

Newspaper Clips October 21, 2014

Millennium Post ND 21/10/2014 P-3

IIT-D starts gender equality campaign, with a difference

JAHANVI

NEW DELHI: Believing that gender equality is important for society, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT -D) students in its fest Rendezvous this year had a 'Photo booth' to counter the traditional image of women and further emphasising on equality for women within our society.

'The photo booth is that of a see-saw in the rest position. It has S at the bottom and He at the top. This seesaw is representative of the prevalent, biased 'default' view of women that our society has: She is worse than he,' said Abhishek, student of IIT-D and one of the coordinators of the event.

Inviting students to take pledge for gender equal society, Abhishek said: 'When a person has their photo clicked, she/he raises the see-saw to

balance it, representative of a pledge to not fall for this default view but instead treat women and men as equals, to be judged on their merit like individuals, without any pre-conceived notions or biases.'

A successful and a creative innovation by IIT-D students, just in a span of four days, a total of 300 students registered for the event and took photos with the see-saw.

'This year we decided to take up social issues and highlight them. In today's time, gender equality is very important and hence, through our fest and 'photo booth' we wanted to spread awareness. Since, many people attend our fest, we thought this is best time to launch it. Also, after the fest gets over, we plan to take it forward,' said Yatin, a student of IIT-D and one of the coordinators of the event.



The photo booth that shows a see-saw that has S at the bottom and He at the top. This seesaw is representative of the prevalent bias against women in our society, with the message that 'She is worse than He'

Under the initiative, 'SHE' by IIT-D students, a panel discussion along with UN Women Solidarity movement for gender equality was conducted and also, this year students celebrated Raksha-Bandhan with dozens of boys tying the beloved strings on girls instead.

Amar Ujala ND 21/10/2014 P-7

आईआईटी में दीक्षांत समारोह एक को

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी दिल्ली में दीक्षांत समारोह एक नवंबर को होगा। इसमें वर्ष 2006 में फिजिक्स में नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता जॉर्ज स्मूट मुख्य अतिथि होंगे। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन आईआईटी दिल्ली स्थित कैंपस ओपन एयर थियेटर में होगा। समारोह दो चरणों में होगा। जिसमें पीएचडी डिग्री, इंस्टीट्यूट मेडल, एल्युमिनी अवार्ड, यूजी, पीजी मेडल और पुरस्कार प्रदान किए जाएंगे। वहीं प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों को विभिन्न मेडल भी दिए जाएंगे।

Amar Ujala ND 21/10/2014 P-7

आईआईटी में रेनडेवूज-14 का समापन

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी दिल्ली में चार दिनों से चला आ रहा वार्षिक फेस्ट रेनडेवूज-2014 छात्रों की मस्ती के साथ संपन्न हो गया। कार्यक्रम के आखिरी दिन विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताएं हुईं। इसके साथ ही रेनडेवूज गॉट टैलेंट, चक्रव्यूह, अधूरी कहानी, सोलो डांस, आगाज ईस्टर्न ग्रुप, देसी रूट, टून-मेनिया कार्टूनिंग जैसे कार्यक्रम हुए। इनमें छात्रों ने बढ़-चढ़ कर हिस्सा लिया।

Photo: Sunilk Bora

HOW TO BE A BESTSELLING AUTHOR: Chetan Bhagat giving tips during the lecture

IIT-D geniuses to Chetan: Sir, how to approach girls?

emphasised that anyone who isn't a bookworm or isn't aware of authors and books in the market, was likely to pick one of his novels because it relates to everyone. He added, "My books have also crossed the language barrier, as the novels are written in English, while the Bollywood films based on them are in Hindi, which the common man can watch and relate to."

Ashok Kumar, president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association, said, "We are overwhelmed with the lecture and wish Chetan all the best for his journey. His guidance and inspiration is a major motivation for our students"

OPEN HOUSE
The event concluded with an open house session, where Bhagat was asked questions that ranged from "how has he changed from being an average student to a best-selling author" to tips on "approaching girls" on the campus.

— Bhardwaj, Deepika @timesgroup.com

Ashok Kumar

The audience listens to Chetan Bhagat's lecture

IIT Delhi's annual cultural festival, Rendezvous, is one of the most awaited college festivals in the capital. This year, they got a dose of ex-IITian and bestselling author, Chetan Bhagat.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LECTURE
Students and alumni of the institute attended a lecture by the author about his journey - From Institute to Bollywood - along with the release of his latest book. But unlike any other lecture that the walls of Dogra Hall have seen through the years, this session began on a comic note, owing to Chetan's sense of humour. He reminisced about his college days at the institute and the shenanigans he and his group indulged in. These were welcomed with outbursts of laughter and applause by the audience, who could, without a doubt, relate to these escapades. A lot of the nostalgia had to do with the unfortunate ratio of boys and girls in the institute, which, he said, had always remained extremely imbalanced, where boys outnumbered the girls. So much so that someone from the audience even asked the author if he will consider naming his next book 'No Girlfriend'. This was followed by a presentation by Chetan about his journey from being an average student in the institute to now having film adaptations of his novels. "I'm not the best writer but the bestselling writer," said Chetan. He added, "My main aim is to connect with not just the upper or the middle class, but the rural class as well. Every slum kid should have my book in their hands one day." He also

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WHO SAYS THERE ARE NO GIRLS IN IIT-D?

Chetan Bhagat: Not the best but the bestselling writer

IANS | Oct 20, 2014, 12.43 PM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/Chetan-Bhagat-Not-the-best-but-the-bestselling-writer/articleshow/44885539.cms>

He admits he may not be in the same league as the literary greats of India when it comes to fiction, but he has revamped the concept of 'bestsellers'. This, says novelist Chetan Bhagat, is because his stories are written for Indians.

The 40-year-old was interacting with the alumni and students of the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi in the first 'Distinguished Alumni Lecture' series here Saturday evening.

During the hour-long lecture on 'From Institute to Bollywood', the author of the bestseller "Five Point Someone" that was adapted into the blockbuster movie "Three Idiots", spoke about how by listening to his inner self he embarked on a journey that changed the course of his life.

"When my first novel came in 2004, there was a different literary landscape in India. It was the time when many young people were learning to speak in English for better job prospects," said Bhagat.

"I know that I am not the best writer in India, but I am the bestselling writer because I write for the people of my country. I write in the language they understand and converse with them through this," he added.

The entire conversation turned out to be a light-hearted evening for the audience, which applauded, giggled and laughed at Bhagat's impeccable sense of humour. The audience could associate with Bhagat's nostalgic references to the culture, the girls' attitude towards IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) boys and the daring things he did during his stint at the institute.

He advised them to be more adaptive in life because "brilliance is not just enough to survive in this world".

"You have to realise that adapting is winning. Being smarter or intelligent is not enough in this world. How many times do we see a brilliant man heading a company? Then we look at them and wonder: 'Our fundas (basics) were better than his, but why aren't we there?' So, be more than what you are," said the author.

Bhagat, in his many interviews, has maintained that he isn't writing to win literary prizes but is using writing as a tool to teach English and make people read books written in simple English.

Even his latest novel "Half Girlfriend" is the love story of a non-English speaking Bihari boy and a Delhi girl. Through this 'language divide', he is not just narrating a tale, but reaching out to mofussil India that aspires to "speak flawless English" to find societal acceptance.

"These days, people are associating language with intelligence and this is creating a social-caste system. I want to stop this elitism," he said.

"Educated girls don't want to date a guy who doesn't speak English and this is what I have tried to bring out in my novel," he added.

Bhagat said that he wanted every slum dweller in the country to be able to read his books one day.

"I want to change people's thinking by writing, so that they can elect better. I use my writings, novels and columns to focus on that aspect and hope my message reaches out to a large audience," he concluded.

Lava attempts Guinness World Records for 'Longest Self Photographs (Selfies) Relay Chain' at IIT Delhi

<http://www.lightreading.in/lightreadingindia/news-analysis/298335/lava-attempts-guinness-world-records-self-photographs-selfies-relay-chain-iit-delhi>

Mobile handset maker Lava International attempted the world record of longest self-photographs relay chain at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Annual Festival, Rendezvous where 816 students participated in the rally of clicking selfies by Lava Iris X5. More than 800 selfies were clicked at the IIT Delhi campus, said the company's release. Lava has worked with IIT Delhi event team over the last few days to ensure that all guidelines specified by the Guinness world records are met, it said. All the selfies were clicked by Lava Iris X5, a smartphone recently launched by Lava and positioned as 'made for selfies'. The smartphone has a 5 MP front camera with flash, auto focus and a wide angle lens. "This is a proud moment for each one of us, as together we have made this the first attempt by any Indian brand to achieve something as unique as this," said Tarun Verma, DGM, Marketing, Lava International. New Delhi headquartered Lava was started in 2009 and is now one of the top Indian brands in the mobile handset industry

HRD POLICY

Govt allows pension portability in IITs, IIMs

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

The government has allowed pension portability for teaching and senior non-teaching staff of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), central universities and other such institutions, allowing faculty members to change jobs easily without the hassle of having to choose a new pension plan.

Teaching and senior non-teaching employees of older central government-funded educational institutes (CEIs) will no longer have to migrate to the new pension scheme (NPS) and can continue with their older plan even after shifting jobs from one such institute to another.

"Instead of leaving the old pension scheme at the old institute and adopting NPS at the new institution, we have now allowed pension portability," said a human resource development (HRD) ministry official, requesting anonymity.

The move is expected to benefit employees of IITs, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science Technology and Research, Central Universities, and dozens of other CEIs. Earlier, faculty members and other employees shifting

from one such institution to another after January 2004 needed to opt for the NPS.

HRD minister Smriti Irani had discussed the issue with university vice chancellors in a recent meeting.

"The Government of India after careful consideration of the constraints being faced by these Institutions due to existing regulations/orders issued by the Government and other Administrative Authorities has decided to relax the conditions governing mobility of such personnel..." Amarjeet Sinha, additional secretary, HRD ministry, said in the letter dated 13 October.

The letter, a copy of which has been reviewed by *Mint*, said that the HRD ministry has received necessary approvals from the department of personnel and training and department of pension.

IITs, IIMs and central universities are facing a shortage of teaching staff between 15-42%; although the centre is in favour of faculty mobility of some senior employees from the older institutes to the new ones, NPS had been a stumbling block.

Since, 2007, India has added more than 17 central universities, seven IIMs and eight IITs. This year, the new National Democratic Alliance government said it plans to open six more IIMs and five more IITs.

IITs to house Centres of Excellence

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/iits-to-house-centres-of-excellence/article6518656.ece>

The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises plans to open centres of excellence for technology development in capital goods at four Indian Institutes of Technology, and at the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore.

Disclosing this in his convocation address at Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya here on Sunday, Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Pon. Radhakrishnan said the centres to be set up at the IIT-Madras, Delhi, Bombay and Kharagpur and at the CMTI would have design, manufacture, assembly and testing infrastructure and laboratories, to be manned by system development engineers and scientists. These centres might help to develop new technology and sub- or total systems and even demonstrate a limited series of production themes to bring the products to the level of commercial worthiness.

Claiming that the 'make in India' campaign was set to open windows of opportunities to young graduates, he called upon them to rise to the occasion and make the country a nerve centre of industrial activity.

He said the real pride lay in innovation, and not in imitation or transplantation of technology. The country, which performed reasonably well in the services industry and became a destination for outsourcing, should concentrate on manufacturing, as there was an overriding priority to undertake technology development in different fields.

Medals and degree certificates were awarded to the students at the convocation, held in the presence of Kanchi Kamkoti Peetathipathi Jayendra Saraswathi and chaired by Chancellor S. Jayarama Reddy.

IIM - Kozhikode to host 2nd pan-IIM world management conference

13 IIMs supported by HRD ministry come together for globalizing Indian thought

Chennai, Oct 20:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/iim-kozhikode-to-host-global-management-conference/article6520257.ece>

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode will host the second Pan-IIM World Management Conference supported by the Ministry of Human Resources Development and collectively organised by 13 IIMs.

The conference will be held at IIM Kozhikode campus in Kerala, from November 5 to 8, 2014 on the theme 'Globalizing Indian Thought,' said the institute in a press institute.

The theme, 'Globalizing Indian Thought' emphasises the Indian management approaches that have found international recognition in recent times.

Indian businesses have evolved their own management styles such as Jugaad innovation and India as a country has a rich legacy of its original science such as yoga, Ayurveda, vastushastra, among others. These practices and techniques have caught global attention.

The conference aims at bringing together global scholars to one of the fastest growing economies of the world. The conference will deliberate on issues that will impact global management thoughts in the years to come.

Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, Director, IIM Kozhikode said, “IIMs have different functional and sectoral expertise, region specific industry access and clout and understanding of local practices. Collectively IIMs can emerge as a formidable force in exploring newer frontiers of management science. The West is increasingly interested today in decoding the phenomena in the emerging markets.”

The conference will have experts from Wharton Business School, ESCP Paris, policy makers, leaders from Indian industry who would share Indian management thinking and how it can impact global businesses.

Apart from the Common Admission Test (CAT), this is another big platform that brings all IIMs together.

INDIA LAGGING BEHIND IN FIELD OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, SAYS PM MODI

Hindustan Times (Indore)

NEW DELHI: Noting that India is way behind in the field of medical research, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said much more needs to be done and asked doctors passing out from AIIMS to give back to society which has “contributed” in making them what they are.

He also asked doctors to work among the poor in far-flung areas at least for a week in a year.

“You are so lucky to have studied in an institution like AIIMS. I leave you in hope that as children of mother India you will give back to society which has given you so much love...,” he said at the 42nd convocation of the institute.

Modi said Indian doctors have made a name for themselves world over but the country was far behind other countries in the field of research.

In an apparent reference to health minister Harsh Vardhan’s remark that over 40% of AIIMS doctors go abroad for work, Modi said he was not aware if the thought of giving back crossed their mind as the country diverted budget from different sectors to their field, which made them what they are.

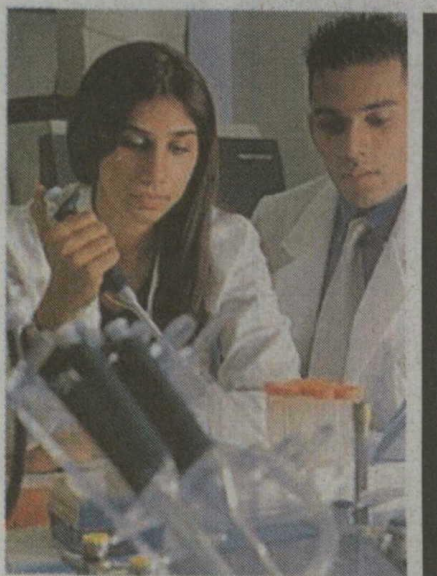


Outlining qualities of a good doctor, he said; “Good doctors are the ones who associate themselves with the patient and not just with the disease. They work to help develop patient’s confidence.”

Do your own research

Indian higher education needs to be reformed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's observation at the convocation ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences that India lags behind in medical research cannot be faulted. Despite this country offering quality health-care that attracts patients from around the world, including the developed West, the fact of the matter remains that the quality of research that is done at Indian medical colleges and universities remains much to be desired. And this is true not just in the field of medicine but across all streams of higher education in India. Those still in doubt need only look at the latest *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings. One of the world's three most prestigious rankings, it does not feature a single Indian institute of advanced learning in the top 275. Just four Indian institutes make it to the top 400 — Panjab University and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, are in the 276 to 300 bracket (there are no individual rankings beyond 200) while the Indian Institutes of Technology at Bombay and Roorkee scrape the bottom in the 351-400 bracket. Some academics here have complained that such ratings, which inevitably come out West



heavy at the top with American and European universities leading the list, are not 'East friendly'. They argue that the ratings are biased as they hold Indian education up to Western standards. While there may be some truth in this, it does not explain how other Asian universities, judged with the same Western yardstick, continue to climb the ratings chart. In fact, over the years Western domination has been on the decline while universities from Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and even Turkey and Israel, have consistently improved their scores.

The ratings look at several factors such as teaching environment, research quality, industry application and international exposure among

others. India ranks lowly on almost all fronts but performs especially poorly in academic research, which is simply not given adequate institutional, social or policy-level support. Consequently, most serious Indian scholars move abroad, where they shine, yes, but are also sucked into the Western academic eco-system. Meanwhile, Indian academia lies impoverished which eventually takes a civilisational toll on the nation as well. One reason that is oft-cited for India's listless research fields is that students prefer an 'industry-oriented' higher education. While this only feeds into India's larger research malaise, it is also an argument that does not hold water even at face value given that Indian industry routinely complains that Indian graduates maybe certified but are not employable. Clearly, there is a large-scale deficit in the Indian education sector. Instead of passing the blame, Indian academics and policy-makers need to acknowledge the problem and begin a large-scale reforms project. Rejuvenating the research sector is a good place to start.

What These IIT-ians Are Doing To Support Rural Education Will Warm Your Heart

<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/what-these-iitians-are-doing-to-support-rural-education-will-warm-your-heart-228057.html>

The high amount of discarded paper and the sad state of education in rural areas has inspired 17 B-Tech students from IIT-Delhi to participate in a pioneering eco-friendly project to help the sad state of rural schools in the country. The team in association with resident welfare associations (RWAs) collects waste paper from Delhi neighborhoods and corporate offices in Gurgaon and Noida to have it recycled into notebooks. Currently 1000kg of waste paper produces about 700 notebooks at a small margin.



brainbuxa

It doesn't just end here, the team wants to venture into the production of desks made from discarded cardboard cartons after a man in Mumbai produced a prototype, that can be folded into a schoolbag. It is being used by Aarambh, an NGO based in Navi Mumbai, unfortunately the material is weak and non water-resistant.



homecrux

The notebooks are sold at Rs. 5 each while the team is developing a school kit made of other recyclable materials. We hope this endeavor makes a difference to the lives of children who are not blessed with the privilege of a wholesome education.

'DRDO wants young blood in research'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/DRDO-wants-young-blood-in-research/articleshow/44890881.cms>

BHUBANESWAR: Often under criticism for being dominated by aging scientists, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) plans to infuse more young blood into its research, DRDO director general Avinash Chander said here on Saturday.

"DRDO is currently recruiting around 60 scientists annually. We are looking to induct about 300 a year. I have sought government support for this," said Chander, who is also the scientific adviser to the defence minister. He was speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the third annual convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar (IIT-BBS) where he was chief guest.

The research organization will focus on development of small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and sophisticated communication equipment to deal with "invisible" enemies, he told the reporters.

Earlier, addressing the IIT-BBS convocation, Chander said, "Research is a neglected domain in our higher education structure. Successful research programme offers vast possibilities and can make a difference in the lives of people. The world has seen many countries devoid of natural endowments but still progressing solely on the strength of indigenous technological advancements and research."

Chander said the universities and institutes have to be breeding grounds for creative pursuits and source of cutting edge technological developments. "The quality of our research has to be comparable with the best in the

world. Our researchers have to cooperate with one another to find solutions to critical problems. New products have to be designed that are useful to the common man," he said.

Premier technical institutions such as IITs and NITs have a responsibility to spearhead research in various branches of science and technology, he said.

The DRDO chief lamented the fact that the standards of education in many our institutions are below benchmark. Chander said governance structures have to be supportive of innovative ideas and also facilitate faster decision-making.

Chander said India stands tall as a reckonable power for its technological prowess and the country is looking at the new generation to lead with new ideas.

Deccan Herald ND 21/10/2014
P-14

Nasa's Mars orbiters survive comet flyby

WASHINGTON: All three Nasa orbiters around Mars are safe after each took shelter behind the Red Planet during a period of risk from dust released by a comet flyby on Sunday.

Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) orbiter all are part of a campaign to study comet C/2013 A1 Siding Spring and possible effects on the Martian atmosphere from gases and dust released by the comet.

The comet sped past Mars much closer than any other known comet flyby of a planet, Nasa said.

Nasa's newest orbiter at Mars, MAVEN, took precautions to avoid harm from a dust-spewing comet that flew near Mars and is studying the flyby's effects on the Red Planet's atmosphere.

The MAVEN spacecraft reported back to earth in good health after about three hours of precautions against a possible collision with high-velocity dust particles released by the comet.

"We're glad the spacecraft came through, we're excited to complete our observations of how the comet affects Mars, and we're eager to get to our primary science phase," said MAVEN Principal Investigator Bruce Jakosky of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

The opportunity to study this rare near-miss of a planet by a comet comes during the project's commissioning phase.

A few weeks of instrument calibration and orbit fine-tuning remain before the start of the primary science phase.

The mission will study the upper atmosphere of Mars and its interaction with the solar wind. Comet Siding Spring hurtled past Mars at about 56 kilometres per second, coming within about 139,500 kilometres of the planet.

That is equivalent to about one-third of the distance between earth and the Moon.

MAVEN kept in a defensive posture to reduce its profile relative to the direction from which the comet's high-velocity dust particles would come.

PTI

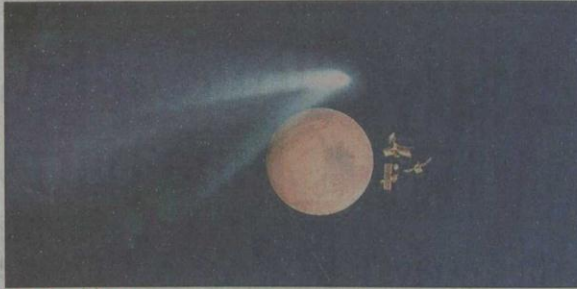
Mars cover saves orbiters from comet

3 Probes Duck Behind Red Planet To Escape Collision During Flyby

First burger and chips sent to space

Washington: All three Nasa orbiters around Mars are safe after each took shelter behind the Red Planet during a period of risk from dust released by a comet flyby on Sunday. Mars Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) orbiter all are part of a campaign to study comet C/2013 A1 Siding Spring and possible effects on the Martian atmosphere from gases and dust released by the comet.

The comet, the size of a small mountain and about as solid as a pile of talcum powder, whizzed past Mars on Sunday. It made its closest encounter with the Red Planet at 1827 GMT, racing past it at a breakneck 203,000 kilometres per hour. At its closest, Siding Spring was 140,000 kilometres from Mars — a near miss by as-



NARROW ESCAPE: An artist's rendition shows Nasa's Mars orbiters taking shelter behind the Red Planet to avoid comet dust that may result from the close flyby of comet Siding Spring on Sunday

tronomers' standards. The comet sped past Mars much closer than any other known comet flyby of a planet, Nasa said.

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avoid harm from a dust-spewing comet that flew near Mars and is studying the flyby's effects on the Red Planet's atmosphere. MAVEN reported back to Earth in "good health" after spending about

three hours ducking a possible collision with the comet's high-velocity dust particles, the US space agency said.

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A London-based start-up has successfully launched the first ever burger and chips into space using a helium balloon the size of a two-bedroom house. The meal was sent 112,000 feet into the sky in a stunt that cost around £2,000. While technically classified as "near space", the ascent is an all-time first for the humble burger and chips, the 'Telegraph' reported. The outlandish challenge required "lots of helium and a balloon the size of a two-bedroom house. We thought it would be a laugh," said Andy Shovel, co-founder of Chosen Bun. This was the company's second attempt to launch their products into space. During their maiden effort in August the camera had failed. PTI

Hindustan Times ND 21/10/2014

P-3

DU to revive re-evaluation system

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: A year after it did away with re-evaluation of answer sheets, the Delhi University has decided to revive the practice.

"The re-evaluation of answer sheets — which had become infructuous after the university introduced a new system of checking where three examin-

ers evaluated one answer sheet, albeit different sections — will be reverted and answer sheets will now again be examined by a single examiner," said a notification issued by the university.

The university had scrapped the re-evaluation system last year.

This had resulted in a huge hue and cry from students as they had lost their only chance

of redemption if they felt they had been marked unfairly. Meanwhile, students who had failed in the first year of the FYUP and could not take admissions due to various reasons will be allowed to be re-admitted to first year.

The last date for submission of admission and examination forms for these students is October 29.

Mint ND 21/10/2014 P-18

Test for malaria in 30 minutes

'Lab on chip' needs less than a drop of blood to detect infection

Divya Gandhi

BANGALORE: Diagnosing malaria, a disease that kills one child every minute around the world, could soon take as little as 30 minutes to do — perhaps even on your smart phone — thanks to a new device created by a team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The “lab on chip” needs less than a drop of blood (around 10 lakh blood cells) to detect cells infected with malaria.

Disposable cartridge

A disposable cartridge first adds re-agents to the blood sample to mark out malignant cells from healthy ones.

It then delivers the sample to the handheld instrument which in turn uses an optical reader that quantifies the infected blood cells, Sai Siva Gorthi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics and Principal Investigator of the project, told *The Hin-*



The hand-held device may take another three years to reach the market.

du. The low-cost device, which could cost just Rs. 10 per test, is small enough to fit in our hands, and would be particularly useful in parts of India where access to laboratories is poor, he added.

Those who can afford smartphones however, can use their phone camera — with the help of a hardware

add-on and an App developed by the team — detect malaria and get a quantitative analysis report too. “The hardware essentially helps turn the camera phone into a microscope,” Dr. Gorthi said.

According to the WHO, 207 million people across the world were infected with malaria in 2012. Of the 6,27,000

who died that year, 80 per cent were children under five years.

Developing nations hit

Much of these figures come from developing countries where the mosquito-borne disease thrives and access to primary health care is poor. Traditionally, the malaria diagnosis process — from collecting a blood sample, to analysing it under a microscope and preparing a report — takes over a day.

The device can be adapted to test other diseases associated with major changes in normal cell morphology. “Any disease that is tested using the existing gold standard of microscopy — such as sickle cell anaemia or even certain kinds of cancers like leukaemia — can theoretically be tested using the principle of this device, Dr. Gorthi said.

The device, which I sat a prototype stage, could take another three years to reach the market, he added.

Now, human intestine grown in lab

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London: Scientists have grown human intestines from stem cells for the first time in a laboratory, opening the way for new treatment of life-threatening and chronic diseases such as Crohn's disease and some cancers. Scientists from the Intestinal Rehabilitation Programme, at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, say the development brings them a step closer to growing artificial tissue to replace damaged human intestine. The tissue fragments – called “organoids” – were transplanted into lab mice, where they matured.

The human organoids were then grafted into the kidneys of a mouse, providing the necessary blood supply to the organoid cells to grow into fully mature human intestinal tissue. The researchers noted that this step represents a major sign of progress for a line of regenerative medicine that scientists worldwide have been working for several years to develop.