesting and waste water management in the hills.

Three centres of excellence are being developed by students and faculty of the premier institution – Centre for Urban Design and Development, Centre for Packaging and Centre for Healthcare Engineering.

‘I call these centres of excellence because they are very different from the academic entity. It is how we can leverage the strengths of our researchers and then reach society and help them,’ IIT-Roorkee director Pradipta Banerji told IANS.

Banerji said he is keen to take the best of healthcare provided by superspeciality hospital chains to remote villages in the state.

‘We want to deliver the best and affordable healthcare to the remotest villages, like in Mana, which is situated in Chamoli district. Our effort is to be able to deliver the same healthcare which Max Hospital in Dehradun delivers,’ said Banerji.

The centre will also be working on a design for a hospital setup, complete with proper sanitation and a well-planned structure of construction and hospital management. It would work as a basic design for setting up future large healthcare centres in the state.

Researchers from the department of nuclear science, electrical engineering, chemistry and biotechnology will work to develop an effective healthcare model, he said. Source: IANS-
<http://health.india.com/news/iit-roorkee-working-on-providing-affordable-healthcare/>)

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Proposal to sanction IIT on PPP model

Author: Rashmi Belur | ENS

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After an official announcement by the Centre that there is no proposal to sanction an IIT to Karnataka, the State government has decided to make another attempt, by proposing a public-private partnership (PPP) model in Chikballapur district.

After an official announcement by the Centre that there is no proposal to sanction an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) to Karnataka, the State government has decided to make another attempt, by proposing a public-private partnership (PPP) model in Chikballapur district.

The ground-level preparations for the proposal are in progress at the state Higher Education Department. Official sources in the department confirmed it.

"Union Ministry for Human Resource Development (MHRD) clarified that there is no plan for an IIT in the 12th Plan. Following that we are planning to propose a PPP model," the sources said.

Officials of the Higher Education Department are going to have discussions with the Minister soon.

"We are writing to bigwigs in IT, education and other industries in the state and inviting them to discuss the matter," said the sources.

According to officials, if anybody agrees to invest, then the proposal for an IIT on the PPP model will be sent to the MHRD.

"The State government can provide land. For infrastructure, we need investors and at least Rs 500 crore is needed for the basic infrastructure. If the state can manage that, we can appeal to the Centre for the rest of the funds," the officials said. If anyone comes forward to invest in IIT, the State government is ready to name it after the investor.

At least Rs 1,000 crore is required to establish an IIT and 100 acres of land is needed.

According to officials, there is no dearth of land in the State, "but we need to find investors", they said.

However, the officials confirmed that even if people come forward to invest and the proposal is accepted by the MHRD, they cannot interfere in the administration and other matters.

"If they want, we will give them a prime position in the governing council. But they are not allowed in the regular administration of the institute," the sources said.

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IIM-A is 39th in Economist's MBA schools ranking

Ahmedabad: The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), has been placed at 39th position in The Economist's full-time MBA programmes ranking for 2013.

This year, IIM-A is 17 places higher in The Economists' ranking of top 100 management schools, compared to its position in 2012. Its ranking was 56th last year.

For the last four years, the management institute has been finding a place in The Economist's full-time MBA programmes ranking. Further, in the Asia and Australasia 2013 rankings, IIM-A moved up one place from fifth position last year to fourth position in 2013. **AGENCIES**

Call next Android Lassi, demand IITians

Monday, Oct 14, 2013, 6:59 IST | Agency: DNA

Recently, students of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur started an online campaign demanding that the next Android operating system be named after the Indian delicacy, Lassi.

However, youth in the city do not seem to quite agree with the name selected by the IIT-K graduates.

Continuing their trend of naming the android versions after sweets, Google named its last version Android Kitkat. The students from IIT, Kharagpur in an open letter to Sundar Pichai, head of Google Inc's Android business, said, "As you might be aware, India holds a very important position in your market. In reference to a survey by International Data Corporation on the number of Indian mobile users, it was found that the Indian population solely makes up an important fraction of Android users around the world."

The students have also been calling for support for their campaign through the Facebook page and website of Kshitij 2014, the institute's annual festival. Their biggest hope is Pichai, who is an alumnus of the institute.

But why Lassi? "Seeing the patterns, the next version is likely to begin with the letter L and Lassi is a drink that is well-known across the Indian subcontinent. So, we decided on the drink," said Pradyumna Kumar Mishra, member of the organising team at Kshitij 2014.

Team IIT Kharagpur isn't the only group trying to pull crowds. A group of techies has launched a campaign to get the version named after Ladoo. The same group had campaigned for the previous version to be named Android KajuKatli.

However, the idea does not seem to click among the city youth. “India has much better sweets than the Lassi. Between the two, I think Android Ladoo would be a better pick,” said 25-year-old Thane resident Shradesh Mohite.

“There aren’t many Indian sweets starting with the letter L, but Lassi or Ladoo is a definite no-no,” said market research professional Aniruddh Subramaniam.

14 Oct 2013 07:54

Gateshead milling experts IIT play part in £18m project

Milling machine manufacturer IIT is taking part in an £18m project aimed at creating new processes for the powder industry



A milling machine manufacturer in Gateshead will play a central role in a £18m three-year collaboration devised to develop new equipment and processes for the powder production industry.

Technology company International Innovative Technologies Ltd (IIT) is part of an eight strong consortium brought together by Procter & Gamble Technical Centres to look at new and innovative equipment and processes for the production of super fine powders.

IIT has successfully developed a patented low-energy vertical milling system suitable for the fine grinding of a range of bulk materials, powders and minerals into powders suitable for paints and other products, technology which has secured contracts around the globe for the technology.

Now the company, which employs 35 people at its Team Valley site, is set to recruit a further 20 skilled engineers through the collaboration, named Chariot, which is being supported by an £8.85m grant from the Government's Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative and is being managed by Procter & Gamble's Newcastle Innovation Centre.

of the milling of powders and particles, and research into the effects of new and different grinding equipment designs on material properties and performance.

In this role, IIT will work alongside the Teesside-based CPI Centre for Process Innovation.

Tom Wilkinson, chairman of IIT, said: "This is a highly innovative and prestigious project and we are delighted to be part of this high quality consortium. The project will combine technological innovation with a focus on developing supply chain relationships.

"The aim is to develop long term partnerships and a successful outcome in our own case could lead to considerable new market opportunities for us and the creation of new highly skilled engineering jobs."

As well as fine grinding technology, other aspects of the Chariot programme will involve specialist work in the complex areas of powder science, including particle size, shape and structure analysis.

Michael Duncan, Procter & Gamble Global Open innovation director, said: "This project aims to bring exciting possibilities in the area of advanced particle engineering and create new opportunities to supply innovation across several industries.

"Each partner brings key areas of strength and expertise to a challenging project.

By working together, we hope to deliver a real breakthrough that will benefit each partner and our global consumers, as well as stimulate local innovation and development."

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 15, 2013; Section: Times Global; Page: 20;

Work on asset prices wins economics Nobel for trio

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

Stockholm: The ability to predict prices of stocks and bonds got three Americans the 2013 Nobel prize for economics on Monday.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (RSAS) said the award was given to Eugene Fama, Lars Peter Hansen from the University of Chicago and Yale University's Robert J Shiller for these predictions.

There is no way to predict price of stocks and bonds over days or weeks. But it is possible to foresee the broad course of these prices over longer periods — three to five years. RSAS said the laureates analyzed these findings.

The behaviour of asset prices is essential for many important decisions, not only for professional investors but also for most people in their daily lives. The choices on how to save — in form of cash, bank deposits or stocks — depend on what one thinks of the risks and returns linked to these savings.

Asset prices are also of fundamental importance to the macro economy, as they provide crucial information for economic decisions of consumption and investments in physical capital, such as buildings, machinery.

Mispricing of assets may contribute to financial crises and, as the global recession illustrates, such crises can damage the overall economy. Today, the field of empirical asset pricing is one of the largest and most active subfields in economics.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET



Robert Shiller

(Yale University)



Eugene Fama

(both from University of Chicago)



Lars Peter Hansen

won the Nobel prize in economics for research that has improved the forecasting of long term asset prices, a hot topic since the collapse of the US housing market bubble led to a global financial meltdown

► Fama showed in the 1960s how hard it is to predict markets in the short run, while Shiller two decades later showed how it can be done in the long run. Hansen developed a statistical method to test theories of asset pricing

► Shiller published the book "Irrational Exuberance" in 2000, predicting the collapse of the dotcom bubble

“Their methods have shaped subsequent research in the field & their findings have been highly influential both academically & practically — THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Peace Nobel should've been mine: Assad

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad has jokingly said that he should have been awarded the Nobel Peace prize, a pro-Damascus Lebanese newspaper reported on Monday. The prize, which was given to the global chemical weapons watchdog on Friday, "should have been mine", Assad said, according to Al-Akhbar newspaper. Assad made the remark "jokingly", the daily said. **AFP**

Shiller said getting the Nobel was a total surprise. "Economics is a fascinating and important field. Finance is a theory that has many controversial elements and a vast body of knowledge, use of which will help improve human welfare," he said, adding that finance drives modern civilization.

Shiller said the recent financial crisis reflected mistakes and imperfections in the financial system that they

were working on correcting.

Fama started looking at asset prices in the 1960s and demonstrated that stock prices are extremely difficult to predict in the short run, and that new information is very quickly incorporated into prices.

Hansen developed a statistical method that is particularly well suited to testing rational theories of asset pricing.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

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Considering all future options, says Nilekani

Melbourne: Amid reports that he may join politics, UIDAI chairman Nandan Nilekani on Monday said he was considering all options post-Aadhaar.



"I am considering all my options as I look at what I do post-Aadhaar," Nilekani said.

Nilekani, an IIT alumni, left Infosys to join the government as the head of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). "Having a strong corporate background has been beneficial but there were few adjustments I had to make accordingly to work in the government sector," he said.

Nilekani, 58, is currently working on his next book which would be based on how to set a link between technology and the government. Media reports last month said that Nilekani may join the Congress and contest the 2014 polls.

Talking on future e-governance initiatives, Nilekani, who is due to deliver Australia India Institute speech on 'India's Transformation: The Role of Information Technology' here on Tuesday, said that those were not vetformed. AGENCIES