

Newspaper Clips
October 22, 2010

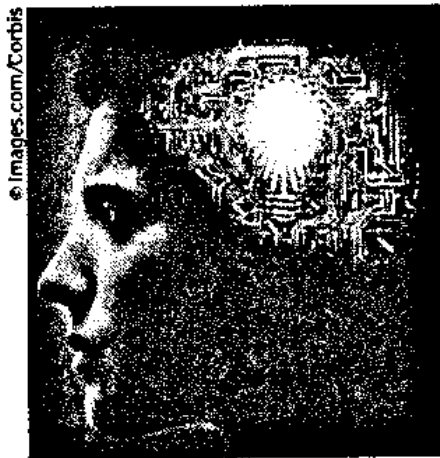
Times of India ND 22/10/2010 P-23

‘Soon, you can take a back-up of memories’

London: Similar to the computer file back-up system, humans will also be able to back up of their brains and all memories contained in them within the next two decades, a leading scientist has claimed.

Speaking at a science conference, Raymond Kurzweil, the award-winning American inventor and futurist, said that the human brain backup was now already technically possible. The 62-year-old scientist, who has pioneered in fields such as optical character recognition (OCR), text-to-speech synthesis, speech recognition technology, said humans can achieve this feat within the next 20 years.

By that time, “We will have thousands of nanobot computer machines in our blood that



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BEYOND IMAGINATION

will heal our bodies, improve our performance, and even be able to back up all the contents of our brains, just as you back-up your files on a computer,” he told a gathering of 500 guests at a “future talk” event in Vienna, Austria.

“That means they would

back up every thought, every experience, everything that makes us an individual,” he was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail. “It may sound far-fetched but in the early 1980s, people thought I was crazy for predicting the emergence of the world wide web by the middle of the 1990s; but it happened, and on the schedule I predicted.”

At the age of 15, Kurzweil created a programme that could recreate music in the style of the great composers. He also built the first machine that could read written speech for the blind for his friend Stevie Wonder — for whom he also later made a revolutionary musical synthesiser capable of recreating real instruments. ११

Times of India ND 22/10/2010 P-1

As JEE head, tainted prof tweaked cutoffs

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Running a fake institute from within the IIT-Kharagpur campus is not the only way in which Amit Kumar Ghosh of the aerospace department made his name.

From 2006 to 2008, Ghosh was chairman of Joint Entrance Examination, Kharagpur, when the maximum number of bungs took place. Documents with TOI show that he not only gave false statements but under his charge, material related to JEE was destroyed despite clear rules that it be retained for a year.

Ironically, he was chief vigilance officer of IIT, Kharagpur till recently.

On August 24, 2006, much after students had taken admission in IITs, as individual marks of candidates were released, it was found that students scoring just 154 marks were declared qualified though students with 279 marks were disqualified.

If this was not enough, Ghosh's re-

Wrecking Brand IIT



▶ A K Ghosh sought approval in Oct '06 for shredding of JEE material, though JEE papers are not to be destroyed for a year

▶ M Chakraborty and S K Dube on panel that

cleared request. Chakraborty's son was admitted to IIT-Kharagpur under board of governors' quota, Dube's son was caught for impersonating in JEE

sponse to a student who had not qualified despite scoring 231 marks (104 in physics, 75 in maths and 52 in chemistry) was that "he has not satisfied the marks eligibility criteria laid down for individual subjects as well as the aggregate marks in JEE 2006".

Asian Age ND 22/10/2010 p-5

8 new IITs asked to set up campus by '14

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Oct. 21: Eight newly-established IITs have been asked to establish their campuses by 2014. The government is also considering increasing the funds allocated for faster infrastructure development of these IITs.

Sources stated that HRD minister Kapil Sibal has asked for a meeting to be held in November with the respective state government officials, Central Government officials and IIT directors to facilitate the process of land acquisition.

The decision came after several IITs expressed difficulty in securing clearances from Central and state government departments for acquisition of the land allotted to them.

Official sources stated that Mr Sibal also assured the IIT directors that the HRD

The government is also considering increasing the funds allocated for faster infrastructure development of these IITs

ministry would move a Cabinet note on the issue of enhanced allocation of funds for campus development after the directors drew attention to cost escalation over the years.

Meanwhile, in an effort to tide over the faculty crisis in eight newly-created IITs, the HRD ministry on Thursday approved topping up of government approved salary of teachers.

Official sources stated that the issue of providing salary that will attract good faculty was discussed at length. "It was decided with the minister's approval that topping up of government approved

salary can be done by the IITs from their own funds," sources added.

At present, in the IITs, the HAG scale (₹67,000-79,000) is applicable for 40 per cent of the professors in position. The new IITs expressed that they have been unable to implement this grade since it has been possible for them to recruit few faculty so far. The minister stated, here, that the ministry would seek requisite approval from the finance ministry and the Union Cabinet to provide for a new proviso for the new IITs to be able to implement this salary grade.

Thursday's meeting was held to discuss issues specific to new IITs, especially with regard to the constraints they are facing in infrastructure and faculty development where all the IITs made separate presentations.

Times of India ND 22/10/2010 P-6

Future of 370 AIIMS docs in limbo

Risha Chitlangia | TNN

New Delhi: Senior residents (SRs) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are a worried lot after the institute administration asked at least 370 of the 450 SRs to appear for fresh interviews.

These 370 SRs were hired on adhoc basis over the past two years because the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) had put a stay on regular recruitments following a case in March 2009.

Now, the Resident Doctors Association (RDA) has written to the director, Dr RC Deka, asking him to make sure these 370 SRs are absorbed. Senior residents say that some of them have completed almost two years of senior residency and a fresh exam would ruin their career. "I have already put in nearly two years of service as SR. I'm in my final year. This is the time for me to submit research projects and not sit for a selection interview for senior residency," said Dr Faizi.

Most SRs claim that they were selected through proper interviews conducted by various departments. "We have appeared for exams and cleared department levels interviews. Every 45 days our residency period is reviewed by department heads and then extended. This means we are constantly evaluated by our seniors for the work we do. Then why make us sit for

TOLD TO APPEAR FOR FRESH INTERVIEWS

the exam?" questioned Dr Debjyoti Karmakar, RDA president, AIIMS.

The problem arises from an administrative goof-up in 2009 when a single seat in the gynaecology department was advertised under reserved category. The RDA took this matter to CAT which ordered a stay on the recruitment process in March 2009 and the results were not declared.

Since then, 329 SRs have been re-

cruited on adhoc basis in various departments. And close to 50 were recruited in 2008-09.

Two weeks ago, the tribunal ruled in favour of the RDA and ordered for regular appointment of SRs. Instead of accommodating the 370-odd SRs, RDA claims the registrar has informed that the institute would be conducting fresh exams and only those who qualify will be made regular. "This is just not done. They can't play with our future. Just in case we don't qualify, we can't join any government hospital," said Dr Prashant Durapal, senior resident with pathology department.

According to a senior official in the registrar's office, "A fresh roster has been made. It has been sent to the director for approval. As per the institute policy these SRs have to sit for fresh exams." But according to Dr Karmakar, in a late evening meeting with sub-dean Dr Rakesh Yadav, the RDA was assured that their demands would be addressed.

'The spirit of autonomy of the university has been violated'

Vice chancellor of Mumbai University between 2000 and 2004, **Bhaichandra Mungekar**, talks to **Jyoti Punvani** about the withdrawal of Rohinton Mistry's *Such a Long Journey* from the BA syllabus by the current VC, after an ultimatum by the Shiv Sena's youth wing:

■ What were the options before the VC?

The university is an autonomous body, supposed to function strictly according to the Mumbai University Act, 1994. No external power, including the government which finances it, can dictate terms and make it function against the spirit of the Act. In this case, the spirit of autonomy has been violated. In a highly multicultural society like ours, it's quite possible that a particular event or artistic expression can injure the feelings of a group. If every such group feels aggrieved

and dictates terms for the overall governance of society, administration will be impossible. The aggrieved party has legitimate ways of expressing dissent, in a parliamentary way.

Currently, all academic bodies of the university are dissolved, and elections are to be held to them. Hence the VC is entitled to use his emergency powers. But these are to be used only in case of a crisis of administration. I don't think such a crisis was in place here.

Q&A

I too used these powers, but on no occasion did I do so out of fear or favour. To be fair to the VC, he called a meeting of the dissolved Board of Studies (that had recommended the book) before he took his decision. Those present unanimously condemned the book. This is a reflection of the academic integrity and honesty, not to mention the scholar-



ship of the members present!

The immediate option for him would have been to report the matter to the chancellor/governor, who is the ultimate authority of the university. Even the governor has to guide the university according to the Mumbai University Act.

■ **Would the VC have got the support of the government**

had he taken a stand against the ultimatum?

That's irrelevant. Academic morality and safeguarding the autonomy of the university are much more important than whether or not the VC can get the protection of the government. The standing of an authority like the VC comes from his academic integrity, even more than from his scholarship.

■ **The CM seems to have backed the VC's decision, by talking about the book's language. Does the literary merit of a text have no value?**

Literary merit cannot be the main criterion for selection of a book as a text, let alone the only criterion. I am a defender of intellectual freedom and shall remain so to the last decimal point. But in this case, I've gone through some of the so-called objectionable passages and I'm fully convinced, even giving the

benefit of the doubt to the book being a piece of fiction, that some sentences are certainly objectionable. Of course, it would always be desirable to read the entire book rather than a few passages. There is a difference between dissenting with the political and social philosophy of an individual or organisation, and abusing the individual by name. Though it is a character in a novel who does so, it's a reflection of the author's inclination. However, this is no justification for giving an ultimatum for withdrawal of the book.

■ **How then would you teach Dalit literature, say, Namdeo Dhasal's poetry? Or even Tukaram's abhangs?**

Using abusive language as a means of communicating something is distinct from abusing an individual, dead or alive, by name, as an expression of condemnation or denigration.

MEA blocks Dalai Lama PhD No maintenance for 'keep', says SC

MEA BLOCKS DALAI LAMA PHD

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NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has scuttled a proposal by the Delhi-based Jamia Millia Islamia, a central university, to award an honorary doctorate to the Dalai Lama.

The human resource development ministry has been informed that such a step would not be appropriate at this stage.

In a clear indication that it

is keen to avoid angering China, which regards the exiled Tibetan leader as a traitor, the MEA has taken this position despite all other agencies involved having approved the idea.

Though the Dalai Lama has received similar honorary doctorates from at least half a dozen top international institutions, Jamia would have been the first Indian higher educational institution to confer one on him. (He is also recipient of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



■ Dalai Lama; Degree denied

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NEW DELHI: In what instance can a woman in a live-relationship claim maintenance? Not if she is 'kept' for sex or as a servant, Supreme Court said on Thursday. It said the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 — which provides maintenance to women who live in — doesn't cover all such relationships, only 'relationships in the nature of marriage'.

"If a man has a 'keep' he uses

for sex and/or as a servant, it would not be a 'relationship in the nature of marriage', it said.

The court said a woman can get maintenance only if she fulfills certain parameters — the couple must hold themselves out to society as being akin to spouses; they must be of legal age to marry; they must be otherwise qualified to marry, including being unmarried; they must have voluntarily cohabited for some time — and can prove this.

"Parliament has said 'relationship in the nature of marriage', not 'live-in relationship'.

The court can't change the language of the statute," it said.

"This is one step forward and two back," said jurist Rajiv Dhavan. "On one hand the court gives a liberal interpretation to common law live-in relationship... But the fact is it is purely sexual for the man is irrelevant as long as the live-in relationship exists. This leaves too many options for the man, including, paradoxically, that he was giving vent only to his lust. It creates a loophole in an other-

wise liberal judgment."

The SC order came on a plea against a Madras High Court order upholding a trial court decision in favour of maintenance — under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) — to a woman living in with a man. But the SC sent the case back to the trial court after clarifying that under the CrPC only a legal wife, dependent parents and children can get maintenance while the 2005 Act does not clearly define 'a relationship in the nature of marriage'.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HRD ministry officials refused to comment but other government sources confirmed the ministry had forwarded the Jamia proposal to the MEA for clearance. University authorities had written to the HRD ministry last month saying they would like to present the degree at their convocation in November.

Tensions between China and the Dalai Lama have often threatened to affect Sino-Indian relations. China objected to the Dalai Lama's visit last year to Arunachal Pradesh — which it claims as its territory. Earlier this year, it also objected to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meeting the Dalai Lama.

Top government sources have told HT India does not wish to worsen its relationship with China, already under stress over China's Kashmir policy and other irritants. "Our respect for his Holiness the Dalai Lama is immense," a source said.

The Dalai Lama, who has lived in India since 1959 when he escaped from communist China, runs the Tibetan government-in-exile from Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. India officially describes him as an honoured guest and spiritual leader who is not allowed to use Indian soil for political activity.

Defence lab grows world's costliest fungus

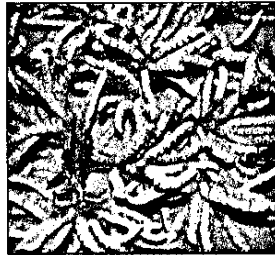
Samar Halarnkar

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NEW DELHI: A rare, strange fungus — pushed across Asia as an anti-ageing elixir — that eats its hosts from the inside and is sometimes costlier than gold has been grown in a petri dish by defence scientists.

The first Indian breakthrough in artificially creating what is regarded as the world's costliest fungi was made at a Himalayan field station of the Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research.

The finest variety of the fungus will set you back



■ The finest variety of the fungus costs ₹27,000 in China. DANIEL WINKLER

₹27,000 for 10 gm in China, against ₹19,830 for a similar quantity of gold in India at today's prices.

Known in India as Yarsha

FUNGUS COMPOUNDS HAVE BEEN FOUND BENEFICIAL FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, IMPOTENCE AND CIRRHOSIS

Gamboo (Yursta gunbu in Tibet), the precious, parasitic fungus is an "important" anti-ageing medicine, said a paper in the latest issue of the journal *Current Science*, where the scientists reported their breakthrough.

The fungus' compounds have been found beneficial

for a range of ailments that include rheumatoid arthritis, impotence and cirrhosis. Traditional healers use the caterpillar fungus to treat chronic bronchitis, insomnia, pneumonia, tuberculosis, among other ailments.

The bio-energy institute's parent body is the country's largest scientific organisation, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which has filed a patent for the artificial version of the killer fungus and transferred the technology to an unnamed private firm for commercial production.

"This has opened new vis-

tas for pharmaceutical industries in India who (sic) used to import the raw material from China," Dr Ranjit Singh, lead researcher of the team that grew the fungus, said.

Known for growing inside its caterpillar host and eating it alive, *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, to use its scientific name, is found in the frigid and arid alpine reaches of the Himalayas and the Tibetan plateau.

Though the Indian breakthrough is significant, no one has yet got the fruiting part of the fungus, the stromata, to grow in a laboratory.

Hindustan Times ND 22/10/2010 p-10

New IITs to have full campuses by 2014

NEW DELHI: The eight new Indian Institutes of Technology set up since 2008 will have fully ready campuses of their own by 2014, under a timeline decided on Thursday at a meeting between Directors of these Institutes and HRD Minister Kapil Sibal. Sibal also assured the new IITs that he will take up concerns related to faculty pay restrictions with the finance ministry.

Lancet, WHO spar over malaria death figure

Sanchita Sharma

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NEW DELHI: Malaria is killing more Indians than estimated, says a study reported in medical journal *The Lancet*, which puts malarial deaths at 2.05 lakh each year — 13 times the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimate of 15,000 deaths a year.

According to the study, Orissa alone accounts for 50,000 deaths, followed by Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam and the northeastern states. Children are the worst hit, with the mosquito-borne disease killing 80,000 of those under 15 years of age.

WHO has rubbished the estimates while the health ministry has reserved judgment.

“*The Lancet* study uses verbal autopsy method, suitable only for diseases with distinct symptoms. Malaria has symptoms common with many diseases and verbal autopsy may result in false-positives,” said Dr Nata Menabde, WHO representative designate to India.

Verbal autopsy involves interviewing families of people who have died about the circumstances surrounding the death.

“In a 2005 study, the same authors had warned against

WHO'S RIGHT?



■ A doctor examines a malaria patient in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

■ 2.05 lakh people die of malaria each year, says the study by Toronto-based Centre for Global Health Research — 13 times the WHO estimate of 15,000 deaths

■ WHO says verbal autopsy method of reaching such a high estimate wrong

■ But CGHR says WHO estimate does not take into account those who die undiagnosed

use of verbal autopsy for obtaining malaria death estimates, as did the registrar general of India,” Menabde added.

“All we know at this point is that all fever deaths have symptoms similar to malaria. The diagnosis is unconfirmed. Whatever the cause, fevers are preventable and the government should ensure medicines reach people in time,” said Dr V.M. Katoch, secretary in the health ministry.

In the study, Toronto-based Centre for Global Health Research analysed 75,342 deaths across India between 2001 and 2003 and found malaria to be the cause in 3.6 per cent (2,681) of the cases.

“WHO’s numbers were misleadingly low as it was based on people being diagnosed and treated for malaria. Most people die undiagnosed,” said co-lead author Dr Prabhat Jha, director of CGHR.

Hindustan Times
ND 22/10/2010 p-6

HIGH COURT QUASHES PLEA AGAINST UPSC

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi High court has dismissed a petition by six Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) candidates, challenging the evaluation process of the prestigious civil services examination.

The candidates, who failed to clear main examination thrice from 2007 to 2009, alleged gross irregularities in allocation of marks. Nearly three lakh candidates take the examination each year.

The division bench of justice Pradeep Nanderjog and justice Moolchand Garg said: "The procedures followed by the Union PSC while evaluating the answer sheets do not warrant judicial interference."

Prashant Ramesh Chakkarwar, Sonia Chahar and Sanjay Kumar Singh, Phani Bhushan, Pranav Kumar Vasta and Ashish Gupta had filed a petition in court, alleging possible irregularities in the civil services examination conducted by the UPSC from 2007-2009.

The petitioners asked the court to direct the UPSC to produce their individual records related to the examination. The petitioners alleged that the UPSC has a history of committing errors in evaluation process.

Business Standard, ND p-6

22-Oct-10

Sibal wants new IIT campuses by 2014

Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal has urged the new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to complete their campuses by 2014 and that these should be compliant with environment norms. At present, the campuses are set up in polytechnics or colleges. Sibal met the directors of the new IITs on Thursday to discuss their specific issues and the constraints they are facing in infrastructure and faculty development.

BS REPORTER

Financial Express ND 22/10/2010 P20



Britain | Higher education

The coalition's first big exam

The main winner from a controversial new set of university reforms will probably be the taxpayer

UNIVERSITY tuition fees are political dynamite. Tony Blair's government first introduced up-front charges for students in Britain in 1998; they were replaced in England in 2004 with a scheme under which fees rose, but students could borrow the cost from the state and repay it once they were earning. That move proved even more contentious in Parliament than Blair's decision to wage war on Iraq. A new proposal for graduates to pay even more for the education they have enjoyed could open a rift in the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government.

Demand for higher education is booming around the world; to help increase the supply, many countries, including Germany, Ireland and Spain, have begun charging students, as America has long done. In England (Scotland and Wales have separate regimes) a student beginning his studies this year must contribute £3,290 (\$5,200) towards the annual cost of his education. The actual average cost is around £7,000: the state partially plugs the gap, and also lends students the money to pay their fees and living expenses. These loans currently carry no interest in real terms, and graduates do not begin repaying them until they are earning £15,000 a year or more.

This largesse meant that simply letting universities expand to meet demand was unaffordable, even before the coalition set out to squeeze Britain's fiscal deficit and public spending. The

previous Labour government recognised the unsustainability of the arrangements it had designed, and in November 2009 commissioned an independent review of the system, headed by Lord Browne, a former boss of BP. On October 12th he published his report. Predictably, it caused an uproar.

Lord Browne called for universities to be allowed to charge whatever they like for their courses—though other parts of his plan might limit the fees at most institutions to around £6,000 a year. He suggested that

those who wanted to charge more than that figure should give a rising proportion of the excess to the state. For example, universities charging £7,000 a year would hand over £400; the contribution would rise to £4,500 for those pricing themselves at £12,000 (less than the average actual cost of teaching medicine and dentistry), leaving the university with just £7,500. Diminishing the returns from increasing fees would reduce the incentive to hike them, not least as students might be reluctant to pay stratospheric fees

if they knew a big chunk would go to the Treasury.

To help ensure that the resulting debts would not oppress the less well-off, Lord Browne also recommended that the income threshold at which loan repayments begin should be lifted to £21,000; and that the debts of graduates beneath that level should not accrue any interest in real terms. He suggested that loans for living costs should continue, alongside non-repayable maintenance grants for students from poor families. But he believes that one of the main

reasons too few suitably qualified students from poorer backgrounds get to the best universities is that they are badly advised by their teachers, and wants every school to provide well-informed careers guidance to its pupils.

If cheap loans to students were retained to cover increased fees, these plans would be crippling expensive. To reduce the burden on the state, Lord Browne proposed that, when a graduate does earn more than £21,000, he should pay interest on his debt at the same rate as the

government borrows the money; and that the debt should not be written off until 30 years after graduation, up from 25.

Now for the hard part

According to Lord Browne, these reforms would shift the costs of higher education away from low-earning graduates and towards their higher-earning classmates (see chart). Roughly the top 40% of earners would pay back all the money that the government had forked out on their behalf; the lowest earners would pay less than they do under the present system.

But the main winner would be the exchequer, according to an analysis by Lorraine Dearlen and Haroon Chowdry of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. They agree that better-paid graduates would pay more, and poorly paid graduates less. However, universities would also lose out, should the direct subsidy to institutions be removed for most subjects, as the report envisages (and as may well happen), because the graduate contributions would only partially compensate.

Before the general election in May, all three main political parties said they would examine Lord Browne's suggestions. But enacting them could prove tricky, and embarrassing—because the Lib Dems promised eventually to abolish tuition fees in their manifesto, and have secured the right to abstain from any vote on legislation arising from the review. Responding to his publication, Vince Cable, the Lib Dem business secretary who is responsible for universities, repeatedly hinted that annual fees could be limited to £7,000, as he tried to persuade his party to rethink its stance. "In this current economic climate," he said,

opposition to fees "is simply no longer feasible". He was frank about the exigencies of coalition: "The roads to Westminster are covered with the skid marks of political parties changing direction."

So far the Lib Dem mutiny is muted, compared to the rebellion unleashed when Blair reneged on his party's pledge not to raise the tuition fee in 2004. Just one backbencher, Greg Mulholland, told Mr Cable that he would stick to his earlier pledge to vote against any rise in fees. A big part of the explanation for the calm is that a third of Lib Dem MPs hold government posts. There may well be too few rebels on the backbenches to prevent the relevant legislation passing. (Some senior Lib Dems always thought the party's policy was mistaken, and are glad to use the cover of the coalition to ditch it.)

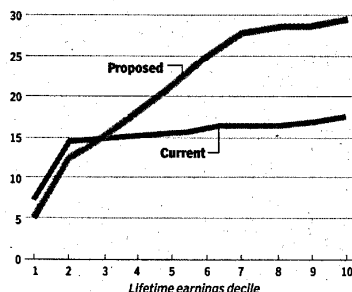
The government can console itself that Labour has its own splits on the issue. Many Labour MPs have in the past favoured a "graduate tax", including Ed Miliband, their leader, who has consistently criticised the idea of higher fees. However, Alan Johnson, who was higher education minister in 2004, and is now shadow chancellor of the exchequer, has opposed a graduate tax.

Although the Lib Dems may win some concessions, many of Lord Browne's recommendations have a strong chance of becoming reality. One thing seems certain: as universities await the cuts to their central funding for teaching that the chancellor is expected to announce on October 20th, as part of the government's spending review, graduates will be asked to pick up most of the tab.

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TAPPING THE RICH

Estimated net present value of average loan repayments by graduate earnings decile, £ '000



Source: Browne review



Business Standard, ND 22-Oct-10 p-12

COMPUTER PREPARES TO READ LIKE HUMANS

*The Never-Ending Language system runs 24*7 to extract facts from text found in web pages to improve its reading competence*

LESLIE D'MONTE

Can computers learn to read? A Carnegie Mellon University research team, that includes an Indian PhD student believes so.

The research project attempts to create a computer system that learns over time to read the web.

For the last ten months, the computer system called NELL (Never-Ending Language Learner) has been running continuously, attempting to perform two tasks each day.

First, the system attempts to "read", or extract facts from text found in hundreds of millions of web pages [for instance, playsInstrument(George Harrison, guitar)] and then, it attempts to improve its reading competence, so that it can extract more facts from the web, more accurately on the following day.

NELL runs 24*7 to perform two ongoing tasks. It has currently acquired a knowledge base of nearly 440,000 "beliefs" that it has read from various web pages.

'Read the Web', as it is called, aims at eventually building a never-ending language learner (hence, NELL) — a computer agent that runs forever and extracts, or reads, information from the web daily to populate a growing structured knowledge base. Moreover, it must learn to perform a specific task better than what it had achieved on the previous day.

For the first six months, NELL was allowed to run without human supervision, learning to extract instances of a few hundred categories and relations, resulting in a knowledge base comprising approximately a third of a million extracted instances of these categories and relations.

The inputs to NELL include an initial ontology defining hundreds of categories (for example, person, sportsTeam, fruit, emotion) and relations [like, playsOnTeam(athlete, sportsTeam),

playsInstrument(musician, instrument)] that NELL is expected to read about, and 10-15 seed examples of each category and relation. Given these inputs, plus a collection of 500 million web pages and access to remainder of the web through search engine application programming interfaces (APIs).

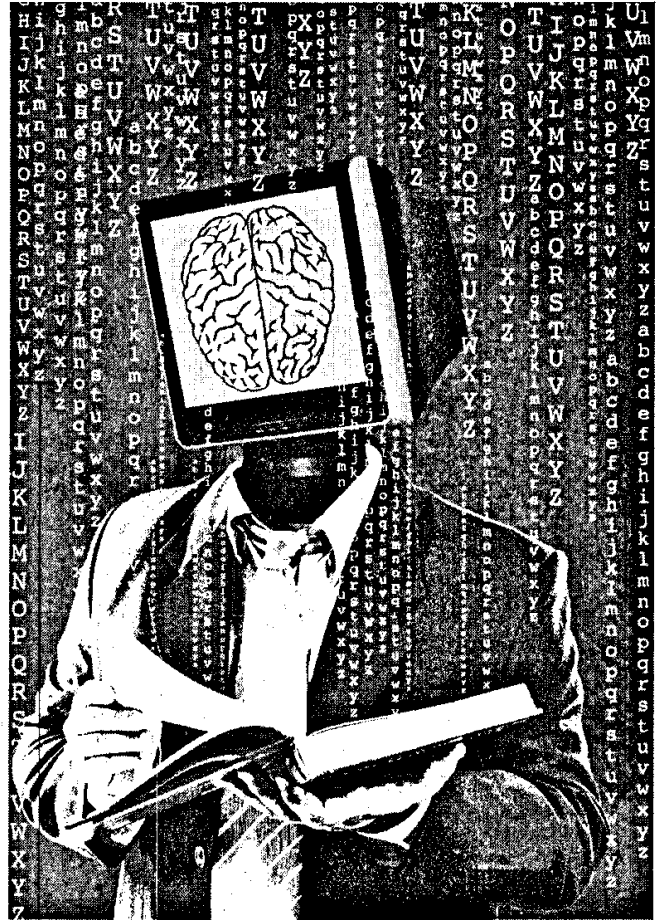
NELL extracts new instances of categories and relations. In other words, it finds noun phrases that represent new examples of the input categories (for example, "Barack Obama" is a person and politician), and finds pairs of noun phrases that correspond to instances of the input relations (for example, the pair "Jason Giambi" and "Yankees" is an instance of the playsOnTeam relation). These new instances are added to the growing knowledge base of "beliefs".

NELL uses a variety of methods to extract "beliefs" from the web. Much of its current success is due to its algorithm for coupling the simultaneous training of many extraction methods. In July, a spot test showed the average precision of the knowledge base was approximately 87 per cent across all categories and relations.

NELL, however, makes many mistakes too. For instance, for the category bakedGood, it learns the pattern "X are enabled in" because of the believed instance "cookies." This leads it to extract "persistent cookies" as a candidate bakedGood. The probability for phrases that end in "cookies" is high and so "persistent cookies" is promoted as a believed instance of bakedGood.

When it comes to card games, the cardGame category seems to suffer from the abundance of web spam related to casino and card games, which results in parsing errors and other problems. As a result of this noise, NELL ends up extracting strings of adjectives and nouns like "deposit casino bonuses free online list" as incorrect.

The computer also finds it difficult to associate product names with more gen-



IMAGING: AJAY MOHANTY

eral nouns that are somehow related to the product but do not correctly indicate what type the product is, (for example, "Microsoft Office", "PC").

The research team is still trying to understand what causes it to become increasingly competent at reading some types of information, but less accurate over time for others. "It is not perfect, but NELL is learning..." said the research team on the project website.

The team includes professors Tom Mitchell and William Coehn and an Indian PhD Student (Language Technologies Institute) Jayant Krishnamurthy.

The computer also makes use of Yahoo!'s M45 computing cluster to efficiently extract statistics from the half billion web pages. Financial support for the research has been provided in part by DARPA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), Google, and the Brazilian agency CNPq.

Incidentally, scientists at universities, government labs, and technology companies like Google, Microsoft and IBM have similar pursuits. While the online search giant has 'Google Squared, IBM's project is code-named 'Watson' after its founder Thomas J Watson. The IBM computing system, unveiled last year, is designed to rival the human mind's ability to understand the actual meaning behind words, distinguish between relevant and irrelevant content, and ultimately, demonstrate confidence to deliver precise final answers. Watson will not be connected to the Internet, or have any other outside assistance.

(The author, on a sabbatical from Business Standard, is an MIT Knight Science Journalism Research Fellow 2010-11)

Mint, ND 22-Oct-10 p-4

BUSINESS SCHOOLS

Online test deterring CAT aspirants?

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI:

Experts are blaming the falling number of candidates for the common admission test (CAT) to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other business schools on its shift from pen-and-paper mode to online last year.

Some 242,000 students had appeared for CAT in 2009, a drop of nearly 10% from 2008, when around 271,000 registered for CAT.

This year, the number has dropped 15.5% over 2009.

"We have sold some 205,000 vouchers. We have just concluded the calculation of exact registration number this year; it is 204,267," said Himanshu Rai, convenor of CAT and professor at IIM-Lucknow.

CAT will be held on 20 days between 27 October and 24 November. Last year, it was held for 10 days.

"There is a certain amount of fear among students from smaller cities as they are not very comfortable with computers," said Vinayak Kudva, product head, IMS, a leading management coaching institute chain.

The fear has been exacerbated by technical glitches that bedevilled the shift to online last year, forcing thousands of candidates to appear for a second round of testing.

"After last year's fiasco...it (the fear) has just strengthened," said Kudva.

CAT preparation institutes have also suffered a drop in registrations as a result, and have reduced their fees to attract students.

Admissions at IMS have dropped by 20%, said Kudva. The institute is offering a

15-25% discount on coaching fees.

CAT coaching typically costs ₹15,000-35,000.

Quest Tutorials, another chain of preparation institutes, is offering a 20-25% discount on fees. "The computer-based CAT has affected the profit margin of institutes," said chief executive Gaurav Mittal.

Ulhas Varagkar, director of the TIME chain of coaching centres in the National Capital Region, pointed out another factor that has brought down the number of CAT aspirants: economic slowdown.

He said thousands of CAT candidates every year are professionals from various fields, particularly engineering, who take a break from work to attempt entering the elite management schools.

But the slowdown of the past two years and the gloomy job market it created has deterred many prospective CAT takers.

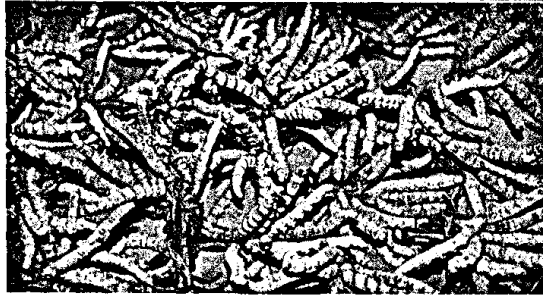
"Though the situation has started improving, the placement offers at IIMs were not great. This is also one of the reasons," Varagkar said.

Bharat Gulia, manager, education, at auditing and consultancy firm Ernst and Young, agreed that the shift to online was a factor, but pointed out other factors too.

He said only a few institutes take CAT as a parameter for admission. Other management entrance exams are also coming up. "I think the downward trend signifies maturity of students. They are exploring other opportunity both in the management education and other fields."

Rai of IIM-Lucknow said besides the premier IIMs, at least 150 other business schools offered admissions based on CAT results.

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In demand: *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, the caterpillar fungus.

BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH

Indian defence lab grows costliest fungi

By SAMAR HALARNKAR
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NEW DELHI

hindustantimes
SPECIAL

A rare, strange fungus—pushed across Asia as an anti-ageing elixir—that eats its hosts from the inside and is sometimes costlier than gold has been grown in a petri dish by defence scientists.

The first Indian breakthrough in artificially creating what is regarded as the world's costliest fungi was made at a Himalayan field station of the little-known Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research.

The finest variety of the fungus will set you back by ₹27,000 for 10gm in China, against ₹19,830 for a similar quantity of gold in India at today's prices.

The institute's parent body is the country's largest scientific organization, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which has filed a patent for the artificial version of the fungus and transferred the technology to an unnamed private firm for commercial production.

"This has opened new vistas for pharmaceutical industries in India who used to import the raw material from China," Ranjit Singh, lead researcher of the team that grew the fungus, said.

Known in India as Yarsha Gambo (Yursta gunbu in Tibet), the precious, parasitic fungus is an "important" anti-ageing medicine, said a paper in the latest issue of the journal *Current Science*, where the scientists reported their breakthrough.

The fungus' compounds have been found beneficial for a range of ailments that include rheumatoid arthritis, impotence and cirrhosis. Traditional healers use the caterpillar fungus to treat chronic bronchitis, insomnia, pneumonia, tuberculosis, among other ailments.

Known for growing inside its caterpillar host and eating it alive, *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, to use its scientific name, is found

in the frigid and arid alpine reaches of the Himalayas and the Tibetan plateau.

It costs ₹3 lakh per kg in India, ₹5 lakh on average in the international market, with the finest specimens in Shanghai markets going for ₹27 lakh.

The caterpillar fungus grows between 12,000ft and 16,000ft in the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas. Reaching its breeding grounds is difficult, requiring treks up to 45km to the base of glaciers.

"Huge commercial demand has led to excessive harvest and a dramatic decline in its numbers," wrote seven Chinese scientists in a recent paper in the international journal *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.

Though the Indian breakthrough is significant, no one has yet got the fruiting part of the fungus, the stromata, to grow in a laboratory.

Earlier this year, a senior Thai official, Somyos Kittimankhong, claimed he had spent three years and several million of his own baht (the Thai currency) trying to germinate the caterpillar fungus. The claim was later found to be untrue.

Commercial production won't be easy, but it worries researchers who fear it will undermine income for village gatherers.

"I (would) rather have a million of marginalized people earn some cash than one company making millions," American researcher Daniel Winkler wrote in his blog earlier this year. "However, many Chinese consumers are willing to pay more for the natural product collected in the wild, so even if these techniques succeed the bottom should not fall out of the market."

But if the caterpillar fungus lives up to its hype, natural supplies will never, as now, ever satisfy demand.

Mint, ND
22-Oct-10 p-11

Eight new IITs seek more funds

New Delhi: All the eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have demanded that more funds should be allocated to them for their construction

as costs have increased over the last three years. The institutes also demanded a better salary structure in order to attract better faculty.

"The new IITs felt that that a revision in fund allocation would be required in view of the escalation of construction costs. The HRD (human resource development) minister has directed the officials to examine the matter and come up with a proposal in this regard," an HRD ministry spokesperson said after a meeting of new IITs in New Delhi.

PRASHANT K. NANDA ●

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Indian universities draw Chinese

Cheaper tuition fees, chance to hone English skills main attraction; Indian experience a chance to dispel myths

BY KAREN MA
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NEW DELHI

Before Wu Shunmian arrived to study at Delhi University, he was under the impression that India was a part of Africa, and that every Indian was a Buddhist. But the ignorance ran both ways. Many "Indians have no idea Hong Kong is a part of China," says 23-year-old Wu.

Sixty years after India and China normalized ties, such odd presumptions persist—and though an exchange of students like Wu is a good way of removing these misconceptions, red tape and diplomatic barriers can stand in the way.

Once a Chinese student arrives in India, the myths are easy enough to dispel. Wu, who hails from China's southern province of Guangdong, is a young man with an easy smile and dark, bushy eyebrows. When he reached Delhi two years ago, to start an undergraduate degree in philosophy, he admits he was surprised to discover how little crime there was.

"Things are much better than I'd expected," he says, sitting in the small Outram Lines flat near Delhi University that he shares with three other students. "I found the city's easy-going atmosphere liberating and very friendly."

Wu chose India for his university studies after hearing favourable reviews from a Chinese friend who had graduated from an Indian university. While Chinese students have typically focused on studying finance and engineering, Wu represents a small, but growing group that's branching out, as the country's

economy becomes wealthier and more diverse.

Wu is now hoping to stay on to finish a master's degree in philosophy, to explore the notion of "the self"—something he found he wasn't able to do in China.

When Wu returns to China, presumably, he will inform his friends of India's non-African, non-Buddhist nature. "Every Chinese student studying here could be a potential ambassador promoting better understanding of India," says Alka Acharya, a professor of Chinese studies in the Centre for East Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). That the Indian government hasn't managed to attract more students from China and beyond is, she says, "a missed opportunity."

Roughly 1,600 Chinese students are studying in India, according to the Chinese Students' Union (India), a Chinese government-supported organization established this March. Beijing-based Sino-India Education and Technology Alliance (Sieta) believes the real number to be closer to 2,500. "Not every student from China registers with the Chinese embassy," says Sieta chairman Sathya Moorthy.

Moorthy, a Malaysian of Indian origin who has spent over 20 years in China, says the number of Chinese students in India remained small until 2007. That year, at least 1,000 students enrolled, most attracted by the new joint degree programmes, by lower costs and by the chance to hone their English skills.

Over the last five years, Sieta has worked to place Chinese students into higher institutions in south India, with a special focus on Tamil Nadu's Vellore Institute of Technology, which admitted at least 360 Chinese students this year alone. The college has gained a good reputation for its state-of-the-art facilities and welcoming attitude, Moorthy says, allowing it to quickly become a hub for Chinese students.



Breaking barriers: Wu Shunmian (centre) with other Chinese students at the Delhi University cafeteria.

Even Sieta's figure of 2,500 is a fraction of the 9,000 Indian students who are studying medicine or engineering in China, attracted by lower admission thresholds, reasonable tuition costs and world-class facilities subsidized by the government.

This represents more than a twofold jump from the estimated 4,000 Indian students in 2007, says Moorthy, and those figures are as high as they are, he adds, because China usually provides great infrastructure and living conditions for its foreign students.

By comparison, Moorthy notes, "less than 10% of India's higher education institutions have an international students office."

Still, as the numbers of Chinese students in India increase, word spreads. An estimated 100 Chinese now study in Delhi, roughly 70% of them enrolled in Delhi University. Earlier waves of students tended to comprise the children of families doing businesses in India; more recent arrivals, though, have chosen India

with a clear idea of what they want.

Seven out of every 10 Chinese students in India come on Chinese government and university scholarships, with most enrolled in one- or two-year joint degree programmes. The most popular areas of study are computer science, e-commerce, finance and English.

For most students, costs loom large. Richard Tang, a Hunan native who recently graduated from Delhi University with a master's degree in computer science, considered the US, the UK, the Netherlands and Finland for his higher education. Realizing that the cost of most Indian universities was one-tenth the US counterparts for a science or business degree, or one-fifth the cost in other English-speaking countries, Tang made a beeline for India.

The yearly tuition fee of roughly \$200 (around ₹9,000) for a liberal arts degree at Delhi University is even lower than at many Chinese universities, says Fu Yang, a 22-year-old who

ent requirements". He adds, "And...the same thing could happen to me if I go to India." Getting into Delhi University was relatively easy. He didn't need to pass a mandatory entrance exam; he only needed to prove he'd finished high school.

In a way, students have perhaps benefited from India's lack of a regulated admission system for its small number of foreign students. According to the Association of Indian Universities, fewer than 22,000 foreign students enrolled in Indian universities in 2007-08, compared with the 230,000 foreign students in China in 2009.

Moorthy says he doesn't expect the number of Chinese students to spike any time soon, unless the Indian government adopts a "top-down approach" and encourages private initiatives for better foreign student facilities.

Another hurdle is the lack of progress both nations have made in recognizing each other's academic degrees, despite years of negotiations. "There's a lack of focus from both governments on bilateral educational exchange," says Neayas Mohammed, director of educational consulting firm Asian Educational Consultancy. Mohammed adds that until policies are implemented, future exchanges cannot be propelled.

Indeed, even this policy gap is a symptom of the political ups and downs between the two nations. In just one of several points of bilateral tension, China recently refused a visa to a high-ranking Indian military commander because he came from the sensitive Jammu and Kashmir region.

At present, Chinese students in one- or two-year study programmes in India must renew their visas every three months, but rare cases of renewal have been known to last even two years. "Why can't they be given a one-year visa?" asks JNU's Acharya. The Indian government's visa policies are hampered by "irrationality and too much suspicion and fear", she says.

Fu, who was inspired by meeting Indian students progressing from second-tier Chinese colleges into top-tier Beijing universities, realized that "as a foreigner, you are pitted in a smaller pool than the locals because of differ-

Hindu ND 22/10/2010 p-20

New IITs can top up salaries from their own resources

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Allowing the new Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) to pay more to the faculty from their own resources, Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday assured them that he would approach the Cabinet for relaxation in providing the Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) scale to 40 per cent of the professors of the sanctioned strength.

The Minister's assurance came at a meeting he had with the directors of the new IITs. They drew his attention to the problems they faced in hiring experienced faculty.

Importantly, they pointed out that they were unable to implement the HAG scale notification, as some of the institutes did not have the critical number of professors. Citing the example of IIT-Gandhi Nagar, which has only two professors at present, they said the order could not be implemented and experienced teachers were reluctant to join for low salary.

Keeping these issues in mind, Mr. Sibal said like the

- IIT directors complain of difficulty in hiring experienced faculty

- To meet officials of State governments, Ministries next month

Indian Institutes of Management, the IITs could also top up the salaries of the faculty from their resources. He would also take up with the Home Minister the issue related to the clearance required under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act for all endowments received by the institutions from abroad.

The new directors will meet officials of the State governments and Ministries concerned here next month to sort out issues related to granting clearance for lands allotted to set up the institutions and the cost escalation for infrastructure development. The new IITs are coming up in Hyderabad, Ropar, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Indore, Rajasthan, Mandi and Gandhi Nagar.

Tech to ring-fence India's Net in works

Move To Help Prevent Cyber Attack From Crippling IT Infrastructure Of Banks, Airports, Telecom Networks

Joji Thomas Philip & Harsimran Julka
NEW DELHI

INDIAN law enforcement and national security officials are drawing up plans that will give them the technological capabilities to cut off all internet services at will.

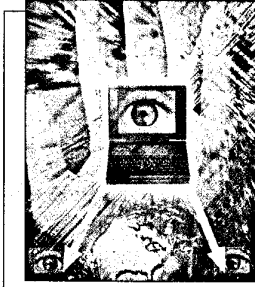
This will help in preventing a massive cyber attack from crippling IT infrastructure of banks, airports, railways and telecom networks, many of which are connected to the internet.

All key government departments have been asked to jointly work on developing technologies and invest in enhancing R&D capabilities in cyber security. While the move is aimed at protecting Indian infrastructure from cyber attacks, analysts fear this may lead to greater government controls over the internet, like in China.

"Shutting the internet would be like closing your shop whenever somebody starts throwing stones on it," says Vikas Desai, technical lead at IT security firm RSA. "Many solutions like a massive firewall or log management should be installed to monitor security, not content," he adds.

As the first step, the Centre wants to control national gateways, the points at which all data and internet connects to the outside world. Currently, many of these points are under the control of telecom and internet companies. These firms have the capability to install filters that can slow down or block objectionable content on the directions of the government.

The possibility of the Centre taking charge of the internet during emergencies and cyber wars were discussed at a recent meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, chaired by the national security advisor with representatives from all intelligence agencies



WEAVING WEB

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- > A move to make many networks closed group and not connected with the internet is also being explored
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and key department such as IT, telecoms, atomic energy, defence and space.

"China has been able to establish controls which enable it to choke the internet at will. The number of vulnerabilities in cyber space could be reduced by ensuring that closed loop information systems are not connected to the internet," said the minutes of the meet chaired by national security advisor Shivshankar Menon.

The model similar to that of China is being explored where key government departments work together on cyberspace-related issues with a long-term vision. A move to make many networks closed group and not connected with internet is also being explored. The departments have also been asked to tap competencies and

R&D capabilities of private organisations and academia to identify and plug gaps in the country's cyber security apparatus.

The Centre is also attempting to map the cyber assets of adversaries (like Pakistan and China amongst others) so that India can retaliate and launch offensive cyber operations against these nations when subject to an attack.

"This would involve development of capabilities to observe, understand and react to threats as well as to understand the behavioral dynamics of players in cyber space. It will also be important to develop standards and patents in the next generation technologies in order to control the cyber space," the minutes state, while adding this would be the only way by which India would attain a bargaining

position in the cyber world.

The Centre is also becoming wary of foreign IT security providers like US-based Symantec and McAfee who are currently entrusted with the tasks of reporting vulnerabilities in Indian cyber space, and have remote access to Indian internet gateways. "International companies are unlikely to share information beyond India-specific domains. These issues need to be addressed through robust regulatory and R&D strategies," the minutes state.

Emails sent to US-based Symantec and McAfee on the government's concerns about them did not elicit any response.

Non-possession of full web gateway control has resulted in economic losses for governments in the past. In April 2007, when Estonia removed the Russian war memorials from its territory, it was met with a massive denial of service attack, allegedly from Russia. In the days that followed, IT infrastructure in Estonia government, banks, news organisations were crippled and banks suffered losses. In 2008, Russians attacked Georgian news agencies during the Ossetia war, crashing their servers.

A denial of service attack happens when a server is requested for a particular information like a website millions of times in a fraction of second by a computer, which causes the server to crash. In a distributed denial of service attack, many computers attack on the same server, millions of times in a second. This makes it difficult for a firewall to block a particular IP address since millions of other IP addresses are attacking at the same time. However, switching off the internet might bring some relief temporarily to a country, till vulnerabilities are fixed.

8 new IITs asked to set up campus by '14

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Oct. 21: Eight newly-established IITs have been asked to establish their campuses by 2014. The government is also considering increasing the funds allocated for faster infrastructure development of these IITs.

Sources stated that HRD minister Kapil Sibal has asked for a meeting to be held in November with the respective state government officials, Central Government officials and IIT directors to facilitate the process of land acquisition.

The decision came after several IITs expressed difficulty in securing clearances from Central and state government departments for acquisition of the land allotted to them.

Official sources stated that Mr Sibal also assured the IIT directors that the HRD

The government is also considering increasing the funds allocated for faster infrastructure development of these IITs

ministry would move a Cabinet note on the issue of enhanced allocation of funds for campus development after the directors drew attention to cost escalation over the years.

Meanwhile, in an effort to tide over the faculty crisis in eight newly-created IITs, the HRD ministry on Thursday approved topping up of government approved salary of teachers.

Official sources stated that the issue of providing salary that will attract good faculty was discussed at length. "It was decided with the minister's approval that topping up of government approved

salary can be done by the IITs from their own funds," sources added.

At present, in the IITs, the HAG scale (₹67,000-79,000) is applicable for 40 per cent of the professors in position. The new IITs expressed that they have been unable to implement this grade since it has been possible for them to recruit few faculty so far. The minister stated, here, that the ministry would seek requisite approval from the finance ministry and the Union Cabinet to provide for a new proviso for the new IITs to be able to implement this salary grade.

Thursday's meeting was held to discuss issues specific to new IITs, especially with regard to the constraints they are facing in infrastructure and faculty development where all the IITs made separate presentations.

Asian Age ND 22/10/2010 p-11

Apple flips the playbook with new Macs

MIGUEL HELFT

CUPERTINO

Oct. 21: Over the last few years, Apple used technologies from its Macintosh computers to create the iPhone and the iPad, building a multibillion-dollar mobile computing business that now accounts for 60 percent of its revenue.

Now Apple is doing the reverse, taking technologies like the multitouch user interface from the iPhone

and the iPad and using them to refresh its Mac business.

On Wednesday, Steven P. Jobs, the chief executive, unveiled two versions of its ultra-thin MacBook Air laptops. He also demonstrated an early version of Apple's new OS X operating system, which will be available next summer. In addition to multitouch, the new hardware and software incorporate the video phone software FaceTime, an App Store and other popular features of

Apple's hand-held products.

Mr. Jobs even joked that the new MacBook Air was the offspring from the union of a Mac computer and an iPad. "We asked ourselves what would happen if a MacBook and an iPad hooked up," he said.

The new MacBooks are more powerful than their predecessors and have not sold well. They are also priced more aggressively, starting at \$999,

—NYT



Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveils the company's latest MacBook Air laptop models at Apple Inc. in Cupertino.

Pioneer ND
22/10/2010 p-7

4-day IIT-K fest to begin on Jan 28

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Kshiti 2011, a four-day annual techno-management fest of IIT-Kharagpur, will kickstart on January 28. According to a Press release from the event organisers, with a participation of over 40,000 students from across the country and some even from abroad, Kshiti 2010 created history.

Among those who have graced the function are Shekhar Kapur and Prahlad Kakar as guest lecturers. Besides, numerous corporate organisations such as Google, Barclays Capital, Yahoo, Adobe and Airtel have been associated with Kshiti.

Kshiti this year is also conducting a Youth Summit on Climate Change from January 7 to 9, where students can interact with NGOs, officials from IYCN and other environment organizations to develop their ideas about sustainable development. The Youth Summit will also have Nobel Laureate RK Pachauri, the press release said. Kshiti event is expected to attract major students from across India.

नए आईआईटी 2014 तक परिसर बना लें : केंद्र

आम चुनाव के पहले रहें तैयार
भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

केंद्र सरकार 2014 में आम चुनाव के पहले सभी नए आईआईटी के लिए अपना परिसर तैयार करा देना चाहती है। केंद्र ने आठ नए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान आईआईटी से अपना परिसर वर्ष 2014 तक तैयार करने को कहा है।

मंत्रालय सूत्रों ने बताया कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की अध्यक्षता में नए आईआईटी के बोर्ड आफ गवर्नर के चेयरमैन और आईआईटी निदेशकों की बैठक में संस्थानों में आधारभूत ढांचे की समस्या और फैकल्टी की कमी पर चर्चा हुई। संस्थानों ने कहा कि महंगाई के चलते बढ़ी हुई लागत के मुताबिक उन्हें आधारभूत ढांचे के लिए पैसा मिलना चाहिए। सूत्रों के मुताबिक मानव संसाधन मंत्री ने आश्वासन दिया कि वे इस मसले को वित्तमंत्रालय के सामने उठाएंगे। बैठक में मंडी, इंदौर, गांधीनगर में आईआईटी के लिए जमीन को लेकर चल रही माथापच्ची के मसले पर भी चर्चा हुई। मंत्रालय ने इस संबंध में राज्य सरकार के साथ मिलकर जल्द ही एक बैठक बुलाने का संकेत दिया है। आईआईटी के विकास और पुराने आईआईटी

की फैकल्टी और प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर नए आईआईटी में दस साल तक की अवधि तक नियुक्ति की अनुमति देने के संबंध में मंत्रालय ने एक कैबिनेट नोट भी तैयार किया है। बैठक में कुछ फीसदी शिक्षकों को ज्यादा वेतन देने के मामले में भी चर्चा हुई।

आमतौर पर बनी सहमति के मुताबिक यह संस्थान बढ़ा हुआ वेतन अपने संसाधनों से देने के बारे में विचार करेंगे। बैठक में आईआईटी पटना और आईआईटी भुवनेश्वर के बारे में विशेष चर्चा की गई। राजस्थान आईआईटी की प्रगति के बारे में भी बैठक में अवगत कराया गया।

गौरतलब है कि कुछ आईआईटी की मांग है कि प्रोफेसर्स को अतिरिक्त सचिव के स्तर का वेतन प्रदान किया जाए। 2008 और 2009 के दौरान देश में आठ नए आईआईटी की स्थापना हुई। इन नए आईआईटी की स्थापना रोपड़, भुवनेश्वर, गांधीनगर, हैदराबाद, पटना, जोधपुर, मंडी और इंदौर शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा, आईटीबीएचयू वाराणसी को भी आईआईटी वाराणसी के रूप में बदला जा सकता है। अभी कई नवगठित आईआईटी अस्थायी परिसर में संचालन कर रहे हैं।

उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में जातिवाद



विष्णु नागर

लेखक दृष्टि प्रकार है।

अभी जयपुर स्थित राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय में एम.ए. प्रथम वर्ष का एक दलित छात्र राज टेपन घोड़े पर चढ़कर बैड-बाजे के साथ अपने दोस्तों-साथियों को लेकर विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में आया। यह नाटकीय दृश्य उपस्थित कर वह इस बात को सिद्ध करना चाहता था कि दलितों को घोड़े पर चढ़ने से कोई ताकत रोक नहीं सकती। यह सिद्ध करने की जरूरत पड़नी नहीं चाहिए थी, मगर इसलिए पड़ी कि विश्वविद्यालय के राजनीतिशास्त्र के एक अवकाश प्राप्त प्रोफेसर पी.डी. शर्मा को 'पुलिस और समाज' विषय पर आयोजित एक संगोष्ठी में पता नहीं किस प्रसंग में यह कहने का अवसर मिला कि दलितों को घोड़े पर चढ़ने का हक नहीं है, हालांकि विषय जैसा था, उसमें उनके इस बारे में जो 'अमूल्य' विचार हैं, उन्हें व्यक्त करने की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं थी। जब दलित छात्रों ने दबाव बनाया, उस प्राध्यापक को विश्वविद्यालय परिसर से निकालने, उनकी पेशान रोकने की मांग की और जब अंततः एक मंत्री ने इस मामले में हस्तक्षेप किया और एफआईआर दर्ज होने का संकट उनके सिर पर आन पड़ा, तो प्रोफेसर साहब के होश ठिकाने आए और उन्होंने मजबूरन माफी मांगी।

जाहिर है कि रातोंरात लोगों की मानसिकता नहीं बदल जाती और ऐसी निम्न कोटि की बातें अचानक भी किसी के मुंह से नहीं निकलतीं, बल्कि तभी निकलती हैं जब वे व्यक्ति की मानसिकता का अभिन्न हिस्सा हों। जो प्रोफेसर अपने इन विचारों के साथ मजे से दशकों तक एक सम्मानित नौकरी करता रहा और आराम से रिटायर हो गया हो, जिसमें सैकड़ों बार निजी और अर्धसार्वजनिक अवसरों पर यह और ऐसी तमाम बातें कही होंगी, विश्वविद्यालय और उसके बाहर जीवन भर इसी के अनुरूप व्यवहार भी किया होगा, वह अब बदलना भी क्यों चाहेगा और बदलना क्या किसी के लिए इतना आसान भी कभी होता है? इससे सिद्ध होता है कि तथाकथित रूप से पढ़ा-लिखा होना और सड़ी-गली मानसिकता का शिकार होना दोनों एक साथ संभव है। लगभग दैनिक रूप से ऐसे अनेक लोगों से हमारा किसी न किसी जगह सामना होता है।

तथाकथित रूप से पढ़ा-लिखा होना और सड़ी-गली मानसिकता का शिकार होना दोनों एक साथ संभव है। लगभग दैनिक रूप से ऐसे अनेक लोगों से हमारा किसी न किसी जगह सामना होता है।



जिस बीमारी के जहरीले कीटाणु उत्तर से दक्षिण तक आज भी व्यापक रूप से फैले हैं, जहां आरक्षण भी दलितों-पिछड़ों के प्रति नफरत फैलाने का एक जरिया बना दिया गया हो, वहां इस घटना पर व्यापक राजनीतिक-सामाजिक प्रतिक्रिया न होना आश्चर्यजनक भी नहीं माना जाना चाहिए।

ऐसे ही अनेक लोग प्रशासन में भी बैठे हैं, पुलिस में भी, अध्यापन में भी, पत्रकारिता में भी और न जाने कहाँ-कहाँ। बस इनमें से कुछ लोग ज्यादा चतुर होते हैं और सार्वजनिक रूप से ऐसी बातें मुंह पर नहीं लाते, फिर भी कभी ऐसा गलती से ही सही हो जाता है। ऐसी स्थिति में कभी-कभी ऐसा भी हो जाता है कि कोई फंस भी जाता है और कभी-कभी तो नौकरों के अंत में, जैसा कि इन प्रोफेसर साहब के साथ हो गया। बहुत संभव है कि ये प्रोफेसर इस तरह के विचार रखने वाले बहुत से लोगों के प्रेरणास्रोत भी बन चुके हों और बहुत से लोगों और संगठनों ने उन्हें छुपे तौर पर यह सलाह भी शायद दी होगी कि आपको माफी नहीं मांगनी चाहिए थी, आपको सच के रास्ते से ढिगना नहीं चाहिए था, वगैरह। जाहिर है कि जातिगत पूर्वाग्रह के लिए भारत की यह पवित्र कही जाने

वाली धरती अब भी बहुत उर्वर है। जिस बीमारी के जहरीले कीटाणु उत्तर से दक्षिण तक आज भी व्यापक रूप से फैले हैं, जहां आरक्षण भी दलितों-पिछड़ों के प्रति नफरत फैलाने का एक जरिया बना दिया गया हो, वहां इस घटना पर व्यापक राजनीतिक-सामाजिक प्रतिक्रिया न होना आश्चर्यजनक भी नहीं माना जाना चाहिए। उत्तर भारत के अन्य राज्यों की तरह, बल्कि कुछ मायनों में उससे भी ज्यादा सामाजिक-पिछड़ापन राजस्थान में है। राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय का रिकॉर्ड इस बारे में अच्छा नहीं रहा है।

करीब एक दशक पहले राजस्थान के दलितों के मानवाधिकारों पर अपनी एक लेख श्रृंखला में प्रसिद्ध पत्रकार पी. साईनाथ ने इस विश्वविद्यालय का विशेष उल्लेख करते हुए लिखा था कि यहां आरक्षण की नीति का पालन नहीं किया जाता, इस संबंध में जारी अदालती

आदेशों पर कार्रवाई नहीं की जाती, संवैधानिक तथा अन्य अधिकारों के लिए भी वहां कार्यरत कर्मियों को संवर्ष करना पड़ता है। ऐसे में प्रोफेसर शर्मा जैसे लोगों का संसम्मान नौकरी से विदा हो जाना सामान्य बात है। इस खास मामले में भी जरूरी है कि माफी मांगने के बावजूद प्राध्यापक के विरुद्ध न्याय के दरवाजे खटकाए जाएं। खेद है कि इस बारे में विश्वविद्यालय ने कोई टिप्पणी करना और कार्रवाई करना जरूरी नहीं समझा, जबकि उक्त प्राध्यापक अब भी कुछ विश्वविद्यालयीन सुविधाओं का फायदा उठा रहे हैं, जिनमें उन्हें मिला मकान भी है। इसी के साथ यह देखा जाना चाहिए कि वे कौन सी परिस्थितियाँ हैं, जिनमें ऐसे लोग जीवन भर ऐसे जिम्मेदार पदों पर बने रहते हैं और उनका बाल भी बांका नहीं होता।

कुछ वर्ष पहले एक संवैधानिक पढ़ा था, जो बताता है कि आईआईटी चेन्नई में 427 में से 400 अध्यापक ब्राह्मण हैं, केवल दो दलित हैं और बाकी सभी अन्य जातियों के हैं। इतने सारे 'योग्यों' का एक ही जातिविशेष में पाया जाना मात्र संयोग नहीं हो सकता। राजनीति से धकियाए गए सवर्णों के एक वर्ग ने सोव्ही-समझी राजनीति के तहत इस तरह अपना कब्जा महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयों पर जमाया हुआ है। आईआईटी आदि में आरक्षण का इतना विरोध भी शायद इसीलिए होता आया है। चिकित्सा की दुनिया में अपनी श्रेष्ठता के लिए विख्यात अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स) से भी दलित छात्रों के विरुद्ध अभियान की खबरें आती रहती हैं। बहरहाल, लिंग, जाति, धर्म के स्तर पर इस भेदभाव को रेखांकित करने और उसे दूर करने के संघर्ष की तो जरूरत है ही, जब तक मौजूद स्थिति में ऐसे लोग विभिन्न पदों पर बने हुए हैं, उन्हें अपने विषयों से संबंधित नए घटनाक्रमों-विचारों से अवगत कराने के निर्यात पुनश्चर्चा पाठ्यक्रमों के साथ ही उनकी सामाजिक संवेदनशीलता को बढ़ाने के सघन कार्यक्रम भी चलाए जाने चाहिए। इस बात की भी जरूरत है कि इन पदों पर चयन के समय समाज के दलितों-वंचितों-स्त्रियों आदि के बारे में इनके रवैए की न केवल सख्ती से जांच की जाए, बल्कि इनके चयन का एक प्रमुख आधार भी यह माना जाए, सरना हमारे दलितों-वंचितों को न जाने कितने स्तरों पर अपना संवर्ष जारी रखने पर आज भी मजबूर होना होगा। इसी के साथ आरक्षण संबंधी प्रावधानों को निजी और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में लागू करने में किसी भी तरह की कोताही को बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जाना चाहिए, वरना ऐसी स्थितियों न जाने कितने वर्षों तक आती रहेगी।

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अंबानी के नाम पर विश्वस्तरीय आईटी विश्वविद्यालय

अनिल धीरूभाई समूह कर रहा
है 100 करोड़ रूपए का निवेश

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

अनिल धीरूभाई अंबानी समूह मध्य प्रदेश की राजधानी भोपाल में एक विश्वस्तरीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने जा रहा है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा प्रदत्त 110 एकड़ भूमि पर 100 करोड़ रूपए की लागत से बनने वाला इस विश्वविद्यालय के लिए प्रदेश सरकार ने 'लेटर ऑफ इंटेंट' भी जारी कर दिया है। गुरुवार को भोपाल में यूनिवर्सिटी के निर्माण कार्य को शुरू करने के लिए भूमि पूजन किया गया।

विश्वविद्यालय छात्रों को सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र पर केंद्रित अध्ययन और अनुसंधान की उच्च सुविधा देगी। इसके साथ ही यहां प्रदेश के आर्थिक विकास के लिए विशेष कार्यक्रमों पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा। इस अवसर पर कंपनी द्वारा जारी विज्ञप्ति के मुताबिक कंपनी के चेयरमैन अनिल धीरू भाई अंबानी ने कहा कि मध्य प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों के लिए सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र में अध्ययन सुविधा देने वाले एक उच्च स्तरीय विश्वविद्यालय एक प्रमुख आवश्यकता है। गौरतलब है कि समूह द्वारा पहले ही गुजरात के गांधीनगर में एक सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में विशेष अध्ययन देने के लिए विश्वविद्यालय चलाया जा रहा है। समूह को आशा है कि इस विश्वविद्यालय के अनुभवों के आधार पर वो भोपाल में एक विश्व स्तरीय यूनिवर्सिटी स्थापित कर पाएगा।

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सिब्ल ने किया सभी नए आईआईटी परिसर 2014 तक तैयार करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। सरकार पिछले कुछ वर्षों में स्थापित आठ नये भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान से अपना परिसर साल 2014 तक तैयार करने को कहा है। मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्ल की अध्यक्षता में आज इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थाओं के अध्यक्षों और निदेशकों की बैठक में विभिन्न विषयों विशेष तौर पर आधारभूत संरचना का विकास और शिक्षकों की कमी के विषय पर चर्चा हुई। उन्होंने कहा कि बैठक में विशेष तौर पर नये आईआईटी के समक्ष आधारभूत संरचना के विकास में आ रही समस्याओं पर चर्चा की गई

और सिब्ल ने उनसे 2014 तक परिसर स्थापित करने को कहा। गौरतलब है कि देश में हाल के वर्षों में स्थापित नये आईआईटी को भूमि अधिग्रहण और राज्य सरकार से इसकी मंजूरी जैसी समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। सिब्ल ने आधारभूत संरचना के विकास संबंधी कार्यों में तेजी लाने के उद्देश्य से अगले महीने फिर आईआईटी के अधिकारियों की बैठक बुलाने का प्रस्ताव किया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने इन आईआईटी के विकास के लिए अधिक कोष प्रदान करने के विषय पर कैबिनेट नोट जारी करने का भी संकेत दिया है।

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अगले सप्ताह डीयू में नहीं होगी पढ़ाई

वाइस चांसलर सेमेस्टर के माध्यम से ही पढ़ाई कराने पर अड़े हैं तो दूसरी तरफ शिक्षक संघ सेमेस्टर के माध्यम से पढ़ाने को तैयार नहीं

कार्यालय संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ाई के हालात सुधरते नहीं दिखाई दे रहे हैं। एक तरफ जहां वाइस चांसलर सेमेस्टर के माध्यम से ही पढ़ाई कराने पर अड़े हैं तो दूसरी तरफ शिक्षक संघ सेमेस्टर के माध्यम से पढ़ाने को तैयार नहीं है। डूटा ने अपनी शुरुआत को होने वाली बैठक में अपने विरोध का प्रारूप रखने जा रहा है। शिक्षक संघ के उपाध्यक्ष संजय कुमार ने बताया कि सोमवार और मंगलवार को कॉलेजों में धरना प्रदर्शन किया जाएगा। बुधवार को स्टॉफ एंजोसिएशन की बैठक की जाएगी। गुरुवार को मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय तक धरना प्रदर्शन किया जाएगा और शुक्रवार को जीबीएम की दोबारा



बैठक में आगे की कार्यवाही पर फैसला लिया जाएगा। संजय का कहना है कि हम सेमेस्टर सिस्टम को मानने को कतई तैयार नहीं हैं, उसके मुताबिक न तो हम पेपर सेट करेंगे और न ही सेमेस्टर का कोई भी काम करेंगे। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के वाइस चांसलर दीपक पेटल का कहना है कि इन्होंने दाखिले में भाग न लेने की धमकी दी थी लेकिन इसका कोई असर नहीं हुआ। वाइस चांसलर का कहना है कि डूटा शिक्षकों को प्रमित कर रहा है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि शिक्षक पेपर सेट करेंगे और इनके विरोध का किसी भी

तरह का असर नहीं होने वाला। साथ ही उन्होंने कहा कि अड़ियल शिक्षकों पर सख्त कार्यवाही की जाएगी। काम नहीं तो वेतन नहीं का फॉर्मूला जारी रहेगा। गवर्निंग बॉडी या प्राचार्य अगर सख्ती से काम नहीं करते हैं तो उन पर कार्यवाही की जा सकती है और जो कॉलेज सहयोग नहीं करेंगे उनके अनुदान को भी रोकने की सिफारिश की जा सकती है। डूटा अध्यक्ष आदित्य नारायण मिश्रा का कहना है कि वाइस चांसलर अवैध तरीके से अपने पद पर बैठे हुए और मनमानी चला रहे हैं। वह शिक्षकों पर अनैतिक तरीके से दबाव बना रहे हैं। सेमेस्टर सिस्टम को हम नहीं मानते।

अहम की लड़ाई में फंसे छात्र

■ डूटा और वीसी की जिद में सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान छात्रों का हो रहा है। विश्वविद्यालय में विज्ञान संकाय के 13 कोर्सों में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू हैं। प्रमुख बात ये है कि पहले शिक्षकों के विरोध और कॉमनवेलथ गेम्स के चलते कई दिन पढ़ाई बाधित हुई थी जिसकी वजह से परीक्षा को 20 नवंबर से बढ़ाकर 6 दिसंबर किया गया था पर सवाल ये उठता है कि शिक्षक की अगले हफ्ते न पढ़ाने की मुहिम छात्रों को सबसे ज्यादा परेशान कर रही है।

कब होगा कोर्स पूरा

■ बड़ा सवाल ये भी है कि पढ़ाई न हो पाने की वजह से कोर्स पूरा नहीं हो पा रहा है और अब रविवार को प्रैक्टिकल

करने की बात कही जा रही है ऐसे में सवाल ये है कि कोर्स किस तरह पूरा किया जाएगा।

विज्ञान ने बिगाड़ा मनोविज्ञान

■ वैसे भी छात्रों के लिए विज्ञान की गुत्थी काफी जटिल साबित हो रही है। इस बार डीयू में गणित और अन्य विज्ञान संकायों का खराब परिणाम सबके सामने है। गणित की अतिरिक्त कक्षाएं लगाने की बात भी एक समिति की सिफारिश में कही गई थी। ऐसे में यक्ष प्रश्न ये भी है कि शिक्षक आनन-फानन में अपना कोर्स पूरा भी कर देते हैं तो क्या ये छात्रों को परीक्षा में बेहतर प्रदर्शन कर पाने के लिए मददगार होगा।

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जनवरी तक सुलभ होगा 1,500 रुपये का कंप्यूटर

भाषा

नई दिल्ली

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की पहल पर राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा सूचना एवं संचार प्रौद्योगिकी योजना के तहत तैयार 1,500

रुपये का टच स्क्रीन कम्प्यूटर छात्रों को अगले वर्ष जनवरी तक सुलभ हो सकेगा। सरकार ने इस उद्देश्य के लिए जनवरी 2011 तक ऐसे एक लाख कम्प्यूटरों की आपूर्ति के लिए इच्छुक कंपनियों से रुचि पत्र आमंत्रित किए हैं। मानव संसाधन

विकास मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव एन.के. सिन्हा ने कहा, 'ऐसे टच स्क्रीन कम्प्यूटरों की आपूर्ति के लिए रुचि पत्र आईआईटी राजस्थान को पेश किए जा सकते हैं। आईआईटी राजस्थान के नेतृत्व में विभिन्न संस्थाओं के शोध दल ने इस कम्प्यूटर का

डिजाइन तैयार किया है।' उन्होंने कहा कि शर्तों एवं पात्रता को पूरा करने वाली इच्छुक कंपनियां चार सप्ताह के अंदर रुचि पत्र पेश कर सकती हैं।

कई विदेशी कंपनियों ने भी ऐसे कम्प्यूटर तैयार करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की

है। सिन्हा ने कहा, 'इच्छुक कंपनियों को रुचि पत्र में यह स्पष्ट रूप से बताना होगा कि वे किस प्रकार से 1,500 रुपये का कम्प्यूटर तैयार करेंगी, उसकी गुणवत्ता कैसी होगी और उसे भविष्य में बेहतर बनाने की कितनी संभावना होगी।

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एचटीएमएल खतरे में प्राइवेटेसी!

बालेन्दु शर्मा दाधीच

इन दिनों तकनीकी दुनिया में वेब डेवलपमेंट की भाषा एचटीएमएल के ताजातरीन संस्करण (एचटीएमएल 5) के चर्चे जोरों पर हैं। कहा जा रहा है कि इसके चलन में आने के बाद वेबसाइटों, पोर्टलों और वेब आधारित सेवाओं की शक्ति बढ़ल जाएगी। वे ज्यादा उपयोगी, तेज-तर्रार और आकर्षक रूप ले लेंगी। एचटीएमएल 5 का एक दिलचस्प पहलु यह है कि इसमें बनी कई सेवाओं को हम इंटरनेट कनेक्शन बंद होने के बाद भी इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे। जैसे गुगल एप्स के तहत इंटरनेट के जरिए इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले कुछ एप्लिकेशंस (गूगल डॉक्स, जीमेल, गुगल वीडियो आदि)। क्या यह आश्चर्यजनक नहीं लगता कि इंटरनेट कनेक्शन के बिना भी आप जीमेल का इस्तेमाल कर सकें? माना कि नई इमेल बिना इंटरनेट कनेक्शन के नहीं आ सकती, लेकिन अब तक आई हुई सारे इमेल को तो आप देख-पढ़ सकेंगे। साल भर पुराने

किसी इमेल संदेश के साथ आए अटैचमेंट की ज़रूरत पड़ गई? कोई बात नहीं इंटरनेट कनेक्शन के बिना ही डाउनलोड कर लीजिए!
नई भाषा का कमाल

एचटीएमएल 5 (हाइपर टेक्स्ट मार्कअप लैंग्वेज) वह बुनियादी भाषा है जिसे इंटरनेट एक्सप्लोरर, फ़ायरफ़ॉक्स और क्रोम जैसे ब्राउज़र समझ पाते हैं। वे इस तकनीकी भाषा में लिखी हुई इबातों को इंसानों के समझने लायक वेब पेजों के रूप में दिखाते हैं। आपने पीएचपी, एएसपीनेट, जेएसपी, कोल्ड फ्यूजन और इनसे मिलती-जुलती कुछ और आधुनिक भाषाओं के बारे में सुना या पढ़ा होगा। ये भाषाएं सर्वर साइड भाषाएं कहलाती हैं और हमारा ब्राउज़र इन्हें नहीं समझता। जब इन भाषाओं में लिखे हुए कोड को वेब सर्वर द्वारा एचटीएमएल में बदलकर पेश किया जाता है, तभी वे इंटरनेट एक्सप्लोरर पर वेब पेजों की शक्ति में दिखाई देते हैं। चूंकि आप-हम अत्यक्ष रूप से एचटीएमएल कोड को ही एक्सेस करते हैं,

इंटरनेट पर नित नई सुविधाएं हमारा काम तो आसान कर रही हैं, लेकिन इनसे जुड़े नए-नए खतरे भी बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। एचटीएमएल 5 नामक नई कंप्यूटरी भाषा को चलन में लाने की शुरुआत हो चुकी है जो सूचना के आदान-प्रदान में क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन करेगी, लेकिन इसके नकारात्मक पक्ष पर अभी से विचार किया जाना भी ज़रूरी है

इसलिए इस कोड की कमियां और अच्छाइयां सामान्य वेब उपयोगी को प्रभावित करती हैं। वेब की यह नई भाषा वेबसाइटों में ड्रैग एंड ड्रॉप और वीडियो प्लेबैक जैसे सुविधाएं शामिल करना आसान बना देगी। आईफोन पर इसी तकनीक के जरिए ऑफलाइन जीमेल सुविधा की शुरुआत हो चुकी है।

एचटीएमएल 5 की जिस अच्छाई का हमने ऊपर जिक्र किया (ऑफलाइन ब्राउज़िंग), वह इसलिए संभव हुई क्योंकि एचटीएमएल 5 उपयोगी के कंप्यूटर पर बड़ी मात्रा में डेटा स्टोर करके रखने में सक्षम है। इसके लिए लोकल डेटाबेस स्टोरेज नामक नई तकनीक की शुरुआत हुई है।

इंटरनेट कनेक्शन बंद होने पर वही डेटा हमें उपलब्ध हो जाता है। लेकिन उसकी इसी 'अच्छाई' ने प्राइवेटेसी और सिक्योरिटी के पंडितों की नोंद हथक कर दी है क्योंकि आपके कंप्यूटर पर रखे गए डेटा को गलत तत्व भी एक्सेस कर सकते हैं। एचटीएमएल 5 से पहले भी वेबसाइटों आपके कंप्यूटर में 'कुकीज' के रूप में सीमित मात्रा में कुछ सूचनाएं स्टोर करके रखने में सक्षम थीं, लेकिन नई वेब भाषा की बात अलग है। इसमें 'एक्कुकी' भी शामिल है, जिसमें रखी हुई सूचनाओं को डिलीट करना बहुत मुश्किल



यह नई भाषा वेबसाइटों में ड्रैग एंड ड्रॉप और वीडियो प्लेबैक सुविधाएं शामिल करना आसान बना देगी। आईफोन पर इसके जरिए ऑफलाइन जीमेल सुविधा शुरू हो चुकी है।

है। इंटरनेट पर सक्रिय हैकर्स और अपराधियों के लिए यह आपकी निजी सूचनाओं का खजाना सिद्ध हो सकता है।

वे सूचनाएं कैसी हो सकती हैं? बानगी

देखिए - आपके द्वारा वेबसाइटों पर खाली गई जानकारी, आपके शहर या कस्बे संबंधी सूचनाएं, फोटो, इंटरनेट पर खरीदी गई वस्तुओं की जानकारी, आपके इमेल संदेश और पिछले कई महीनों के दौरान आप जिस-जिस वेबसाइट पर गए उसकी जानकारी। सिद्धांततः हैकर यही सूचनाएं पाने के लिए वायरसों और स्पॉइफेयर का इस्तेमाल किया करते थे।

क्या एचटीएमएल 5 उनका काम और आसान नहीं बना देगी? आज हम इंटरनेट ब्राउज़रों द्वारा स्टोर की गई सूचनाओं को बहुत आसानी से डिलीट कर सकते हैं। लेकिन 'एक्कुकी' जैसे कुकीज के मामले में यह आसान नहीं होगा क्योंकि वे इन सूचनाओं को चित्रों, फ्लैश फाइलों या दूसरे फॉर्मेट में भी रख सकते हैं। यहाँ तक कि डिलीट कर दिए गए डेटा को भी दोबारा पैदा करने में सक्षम हैं।

एचटीएमएल 5 का प्रायोगिक इस्तेमाल शुरू हो चुका है। बहुत जल्दी सभी वेब ब्राउज़र इसका समर्थन करने लगेंगे। इंटरनेट आपके लिए पहले से ज्यादा लुभावना हो जाएगा, मगर तत्वों के लिए यह आपकी निजी सूचनाओं का खजाना सिद्ध हो सकता है।

कहीं जमीन का विवाद तो कहीं अच्छी फैकल्टी का संकट

मुश्किलों से जूझ रहे हैं नए आइआइटी

नई दिल्ली, जागरण ब्यूरो : सरकार से मंजूरी के दो साल बाद भी आठ नए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आइआइटी) की मुश्किलें कम नहीं हुई हैं। वे अब भी अपने स्थायी कैम्पस के लिए जमीन आवंटन, फैकल्टी की कमी और दूसरी समस्याओं से जूझ रहे हैं। इस बीच सभी नए आइआइटी ने लागत बढ़ जाने से स्थायी कैम्पस बनने में धन की कमी का सवाल उठा दिया है। उन्होंने सरकार से आइआइटी भवनों व संसाधनों के लिए मौजूदा जरूरतों के लिहाज से आवंटन में वृद्धि की गुहार की है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक कपिल सिब्बल ने इनकी दिक्कतों को दूर करने के लिए केंद्र व राज्यों के संबंधित मंत्रालयों व विभागों के अफसरों के साथ अगले महीने निदेशकों की आमने-सामने बैठक का भरपूर आग्रह किया है। उन्होंने लागत बढ़ने के कारण धन बढ़वाने का प्रस्ताव भी कैबिनेट के पास ले जाने का आग्रह किया है। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने इन संस्थानों को विश्व स्तरीय

अगले महीने संबंधित पक्षकारों के साथ निदेशकों की आमने-सामने होगी बैठक

बनाने और 2014 तक हर हाल में उन्हें उनके स्थायी कैम्पस में चलाए जाने पर जोर दिया है। सूत्र बताते हैं कि अभी तक अपने अस्थायी कैम्पस में चल रहे आठ आइआइटी के चेयरमैन व निदेशकों ने गुरुवार को यहां सरकार के सामने अपनी मुश्किलें रखीं। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की मौजूदगी में हुई बैठक में आइआइटी-हैदराबाद, पटना, राजस्थान, भुवनेश्वर, गांधीनगर, रोपड़, मंडी और इंदौर के निदेशक मौजूद थे। उन्होंने कहा कि पेंशन की पुरानी व्यवस्था का प्रावधान न होने से बेहतर तरीके फैकल्टी उनकी ओर आकर्षित नहीं हो रही है। जबकि अस्थायी फैकल्टी की नियुक्ति कम

वेतन पर होती है। इतना ही नहीं, नए आइआइटी बनने के लिए अनुमानित खर्च का आकलन तीन-चार साल पहले हुआ था और तब एक आइआइटी पर लगभग 500 करोड़ का खर्च आंका गया था। बैठक में मौजूद एक निदेशक ने इसे बढ़ाकर कम से कम 700 करोड़ रुपये करने का सुझाव दिया। मौजूदा फैकल्टी में से 40 प्रतिशत को प्रोफेसर पद पर प्रोन्नत करने व उन्हें केंद्र सरकार में अपर सचिव के बराबर वेतनमान का प्रावधान तो है, लेकिन उनके पास फैकल्टी ही नहीं है। आइआइटी-गांधीनगर के पास तो महज दो प्रोफेसर हैं। इसी तरह, इंदौर कैम्पस के लिए आवंटित जमीन कृषि मंत्रालय तो गांधीनगर को मिली जमीन वन विभाग से विवाद में फंसी है। इसके अलावा नए आइआइटी को यदि विदेशी मदद की गुंजाइश बनती है तो उसमें विदेशी मुद्रा नियमन कानून (फेर) की मंजूरी लेने का अड़ंगा आ जाता है।

Dainik Jagran ND 22/10/2010 p8



अंग्रेजी थोपने की तैयारी

■ प्रशासनिक सेवा की नई परीक्षा प्रणाली पर सवाल उठा रहे हैं हृदयनारायण दीक्षित

प्रबंधन प्रशासन का विकल्प नहीं होता। कलमाड़ी और शौला जैसे मनमोहन प्रबंधकों ने ही राष्ट्रमंडल खेल आयोजनों में भारत की छवि को तार-तार किया है। प्रशासन की कामयाबी का मूलाधार संवेदनशील जनोन्मुखता है, प्रबंधन की सफलता का आधार बनावटी आचार और जुगाड़-व्यवहार है। बावजूद इसके केंद्रीय कार्मिक विभाग सिविल सेवाओं आईएएस, आईएफएस व आईपीएस आदि की प्रवेश परीक्षा प्रथम (प्रिलिम) के लिए 'प्रबंधन गुरु' बनाने का नया प्रस्ताव लाया है। दावा है कि इससे अभ्यर्थियों की 'प्रशासनिक अभिरुचि क्षमता' का मूल्यांकन होगा। 200 अंकों वाले प्रथम प्रश्नपत्र में ताजा राष्ट्रीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय घटनाएं, भारतीय इतिहास, राजनीति और शासन, आर्थिक सामाजिक विकास, सामान्य विज्ञान के साथ जैव विविधता, जलवायु परिवर्तन आदि विषय हैं। 200 अंकों के ही दूसरे पत्र में एमबीए की तर्ज पर अंग्रेजी भाषा का ज्ञान, गणित, तर्कशक्ति परीक्षण, आंकड़ों का विवेचन संवाद, संचार क्षमता आदि विषय शामिल हैं। अब तक सामान्य ज्ञान के 150 अंकों व 150 प्रश्नों वाले पहले पत्र में प्रति प्रश्न एक अंक मिलता था, लेकिन 300 अंकों वाले दूसरे पत्र में अभ्यर्थी स्वयं चयनित विषय में अपनी सर्वोत्तम क्षमता प्रकट करता था। अब इसकी जगह अंग्रेजीज्ञान व प्रबंधन के विषय हैं। सो ढेर सारी आलोचनाएं शुरू हो चुकी हैं।

दुनिया के किसी भी देश की प्रशासन चयन परीक्षा में विदेशी भाषा ज्ञान की अनिवार्यता नहीं है। भारतीय अधिकारी विभिन्न राज्यों में नियुक्त होते हैं। वे संबंधित राज्य की भाषा सीखते हैं। दक्षिण भारत के अधिकारी उत्तर भारतीय नियुक्ति के दौरान खूबसूरत हिंदी बोलते, लिखते हैं। उत्तर भारतीय अधिकारी दक्षिणी राज्यों में क्षेत्रीय भाषा में संवाद करते हैं। पीड़ित व्यक्ति भी क्षेत्रीय भाषा में ही व्याख्या सुनाते हैं। उच्च अधिकारी भी अपने अधीनस्थों को प्रायः भारतीय भाषाओं में ही निर्देश देते हैं। अंग्रेजी की जरूरत मंत्रियों, सांसदों या विधायकों से वार्ता के दौरान भी नहीं पड़ती। मूलभूत प्रश्न यह है कि

आखिरकार प्रशासनिक क्षमता और अभिरुचि का अंग्रेजी से क्या संबंध है? अंग्रेजी ज्ञान का प्रशासनिक कामकाज से रिश्ता क्या है? केंद्र ने जनोन्मुखी नहीं, बाजारोन्मुखी, बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों का हिटैषी नया प्रशासक वर्ग बनाने के लिए ही यह नया प्रस्ताव करवाया है। पूरा प्रस्ताव संविधान की मूल भावना का ही विरोधी है। संविधान में संघ को निर्देश है कि वह हिंदी भाषा का प्रसार बढ़ाए। लेकिन यहां राष्ट्रभाषा हिंदी सहित सभी भारतीय भाषाओं पर अंग्रेजी के प्रभुत्व की स्थापना है।

नए प्रस्ताव का सिविल सेवा की मुख्य परीक्षा (मेन्स) से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। मुख्य परीक्षा में 200 अंकों का निबंध है। 1200 अंकों वाले दो विषय हैं, सामान्य ज्ञान के 600 अंक हैं। अंग्रेजी व भारतीय भाषाओं के हरेक पत्र के लिए 300 अंक हैं, लेकिन भाषा वाले अंकों से मेरिट नहीं बनती। इसी मुख्य परीक्षा के लिए योग्य अभ्यर्थी चयन करना ही प्रिलिम का लक्ष्य है। लेकिन यहां प्रिलिम का कोई मतलब नहीं है। आखिरकार श्रेष्ठ प्रशासक की योग्यता क्या है? संवेदनशीलता और संविधान के प्रति सर्वोपरि निष्ठा उसका सर्वोत्कृष्ट गुण होना चाहिए। संविधान की उद्देश्यिका और राज्य के नीति निर्देशक तत्व 'प्रशासक' के आधारभूत पथ निर्देशक हैं। उद्देश्यिका सामर्थ्य या आंकड़ा विश्लेषण का कोई संबंध नहीं है, तर्कशक्ति का संबंध दर्शन से है। संवैधानिक निष्ठा व तर्क क्षमता परस्पर विरोधी तत्व हैं।

केंद्र भारतीय प्रशासन को अमेरिकी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों का सेवक बनाने पर आमादा है। कोई 3-4 वर्ष पहले कार्मिक मंत्रालय से संबद्ध संसद की एक स्थायी समिति ने भूमंडलीय अर्थव्यवस्था व विश्व व्यापार संगठन की चुनौतियों के बरकस व्यावसायिक बुद्धि वाले अधिकारियों की जरूरत बताई थी। कांग्रेसी सरकार की काया में मैकाले के प्रेत की छाया है और अमेरिकी व्यापारिक हितों की माया है। उत्कृष्ट प्रशासक भारत की आवश्यकता हैं। आईएएस/आईपीएस/आईएफएस होना

ज्यादातर मेधावी छात्रों का सपना होता है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की भी तमाम प्रतिभाएं सिविल परीक्षा में बाजी मारती थीं। प्रत्येक छात्र अंग्रेजी नहीं पढ़ता।

नए प्रस्ताव ने ग्रामीण छात्रों व गैर अंग्रेजी युवकों के लिए इस परीक्षा के द्वार बंद कर दिए हैं। प्रस्तावित प्रश्नपत्र के विषय विश्वविद्यालयों में नहीं पढ़ाए जाते। विश्लेषण क्षमता, संचार कौशल, आंकड़ों की बाजीगरी आदि विषय भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों के कोर्स में नहीं हैं। तर्कशास्त्र दर्शन शास्त्र का हिस्सा है, लेकिन दर्शन के विद्यार्थी अन्य विषय नहीं जानते। सिविल परीक्षाओं के लिए देश में हजारों कोचिंग संस्थाएं हैं। इनकी फीस बहुत महंगी है। निर्धन छात्र कोचिंग का खर्च नहीं उठा सकते। अभ्यर्थियों को कोचिंग से दूर रखने के कोर्स की

चर्चा थी, लेकिन नए मसौदे में कोचिंग व्यवस्था ही अनिवार्य हो गई है। नए कोर्स का अध्ययन अन्य किसी भी स्रोत से संभव नहीं दिखाई पड़ता। कोचिंग संस्थाएं इस विकल्पहीनता का लाभ उठाएंगी, फीस और भी महंगी होगी। साधारण परिवार के युवकों-बच्चों का ऐसी परीक्षा में शामिल होना असंभव होगा।

कल्याणकारी राष्ट्र-राज्य में बाजार विशेषज्ञ प्रबंधक नहीं लोकमंगल साधक-प्रशासक की जरूरत होती है। प्रशासन का मुख्य लक्ष्य लोकहित होता है। अधिकारियों को भारत के दर्शन, सामाजिक गठन, नैतिक और पंथिक मूल्यों की जानकारी होनी ही चाहिए। लेकिन पं. नेहरू की कांग्रेस ने अंग्रेजी सत्ता के ध्वंसार्थी पर भारतीय प्रशासन का ढांचा खड़ा किया। मोरिस जॉन्स ने टीक लिखा, 'ब्रिटिश शासक 1947 में चले गए लेकिन प्रशासन का तंत्र, आकार, कार्य का ढांचा, पारस्परिक संबंध सबके सब उस के तस रहे।'

भारतीय प्रशासक भिन्न नस्ल की प्रजाति हैं। एसएन वोहरा समिति ने यहां नौकरशाह, माफिया और राजनेता का त्रिगुट बताया था। टीएन शेषन ने नौकरशाही को रीढ़विहीन प्राणी और कालगल कहा था। प्रशासनिक सुधार पर अनेक आयोग बने, अनेक सिफारिशें हुईं, लेकिन प्रशासन की संविधाननिष्ठ और संवेदनशील बनाने की सारी कसरतें बेकार हुईं। संप्रति उन्हें प्रशासक से प्रबंधक बनाने की तैयारी है। नया कोर्स बाजारवाद को शक्तिशाली बनाने का मनमोहन फार्मूला है। सामान्य जन और ग्रामीण अब अधिकारी नहीं बन सकते। भविष्य के प्रशासक परिशुद्ध प्रबंधक होंगे, अंग्रेजी घरों से आएंगे, अंग्रेजी में सोचेंगे, अंग्रेजी में बोलेंगे, अंग्रेजी में काम करेंगे। बेशक वे शतप्रतिशत इंडियन होंगे, लेकिन गरीब, शोषित, पीड़ित, भुखमरी और बेरोजगारी से ग्रस्त विकासशील इस भारत के लिए उनके संवेदनहीन तार्किक चिन्त में कोई जगह नहीं होगी। संघ लोकसेवा आयोग पुनर्विचार करे। संसद संवाद करे। कृपया भारत को भारतीय प्रशासक ही दीजिए।

(लेखक उत्तर प्रदेश विधान परिषद के सदस्य हैं)



◆ प्रबंधन प्रशासन का विकल्प नहीं होता। प्रशासन की कामयाबी का मूलाधार संवेदनशील जनोन्मुखता है, प्रबंधन की सफलता का आधार बनावटी आचार और जुगाड़-व्यवहार है

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अब नहीं होंगे मेडिकल कॉलेजों में मरीजों पर प्रयोग

जयपुर (एसएनबी)। अस्पतालों में भर्ती गंभीर मरीजों को आपने प्रायः छह-सात डॉक्टरों से घिरा देखा होगा। इनमें एक सीनियर डॉक्टर होता है जो साथ में खड़े मेडिकल स्टूडेंट्स को मरीज की बीमारी और शरीर के विभिन्न भागों की प्रयोग के रूप में जानकारी देता है। ऑपरेशन थियेटर में भी मरीज के साथ ऐसा प्रयोग देखा जा सकता है। अब मरीजों पर इस तरह का प्रयोग नहीं हो सकेगा। इस काम के लिए अब मेडिकल कॉलेजों को स्किल लैब खोलनी जरूरी होगी।

मेडिकल काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया ने काफी पहले इस बारे में कार्य योजना बनाकर नए नियम तैयार किए थे। इसके तहत मेडिकल कॉलेजों से संबद्ध अस्पतालों में मरीजों पर मेडिकल स्टूडेंट्स प्रयोग नहीं कर सकेंगे। इस काम के लिए

► नए नियम, डमी पर ही होंगे प्रयोग, मेडिकल कॉलेजों में स्किल लैब जरूरी
► मेडिकल काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया ने बनाई थी इस बारे में कार्ययोजना
► नई गाइड लाइन पर तमिलनाडु और गुजरात के मेडिकल कॉलेजों में काम शुरू
► डाक्टरी प्रयोग के लिए काम आने वाली डमी की कीमत 70 हजार से एक लाख रूपए तक

स्किल लैब तैयार की जाएगी जिसमें अत्याधुनिक डमी या पुतलों पर बीमारी से संबंधित प्रयोग किए जाएंगे।

पता चला है कि शुरुआत नए खोले जाने वाले मेडिकल कॉलेजों से होगी, इनमें स्किल लैब खोलना अनिवार्य किया जाएगा। इसके बाद पुराने कॉलेजों में भी यह सिस्टम लागू किया जाएगा। एमसीआई की इस नई गाइडलाइन से पहले ही तमिलनाडु और गुजरात के दो

मेडिकल कॉलेजों में हड्डी रोग, स्त्री रोग, नाक-कान-गला, शिशु रोग विभागों में इसका प्रायोगिक काम शुरू हो गया है। इन कॉलेजों में मरीजों की जगह डमी पर मेडिकल स्टूडेंट्स को प्रयोग कराए जा रहे हैं। मरीजों की जगह डमी पर प्रायोगिक काम इसलिए नहीं होता, क्योंकि डॉक्टरी के लिए जो डमी काम आती है वह विदेशों में ही बनती है। यह 70 हजार से एक लाख रूपए तक महंगी होने के कारण हर कॉलेज के हर विभाग के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं कराई जा सकती, इसलिए अस्पताल में भर्ती मरीज पर ही सीनियर डॉक्टर प्रयोग कराते हैं।

मेडिकल स्टूडेंट्स को डॉक्टरी पेशे में दक्ष करने के लिए स्किल लैब्स स्थापित की जाएगी। इन लैब्स में शरीर के विभिन्न भागों के मॉडल और डमी आदि पर प्रयोग व पढ़ाई कराई जाएगी। मसलन हड्डी रोग विभाग के स्टूडेंट्स के लिए शरीर की तमाम हड्डियों के मॉडल रख कर उनके बारे में बताना। हड्डी कहां से टूटी और उसे जोड़ने के लिए क्या करें आदि बताया जाएगा। इसी तरह स्त्री रोग, ईएनटी आदि विभागों में भी गर्भाशय, कान आदि के मॉडल के जरिए स्टूडेंट्स को प्रैक्टिकल ट्रेनिंग दी जाएगी। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य राज्यमंत्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी ने बताया कि अस्पतालों में मरीजों पर मेडिकल स्टूडेंट्स को प्रायोगिक काम कराने की शिकायतों पर अब एमसीआई ने स्किल लैब खोलने की गाइड लाइन तैयार की थी।