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On cloud nine with new apps

Savio D'Souza | TNN

You may have heard of "cloud computing" and techies saying "the future is in the Cloud". What do they mean? They're referring to internet-based computing. As bandwidth in homes and offices increases, more and more applications are becoming web-based. Your Windows Live, Yahoo! and Google accounts too come under this Cloud. Much online software now leverages internet technology to work as if it is installed on your system.

Consider the 'hole-in-the-wall' cyber cafe you may visit. It doesn't have an office suite installed, but you need to update your CV before you email it to a prospective employer. Simply log on to Google Docs at docs.google.com. It will allow you to create and share work online.

As for photo-editing, not everyone can afford Adobe Photoshop and MS Paint may be too basic. Try out Adobe Express at www.photoshop.com. This free online resource lets you upload jpeg images, edit them, apply effects like you would with photo-editing software and save it on to

Mahesh Benkar

your local hard-disk. Let's check out other Cloud apps...

www.icloud.com: It's like your own personal computer on the move with your familiar desktop environment just a log-in away. With this, you can use a Microsoft Word-compatible document editor, access your free iCloud email account, attach files, add and edit contacts and even create to-do lists. It also allows you to play mp3 from any computer, share your favourite YouTube and MetaCafe movies, chat with MSN friends and get updates from news sources.

www.zoho.com: It has more than 20 applications, including mail, word processor, spreadsheets, planner and web conferencing. Signing up for a free account gives access to entry-level functionality. It costs $3 a month to upgrade to a Professional Edition and gives 5GB storage.

www.sumopaint.com: This photoeditor comes complete with the layers option; graphic filters such as blur, distortion, 3D and light effects, as well as a complete toolset that includes regulars such as a stamp-clone, ink, eraser, magic-wand, gradient-fill, etc.

www.cloudantivirus.com: The free Panda Cloud Antivirus is one of the best applications to ensure your PC is protected from viruses, trojans, worms and hacking tools. Your system is scanned on a remote server, making it one of the lightest antivirus apps.

IITians tech to filmi glamour

Think IITs are the land of geeks? Then what's Bollywood doing here?

Caroline D'Cruz & Garima Sharma | TNN

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are shedding their geeky image and how! Bollywood, which was never considered an IITian's indulgence, is now becoming an integral part of the fest offerings at various IITs, attended by tens of thousands of students. Gone are days when Bollywood was restricted to TV screens. Believe it or not, B-town folks have found a fan following in the so called studious, no-time-for-play, IITian nerds. So, don't be surprised if you see stars like Shahid Kapoor, Deepika Padukone and Imran Khan shaking a leg with IITians every year.

Anushka Sharma came with her co-star Ranveer Singh to a segment called Spectrum during IIT Delhi's ongoing fest, Rendezvous, on Thursday

Bollywood's the buzzword at IITs

The IITs are shedding their image as the geek neverland to welcome Bollywood at their fests; tens of thousands of students come to attend these dos

B-TOWN'S YOUNGISTAN IN DELHI

Delhi may not be tinseltown, but that's no reason for IITians in the capital to remain thirsty for glamour. On Thursday, actress Anushka Sharma and her co-star Ranveer Singh landed at IIT Delhi as guests for the ongoing IIT-D fest and interacted with the students, while promoting their upcoming movie. Actress Deepika Padukone and Imran Khan were, in fact, the most awaited guests at the institute, but finally couldn't make it due to unexpected showers. But, the rains can't dampen the students' plans. Singer KK is expected to perform today. Bands from across the world, including Holland, Sweden, Portugal and Czech Republic, are also expected to perform. A source from the institute says, "With a higher budget this year, IIT Delhi has gone all out on glam, making it one of the must-not-miss events of the year." The estimated budget for this mega event is an estimated ₹1 crore.

ANTHEM FOR KANPUR

While it's a fest of glamour for IIT Delhi, for IIT Kanpur, the indulgence is a long-lasting one. After all, the institute is celebrating its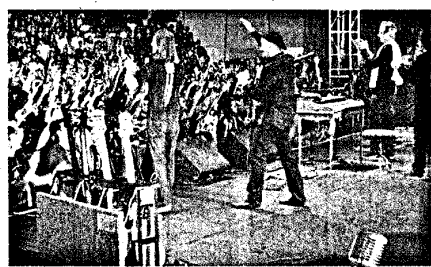 golden jubilee this year with great hoopla. **Sonu Nigam** The highlight is the college anthem being introduced this year, which is being sung by Sonu Nigam. It has been composed by Prasoon Joshi and will be recorded in a Yash Raj studio.

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

Not far behind is IIT Mumbai which almost always has Bollywood presence. Last year, it was Shahid Kapoor who'd enthralled the students at their annual cultural festival Mood-I. During the four-day fest, actress Neha Dhupia too had made a rather 'unusu-

al' appearance. Since she was promoting her movie which dealt with sex, the actress had thrown bags full of condoms and contraceptives at the college crowd to send out a strong message!

The musical trio of Shankar, Ehsaan and Loy too had rocked the fest, and as many as 15,000 students had turned up for **Neha Dhupia**

their concert. The overall footfall at the event had crossed 60,000. The Bollywood connect with IITs has gained prominence over the last year or so, and no IIT wants to be left behind in the race. In the last couple of

quotient and helps in increasing the popularity of the fest, then it's most welcome." Caroline D'Cruz & Garima Sharma

Shahid Kapoor was a popular guest at IIT Bombay last year

Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy's concert saw over 15,000 students in attendance

Bollywood nights as well as those with global rock bands are always popular

> **CELEB PRESENCE AT IIT FESTS IS RAPIDLY INCREASING. THE GLAM QUOTIENT HELPS INCREASE THE POPULARITY OF THE FEST, SO IT'S ALWAYS WELCOME**
> – TARUN BANSAL, STUDENT

years, singers Shaan, KK and composer Pritam have made appearances at IIT-Kharagpur. Student Kumar Gaurav from IIT-Kharagpur says, "There's an instant connect when Bollywood is involved. The masses love them, so the popularity of the event increases ten-fold. But, in the process, the budget we are supposed to adhere to for the fest takes a major beating."
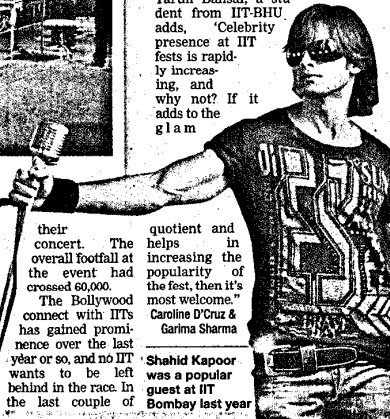
But then, it's all about increasing the popularity of the fest in the country, and all becomes fair. Tarun Bansal, a student from IIT-BHU adds, 'Celebrity presence at IIT fests is rapidly increasing, and why not? If it adds to the glam

Anushka Sharma with Jea Band at IIT-Delhi on Thursday

BAND-O-BAST AT IIT DELHI

Actress **Anushka Sharma** and her co-star **Ranveer Singh** rocked the night at IIT Delhi's ongoing fest on Thursday. The duo came there to attend the contemporary dance segment at the event called Spectrum and enthralled the students there. Since the actors also used the opportunity to promote their upcoming movie "Band Baaja Baraat", which has almost been shot in Delhi, they were accompanied by the movie's debutant director **Manish Sharma**, and the Delhi-based Jea Band, which also makes an appearance in the movie.

Karishma Kuenzang

Ranveer Singh

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India Inc should look beyond BTech and MBA

RIGHT & WRONG

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

The Tata's' generous $50 million donation to Harvard Business School has, quite naturally, attracted considerable attention in India. This includes uncharitable suggestions that India's high-profile multinational has got its priorities all mixed up and is suffering from a colonial hangover.

The debate over the ethical validity of corporates directing their philanthropic energies abroad, particularly when Indian education could do with booster shots, is likely to continue. The India versus Harvard tussle is, however, only one emotive aspect of the public interest in private endowments. Equally relevant is the question: what are the donations for? In addressing this issue, it is best not to lump together all donations to overseas institutions.

The Tata donation to a premier business school has followed a path well-travelled. In India's prevailing value system, management education is the pinnacle of accomplishment, on a par with an IIT degree. An MBA is regarded as a passport to career advancement and that explains why business schools have mushroomed all over India. Indian society hasn't paused to ask the question British cartoonist Martin Rowson once posed to me in jest: "Why does a man selling envelopes in Swindon need a management degree?"

Rowson was guilty of caricature. Yet, there is a point to ponder: has India become obses-

BUSINESS BRIGADE: The liberal arts in India have lost out to the obsession with management courses

sive about the MBA, at the cost of everything else?

This is why it may be instructive to look at the two other gifts to Harvard that were overshadowed by the fat Tata cheque: Anand Mahindra's $10 million donation to the Harvard Humanities Centre and Narayana Murthy's $5 million to the Clay Sanskrit Library.

To the reigning philistines, these endowments were eccentric indulgences. Ever since Jawaharlal Nehru injected the promo-

tion of "scientific temper" into the Directive Principles of the Constitution, Indian conventional wisdom has deemed the perusal of the humanities a colossal waste of time and an unaffordable luxury. For conspiratorial post-colonialists, the primacy of the liberal arts during the Raj was Macaulay's plot to create a nation of subordinate clerks. To economic planners concerned with a skilled workforce, classical studies or Indology was another diversion of resources. In the contrived science and technology versus humanities battle, the latter stood no chance.

The institutional devaluation of the humanities was reflected in the modified design of the all-important civil services examinations. From the day multiple-choice questions became the norm and the essay paper was junked, it became clear that lucidity and articulation—the ability to construct an elegant and internally consistent argument—were no longer regarded as worthwhile attributes.

The stress on applied skills was no doubt a shift away from an elitism that had earlier made the IAS and IFS a wing of the St Stephen's College alumni club. But, have we overdone the anti-elitism bit and, instead, bred a generation lacking lucidity in three languages?

The 'reform' of civil services recruitment was just the tip of the killer iceberg. Since S Nurul Hasan decided to make education the laboratory for some inspired ideological engineering, the humanities were inexplicably merged into the 'social sciences'. Instead of being an argumentative

conversation involving the past and present, "scientific history" resulted in students being force-fed dollops of questionable certitudes. Literary criticism became jargon infested and infected with derision of 'dead, white males'. Classical studies were made lifeless by the official disdain for theology and religion. Indeed, had it not been for universities in Britain, Germany and the US, Indology as a discipline would have become extinct. The state of the Asiatic Society is living proof of the ease with which we destroyed institutions that others had so painstakingly built.

It is in the context of the relentless assault on the humanities that we can view Mahindra and Murthy's donations to Harvard as inspired choices. Murthy's gift will help complete and perhaps revive the monumental project sponsored by the philanthropist John Clay to publish the essential works of classical Sanskrit literature. Mahindra's endowment to his alma mater could inspire fellow industrialists to recognize a life beyond technology and business studies. Since India often takes its cue from 'phoren', the two donations may even prompt a larger realization that a function of education is the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Who knows, one of these days we may even be privileged to hear an HRD minister say that education isn't just about "scientific temper".

Experts back Sibal's plan for legal education

Charu Sudan Kasturi
charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A panel of eminent academicians has backed the the human resource development ministry plan to bring legal education under the ambit of a proposed overarching higher education regulator.

Kapil Sibal's HRD ministry now hopes to use the suggestions of the panel of independent academicians to argue against the law ministry's objections to giving up the Bar Council of India's control over legal education.

■ **Kapil Sibal: Favourable**

"If eminent academicians — including legal scholars — with unimpeachable credentials believe that legal education is best suited under a common regulator, surely that must be

> **If eminent academicians believe that legal education is best suited under a common regulator, surely that must be respected.**
> Govt representative

respected," a senior government representative said.

The panel was set up by Sibal in 2009 and consists of experts including NR Madhava Menon

— who founded the Calcutta based National University of Judicial Sciences and has played key roles in the emergence of national law universities.

The battle over legal education is particularly critical for Sibal because he may have lost an identical battle over medical education with the health ministry.

Officially, Sibal has refused to air any differences within the government over the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) — a proposed overarching higher education reg-

ulator — and has maintained that the "government will take a decision."

But it is a thinly veiled secret that Sibal believes all streams of higher education — including medical and legal education — should be under an NCHER autonomous from any government ministry.

His plans received a setback when the Prime Minister at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences convocation end September announced that medical education would soon receive a new regulator independent of the NCHER.

DU to take up NET case with UGC top officials

DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND
NEW DELHI I OCTOBER 23

THE English department of the Delhi University has decided to throw its weight behind National Eligibility Test aspirants who did not qualify for its June 2010 edition.

A departmental staff council discussed the matter on Wednesday, criticising the UGC for lack of transparency and decided that a representation must be made to top UGC officials. On Tuesday, NET aspirants from DU, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia held a meeting with Sumanyu Satpathy, head of the English department.

The Indian Express had reported on Wednesday that only 11 candidates passed the NET for English, the results of which were announced on October 9. While teachers have been expressing concern over the ever-decreasing number of candidates who clear the NET for English every successive year, they claim that this is the last straw.
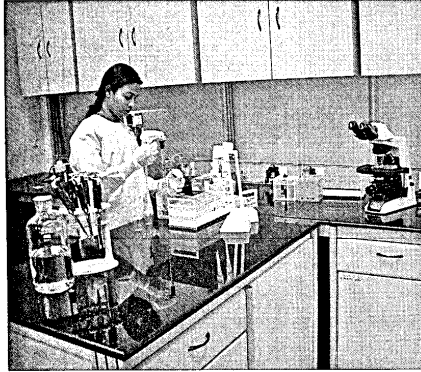
The UGC has ruled that only NET-qualified individuals or PhD holders are eligible to teach in institutes of

higher education.

"We are in the dark about those who evaluated the NET answer scripts. None of my colleagues from the DU's English post-graduate department was invited. I am yet to come across an evaluator from a DU-affiliated college. To my knowledge, none of the faculty members from Jamia and JNU were invited," said Satpathy.

He added that he will try to meet the UGC chairman soon, and raise the issue of transparency within the commission.Unsuccessful candidates who approached the UGC for re-evaluation of answer scripts were turned back, saying only paper-wise break-up of marks will be provided. Candidates will have to move fast because their answer scripts may soon become history.

"UGC will have to destroy OMR sheets or answer scripts of Paper-I, Paper-II and Paper-III along with all other relevant documents due to space constraints after 30 days of publication of the result. Therefore, UGC will not be in a position to entertain queries beyond 30 days after publication of the results," the UGC notice said.

Testing for HIV now foolproof

The National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), part of a consortium of five institutes that screen and evaluate HIV testing kits, has stringent measures in place to make sure test results are accurate

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

A battery of tests and several checks later, a trained technician at Pune's National AIDS Research Institute can wipe the sweat from his brow and positively say either a yes or a no to a person's HIV status. In the job for several years now, NARI is not only recognised as the country's apex lab but has only recently received recognition from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration of Laboratories (NABL) this year.

The HIV serological laboratory works overtime to ensure that there are no mistakes, says Dr Ramesh Paranjape, Director, NARI. So much so that now any HIV testing kit that National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) wants to purchase or a company wants to sell will have to be screened and evaluated by a consortium of five laboratories including NARI. "In the last two months we have examined and tested as many as 35 HIV testing kits for their sensitivity and specificity," says Arun Risbud, a scientist at NARI.

The consortium of five laboratories has been developed with an aim to create parity between the four national reference laboratories including NIMHANS at Bangalore, NICED at Kolkata, NCDC and National Institute of Biologicals at New Delhi. NARI, along with the other labs, will conduct the evaluation and batch testing of diagnostic kits for various transfusion transmitted infection (TTIs).

"So far we have been depending on the World Health Organisation on quality control measures for evaluating test kits. We did not have our own mechanism to do so," says Paranjape. There have been reports in the past of faulty and substandard HIV test kits and this consortium has been developed to tackle such problems at the peripheral areas.

As part of the model quality control programme, an inter lab comparison of the results is done in the first week of each quarter as an additional check to assure quality. Once in the laboratory the disease is detected either by the presence of antibodies to the virus or by the detection of the virus—its DNA and RNA. Three to five ml of the blood is collected in a clean screw-capped vial for the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test. When a serum sample tests positive to an ELISA, it is immediately repeated by a different system to confirm the diagnosis.

Results are assessed and compared with standard results, a performance score is developed and feedback is given to the participating laboratories. Nearly 100 samples are tested and evaluated at NARI every day. NARI has also started Early Infant Diagnosis test using the dried blood spot-PCR method.

Inside the lab at Pune's National AIDS Research Institute (NARI)   ARUL HORIZON

Tribune ND 24/10/2010   P-2

Polio on its way out from country

Just 39 cases reported nationwide this year against 394 in 2009

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23
India is on its way to eradicate the polio virus, as per the latest World Health Organisation data, which shows a sharp decline in the number of cases this year as compared to last year.

Thanks to effective surveillance of migrant population and vaccination drives, so far this year only 39 cases of polio (16 wild polio type 1 and 23 type 3) have been reported against 394 (51 type 1 and 343 type 3) during September last.

For the first time, Uttar Pradesh -- the core pocket for WPV (wild polio virus) in India -- has not reported even a single type 1 case so far.

Tackling the virus
■The OPV (oral polio vaccine) is live but weakened virus given as drops to children and is the most common mode of polio vaccination in India.

■Most developed countries have switched to the IPV (injectable polio vaccine) which contains inactivated virus. Today, over 50 polio-free countries are using the IPV with combination vaccines.

■Polio is caused by wild polio virus type 1, 2 and 3; type 2 was eradicated in 1999.

■From 125 nations in 1988, polio is now endemic in just four countries -- India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

Bihar -- another problem area -- has reported only three WPV type 1 cases till October 12 this year. In 2009, UP and Bihar saw 34 and 38 such cases, respectively.

Similarly, while in 2009, UP had 569 WPV type 3 cases and Bihar had 79, this year up to October 12, UP and Bihar saw just 10 and 6 type 3 cases, respectively.

This is a remarkable improvement considering 338 type 1 cases in Western UP in 2006, when the outbreak of 676 cases in India - - 10 times jump over 2005 - - had the world gasping. It was then believed that the Indian strain led to re-infection in Angola.

The only hurdle in India has been the inability to break the transmission of type-1 polio despite reducing it to low levels. More than 96 per cent cases in 2006 were of this virulent type that paralyses one in every 200 children. Historically, most of the cases have been reported in western Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring Bihar. According to WHO, a nation cannot be declared polio-free unless there are no fresh cases reported for three consecutive years. The polio eradication deadline has already been extended thrice by over eight years.

India's gains this year are already being hailed after two national immunisation rounds since January; high-risk areas have received two additional vaccination rounds. This is the first time the most virulent strain of polio virus has hit a historic low in UP.

The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) now recommends a judicious use of the oral polio vaccine (OPV) with the injectable polio vaccine (IPV) in pre-eradication phase before singly introducing the IPV in the post-eradication era. Till now, the IPV has never been used in polio-eradication programme though the government and the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) have repeatedly recommended feasibility studies for the same.

Deepak Ugra, President, IAP, today told The Tribune, "In the current phase of pre-eradication, the IPV can be a valuable tool if used in campaign mode in endemic states to hasten the interruption of WPV transmission."

With a flick of the magic wand, interactive lessons

A 3-D simulation technology designed by NASA could change the face of the Indian classroom

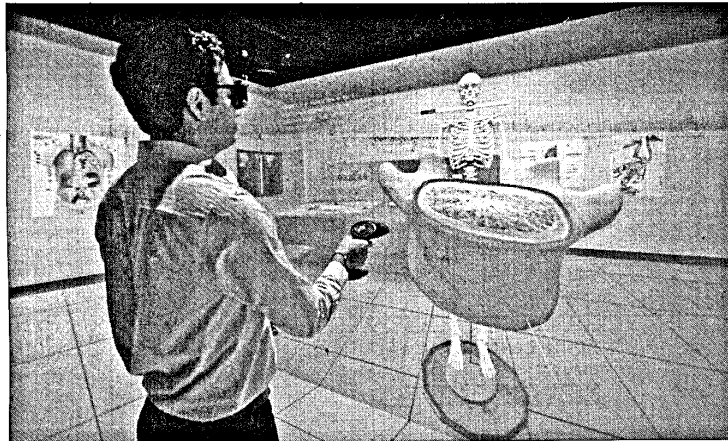Engineers from IIT demonstrate the use of 3D technology for a chemistry lab experiment at Mahape   NARENDRA VASKAR

PRITHA CHATTERJEE

IIT Bombay and Core Technologies, an emerging consultant for innovative education in India, have jointly introduced an immersive, interactive 3-D technology that could change the face of the Indian classroom. The technology, originally pioneered by NASA, has been used to develop a model disaster management course that simulates earthquake situations for training in the National Disaster Management programme.

Picture this: The trainer in black shades holds a remote apparatus which is aptly called the 'wand', while eight-10 trainees gather around him. The screen flashes with the image of a room—with a table, artefacts and chairs. The trainer announces an earthquake alert and wherever his 'wand' flicks, things move and topple over. What follows is the eerie experience of the ground vibrating beneath, every movement mathematically determined. Says Mukund Sathe, head of technology, Core Technologies, "Theoretical definitions on ways to determine the Richter scale of a quake often lead to shoddy conceptualisations. Thus if volunteers actually go through the experience and feel how tremors vary at different points on the scale, they are much better equipped to fathom the real situation."

Take the chemical plant project, which will be displayed in classrooms at the National Institute of Design(NID) in Ahmedabad. Not only can a trainee get a 3-D feel of walking into the plant, but the demonstrator can also pick objects and make them approach the trainee, or give a bird's eye view of the entire plant as if from a chopper. "Pipes are a problem for design students," says Hirendra Dagar, project in charge and graduate of IIT Kharagpur, flicking his wand to take you into the pipe, spinning inside to get a 360-degree view. "This kind of detailing is not possible through textbook teaching or any software currently in use in India," he says.

Thirty graduates from IITs across the country—all between 25 and 30 years of age—were sent to NASA for a year-long training programme in the 3-D technology. Since they returned a year ago, they have designed a variety of programmes ranging from earthquake simulations to demonstrations for dissection of the human body for students of medicine, chemistry lab experiments, a tour of the insides of a plant for design students, etc.

The trainer's glasses are equipped with devices known as head trackers. The room where the display is held has six video cameras installed on the roof which tracks the movement of the trackers. Thus whatever the trainer views, the cameras track and present for trainees on the big screen.

The programme for medicine students allows the trainer to dissect a human body part by part and explain organ details intricately to students. The skeleton that faces the trainees, can be turned around to get a 360 degree view. The trainer may select any bone and bring it close to the students, so that details can be seen better. The trainer may select particular joints on the skeleton and demonstrate their movements by another flick of the wand. Ritesh Udhani, a graduate in biotechnology from IIT Guwahati who designed this programme, said this was his first stint with professional software designing. "We are in the process of developing animal dissection software which may be introduced in schools. Since these experiments have long been banned in both CBSE and ICSE school laboratories, students can now virtually dissect these animals and learn just as well," he said.

Head of IIT Mumbai's Civil Engineering Department Professor Ravi Sinha says, "Core procured the rights to distribute this technology in the Asia Pacific region and then approached the National Disaster Management authorities with the concept, who led them to us." After six months of evaluation and validation, research students and faculty from the department put together years of data on earthquakes to design the disaster management course. "This is a unique simulation tool, and we are in talks with various agencies of the Government to determine how it can be used effectively," he says.

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INFOCUS━━━━━━━━━━━

Education needs more to become engine of growth

PRITI BAJAJ ■ NEW DELHI

In the new age knowledge-based economy, university-educated labour is crucial to economic development. With human capital being a key element in growth process, especially high-end human capital, much of the scope for sustained growth in the medium and long run depend on whether we can adequately develop and utilise human capital for the innovation required in our economy.

Though India has other strengths like availability of cheap labour, large internal markets and huge reserves of natural resources, we still have serious problems with availability of institutions and maintaining educational standards both at the lower levels and higher levels of education. According to Human Resource Development Ministry, an estimated 800 new universities and 40,000 colleges are said to be required to support the 40 million students that are expected by 2020.

Educational experts are of the opinion that in the absence of a comprehensive Government policy the higher education system specially, has become non-directional. While the States are struggling to meet the challenge of rising cost of faculty and trying to cope with administrative burden, the Centre is clueless with respect to creating a consensus to address the issue of cost of education and retaining the access to quality education for all.

In the present scenario, we have universities that are performing the task of education and research but with no commitment or accountability towards growth and develop-

ment. There is hardly any competitive leadership in institutions. Experts say, we need vice-chancellors and administrators who have a futuristic vision and have a growth-oriented goal in mind which helps the faculty to align their initiatives with the vision of the institutional head.

Most of the universities instead of being the seat of learning are heavily politicised. A large number of chancellors are in constant touch with the Government and the chief

ministers of the States. Therefore, it was hardly surprising that just before the elections for the present Parliament, the former Human Resource Development Minister expedited the appointment of vice chancellors for 15 new central universities.

The present archaic administrative practices in universities need a thorough reform with a focus on education management. A healthy public or private partnership can do much in this regard by infusing good practices. A management system, lean but professional, is required to facilitate quality higher education.

Educational experts are of the opinion that presently the system is simply drifting because the future role of education in the growth process has not been chalked out. Right leadership, appropriate faculty and commitment to turn a vision into faculty are some of the key factors that would ensure universities to be engines of economic growth.

New culinary institute coming

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Indira Gandhi National Open University has entered into an understanding with the Sweden-based Gothenburg University for setting up a new institute of culinary arts here.

The need for capacity-building in culinary arts to meet increasing demand for trained hospitality professionals, particularly chefs, led to the agreement. The two universities will collaborate to preserve traditional recipes and the practices of cooking.

The institute, to be set up on the IGNOU campus, will research and document disappearing Indian cuisines from different parts of the country with a simultaneous focus on skills, gastronomy and food processing. Seven regional centres will be set up across the country to preserve local recipes. These centres will focus on gastronomy trends in India and the world.

Initially, diploma and degree courses and research projects will be launched. In due course, post-graduate and Ph.D. programmes will also be offered. For people already working in the industry, short-term courses will be available.

The degree programmes will include at least one semester of restaurant training at bigger restaurants and hotels or training at food processing companies.

More join the chorus for free software

Some good software pushed out by inferior ones because of questionable tactics

Vasudha Venugopal

CHENNAI: There is an abundant pool of free, community-oriented, creative resources that is constantly being improved upon to combat the world of patents, licences and digital restrictions of proprietary software. There is also a growing community of contributors who talk about freedom to run the software for any purpose, study how it works, have access to its source code, redistribute copies, and publish the modified and improved versions.

Prabhu Ramachandran started writing his own programs and putting them on the web when some of his colleagues in IIT-Madras needed to visualise data, and there were no free tools available then. Months later, he came up with MayaVi, a free scientific data visualiser, written in Python using Visualisation Toolkit for the graphics, as a counter to many non-free data visualisation software.

"I realised the need to contribute to the community because I was using many free compilers, editors and applications myself," says Dr. Ramachandran, now faculty with the aerospace engineering department at IIT-Bombay. "The sheer joy of coding your own applications and getting acknowledged by hundreds of people who benefit from them is a learning experience because with more inputs, the code gets finer," he says.

Operating systems such as Microsoft Windows or Mac OS and applications such as Adobe Photoshop or Corel-Draw are available in machine-readable form; the source code, or the human readable form, is kept secret. This kind of competition should have logically improved the quality of software over time but it did not, says V. Sasi Kumar, a free software activist, who is on the Board of Directors of Free Software Foundation-India.

He says some good software has actually been pushed out by inferior ones that were made popular through questionable, if not entirely unethical, business tactics.

Most free software activists strongly endorse the need to usher in affordable computerisation in schools by encouraging the use of free software. Making the syllabus vendor-neutral and giving teachers and students the choice of software that suits their budgets and needs, and thereby teaching the children principles, not products or brands, is what they aim for.

Atul Chitnis, founder, FOSS.in, believes that the battle between proprietary and free software is almost over, because all major technologies have at least a component of free software in them. "Affordability is also an issue; no venture capitalist will be ready to fund a start-up that plans to work entirely on proprietary software."

Very recently, Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the All-India Council for Technical Education for allowing students to access all the latest Microsoft tools free of cost. In the past five years, Google, as part of its Summer of Code Programme, has been offering student developers stipends to write code for various open source software projects.

Arun Chaganty, member of Linux Users' Group in IIT-M and a Google Summer of Code student, says engineering students do feel the need to have a specific take-away from programming outside normal regime, and opportunities to contribute to a software will bring them closer to a community of people which shares similar concerns.

The challenge for free software also lies in strengthening itself, including by presenting a user-friendly interface and facilitating everything from writing documents to online communication and creating multimedia content, in order to become a viable alternative to non-free software. There is a rising appetite for software that users can create, modify, use without restrictions and importantly trust, and it is equally significant for corporate bigwigs to acknowledge this upcoming surge.

Assam Tribune Guwahati 21.10.2010 p-7

IIT comes to aid of rickshaw-pullers

AGARTALA, Oct 20 – Rickshaw-puller Haripada Das is a happy man these days driving his own specially-designed rickshaw which is lighter and spacious and also covers his head enabling him to drive under scorching sun or in rain.

The rickshaw, designed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, has proved a boon for Das, who till 2007 pulled a hired rickshaw paying Rs 25 as rent per day.

He is one of 300 such rickshaw-pullers in Agartala and many others in cities elsewhere in India, including Delhi and Lucknow, and their number is increasing.

"After I got the new vehicle from the Rickshaw Bank, I paid the same amount of Rs 25 to the bank every day and after one year I became the owner of the vehicle," Das said.

The new vehicle, Das says, is much easier to drive because it is at least 20 per cent lighter than other three-wheeler rickshaws.

The rickshaw, imaginatively named 'Deep Bahan', is the brain child of Dr Pradip Sharma, a veterinarian surgeon-turned -social activist, who contacted the IIT, Guwahati with his idea.

Guwahati-based Sharmah, who visited the city recenly, said that he was pained by the penury of the rickshaw-pullers who had to give away 20 per cent of their hard-earned daily wages to the rickshaw-owners.

He contacted his engineer friends in IIT, Guwahati and requested them to remodel the conventional rickshaw in a way that space was created to advertise products and which would be technologically sound too.

His friends did not disappoint and within six months they showed him a prototype which he okayed. Sharma then set up a rickshaw-manufacturing workshop and in November that year, 80 rickshaws hit the roads of Guwahati.

The Rickshaw Bank has now started programmes in many parts of the country including Guwahati, Agartala, Chennai, Surat, Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad and Chandni Chowk areas of Delhi.

The Rickshaw Bank primarily provides financing so that rickshaw drivers can own their vehicle. Rather than providing cash loans to drivers, the bank directly lends newly manufactured rickshaws.

The asset remains under the Rickshaw Bank's legal ownership, providing security for the loan. Legal title is transferred after full repayment.

Sharmah said an estimated eight million rickshaw-pullers in the country could thus enhance their income.

The Boston-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology has offered to give the 'Deep Bahan' a design makeover to make it still cheaper and easier to drive. – PTI

हड़ताल की काट वाया ई-क्लास

अनुपम कुमार

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में हड़ताल और धरना प्रदर्शन के कारण क्लास नहीं होने की काट ढूंढी जा रही है। अगर यह प्रयोग सफल रहा तो आने वाले समय में छात्रों के लिए रियल की जगह वर्चुअल क्लास हाजिर रहेगा। कैंपस में विभिन्न कोर्सेज में वर्चुअल क्लास का सपना पूरा करने का काम प्रगति पर है। विशेषज्ञों की मानें तो देर सबेर ई-क्लास मौजूदा अध्यापन का एक विकल्प बनेगा।

विश्वविद्यालय के इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ लाइफ लौंग लर्निंग में अलग अलग विषयों के लिए इंटरनेट पर अध्ययन अध्यापन की सामग्री मुहैया कराने का काम जारी है। संस्थान के निदेशक प्रो. एके बख्शी ने बताया कि ई-लर्निंग पोर्टल पर पाठ्यक्रम के हिसाब से कंटेट तैयार किया जा रहा है। यह छात्रों के लिए क्लास की पूरक सामग्री है। इसके जरिए वे अपने आप बहुत कुछ सीख सकते हैं और अपनी पढ़ाई
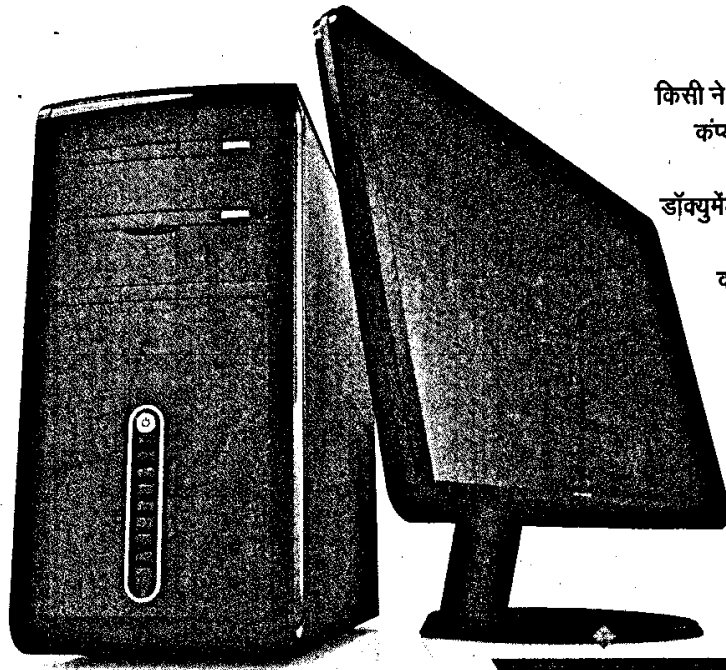
का मूल्यांकन भी कर सकते हैं। वर्चुअल क्लास का सपना साकार करने के लिए संस्थान की साइट पर ई लेक्चर, ई क्लासेज, ई लैब, ई लेशन और ई क्विज जैसे कई रूपों पर काम किया जा रहा है। प्रो बख्शी ने बताया कि फिलहाल छात्रों को इस पोर्टल पर रसायनशास्त्र और साइंस से जुड़े दूसरे कोर्स में कुछ सामग्री अपलोड कर दिया गया है। ई लेक्चर में फिलहाल विषय के विशेषज्ञों का लेक्चर है। इसे वेबसाइट पर जाकर छात्र सुन और समझ सकते हैं। ई लैब में भी प्रयोगशाला की लाइव रिकॉर्डिंग है। यह प्रयोगशाला से जुड़े पेपरों को समझाने में मददगार साबित हो रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि छात्रों के लिए ई क्विज भी तैयार किया गया है। इसके तहत करीब 22 हजार प्रश्न जवाब सहित वेबसाइट पर डाले गए हैं। छात्र जिन सवालों के उत्तर आसान हैं उसे ग्रीन सिग्नल द्वारा दिखाया गया है। रेड सिग्नल मुश्किल से जवाबों को दर्शाता है। पोर्टल पर ई लेशन के तहत अध्ययन सामग्री को अपलोड किया गया है। विभिन्न विषयों से जुड़ी ये सामग्री स्नातक स्तर के कोर्सेज के लिए है। उन्होंने बताया कि ई क्लास को लेकर भी काम किया

- मामला रंग लाया तो अपना मूल्यांकन भी खुद किया जा सकता है
- ई-लैब सहित कई सुविधाओं से लैस होगी यह नई व्यवस्था
- सरल या कठिन सवाल का चयन होगा सिग्नल से

जा रहा है। इसके तहत छात्रों व शिक्षकों का अलग अलग ग्रुप बनेगा। हर ग्रुप के शिक्षक अपने अपने छात्रों से इंटरएक्ट करेंगे। छात्रों को अपने विषय पर बेहतर ढंग से जानकारी देंगे और तरह तरह के सवालों के जवाब भी। वर्चुअल क्लास में प्वार प्वाइंट प्रजनटेशन, एनिमेशन, विडियो क्लिप और टैक्स्ट जैसी कई चीजों का इस्तेमाल किया गया है।

फिलहाल कैंपस में ई क्लास पर काम केवल एक शुरुआत है। अगर इसपर तेजी से काम हुआ तो आनेवाले समय में छात्र शिक्षक की क्लास से बेपरवाह होकर अपना अध्ययन जारी रखेंगे।

किसी ने घर या ऑफिस में जरूरी ई-मेल देखने के लिए कुछ मिनट आपका कंप्यूटर यूज करने को कहा और आपने हां कर दी। लेकिन आपके हटते ही उसने कंप्यूटर में My Recent Documents खोलकर डॉक्युमेंट्स को खंगाल डाला, जिन पर आपने काम किया था। माइक्रोसॉफ्ट वर्ड और एक्सल में File मेन्यू के नीचे दी गई पिछले डॉक्युमेंट्स की लिस्ट में क्लिक करते हुए आपकी जरूरी फाइलें पढ़ डालीं। यानी कुछ मिनटों में वह आपके सारे जरूरी डेटा देखकर चलता बना। वह डेटा, जिसे आपने बड़ी मेहनत से बनाया और 'सीक्रेट' फोल्डरों में छिपाया हुआ था। कैसे बनाए रखें अपने कंप्यूटर की प्राइवेसी, पूरी जानकारी दे रहे हैं बालेन्दु शर्मा दाधीच:

ऐसे रखें अपनी कंप्यूटर प्राइवेसी

विंडोज और दूसरे ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टमों में यूजर का सुविधा के लिए दी गई डॉक्युमेंट्स की लिस्ट गलत आदमी के हाथ लगने से असुविधा में बदल सकती है। यही बात यूजर की गतिविधियों को रेकॉर्ड करने वाले लॉग्स पर लागू होती है। भले ही आप अपने काम को कितना भी प्राइवेट क्यों न समझते हों, जरूरी सावधानी बरते बिना उसका ब्यौरा हर उस आदमी को उपलब्ध है, जो कुछ देर के लिए ही सही, आपके कंप्यूटर को यूज करता है। कंप्यूटर पर आपकी प्राइवेसी को तोड़ने के औजार भी विंडोज में ही मौजूद हैं। थोड़ी-सी कोशिश से आप कंप्यूटर और इंटरनेट पर किए अपने काम, वहां बनाई अपनी फाइलों आदि का रेकॉर्ड डिलीट कर सकते हैं।

ताजा सॉफ्टवेयरों की लिस्ट

Start बटन दबाने पर अगर लेफ्ट साइड में उन सॉफ्टवेयर और एप्लिकेशंस की लिस्ट दिखाई देती है, जिनका आपने पिछली बार यूज किया था। इसे हटाने के लिए Start पर राइट क्लिक करें। अब Properties दबाकर Start Menu की जगह Classic Start Menu चुनें। इसके बाद Customize पर क्लिक करें। अब Clear पर क्लिक करें और Ok बटन दबाएं। सॉफ्टवेयरों की लिस्ट खाली हो जाएगी।

अगर आप चाहते हैं कि यह लिस्ट हमेशा के लिए दिखनी बंद हो जाए तो Start बटन दबाने के बाद Run मेन्यू दबाएं और खुलने वाले Dialog के खाली बॉक्स में regedt32 टाइप कर Ok दबाएं। ऐसा विंडोज की Registry को खोलने के लिए किया जाता है। अब HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\ Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\Explorer तक पहुंच जाएं। अब राइट तरफ खुलने वाले बॉक्स में NoRecentDocsHistory ढूंढें। अगर यह मौजूद है तो उस पर डबल क्लिक करके वैल्यू की जगह पर 1 लिखकर Ok बटन दबाएं। अगर यह मौजूद नहीं है तो राइट क्लिक करके New I DWORD Value को चुनें और बनने वाली नई प्रविष्टि (न्यू एंट्री) का नाम बदलकर NoRecentDocsHistory कर दें। इस नाम पर डबल क्लिक करें और इसकी वैल्यू की जगह पर 1 लिखकर Ok बटन दबाएं। ठीक इसी तरह दो और नई DWORD Values क्रिएट करें, जिनके नाम ClearRecentDocsOnExit और NoRecentDocsMenu रखें। इनकी वैल्यू भी 1 सैट कर दें और बस, प्रॉब्लम हमेशा के लिए खत्म। हां, यह तभी एक्टिव होगा जब आप अपने कंप्यूटर को बंद करके खोलेंगे।

आपकी इंटरनेट हिस्ट्री

आपने इंटरनेट पर कौन-कौन सी वेबसाइट्स सर्फ कीं, उनकी डिटेल्स इंटरनेट ब्राउजर की हिस्ट्री में सहेज कर रखी जाती है। डिटेल्स के अलावा कई इमेज, ऑडियो-विडियो फाइलें, कुकीज, फॉर्मों में भरी जाने वाली इन्फर्मेशन आदि भी आपके कंप्यूटर में मौजूद होती है। अगर आप Internet Explorer को यूज करते हैं तो

अगर आप अपनी कंप्यूटर प्राइवेसी को बचाने के लिए किसी जटिलता में नहीं पड़ना चाहते तो कुछ फ्री सॉफ्टवेयर्स को आजमा सकते हैं :
- सीक्लीनर (filehippo.com/download_ccleaner)
- ब्लीचबिट (bleachbit.sourceforge.net)
- ईजीक्लीनर (bit.ly/2pFmLb)

पहले इसे खोलें। फिर View->Explorer Bar->History में जाकर देखें। इंटरनेट पर पिछले महीनों में आप जहां-जहां गए, उसका सारा हिसाब-किताब संभाल कर रखा हुआ दिखाई देगा। Mozilla Firefox ब्राउजर में यही चीज History टैब पर क्लिक करके Show All History ऑप्शन के जरिए देखी जा सकती है। इन इन्फर्मेशंस और इंटरनेट सर्फिंग के दौरान कंप्यूटर में बनाई जाने वाली टेम्परेरी फाइलों और जमा की गई चीजों को हटाना भी आसान है।

Internet Explorer में अपने पुराने रेकॉर्ड्स को साफ करने के लिए पहले कोई भी साइट खोलें। वहां Address Bar के नीचे Tools ऑप्शन में जाकर Internet Options->Delete... तक पहुंच जाएं। Delete बटन दबाने पर खुलने वाले डायलॉग में ब्राउजिंग हिस्ट्री को डिलीट करने के लिए कई ऑप्शन सुझाए जाएंगे। उनमें से आप Preserve Favorites Website Data को छोड़ दें यानी उसे सिलेक्ट न करें। बाकी सभी ऑप्शंस को सिलेक्ट करके Delete बटन दबा दें। फौरन ऐसी फाइलें कंप्यूटर से साफ हो जाएंगी।

अगर आप स्थायी रूप से यही बंदोबस्त करना चाहते हैं तो तीन उपाय आजमाएं :

- Tools->General पर जाकर Delete Browsing History On Exit के आगे टिक मार्क लगा दें। अब नीचे Apply पर क्लिक करके Ok दबा दें।
  - Tools->Internet Options->Advanced पर जाकर नीचे स्क्रॉल करके Security ऑप्शन पर जाएं और अब Empty Temporary Internet Files Folder When Browser is Closed ऑप्शन को 'टिक' करें और Ok दबाकर बाहर आ जाएं।
- Tools-> Internet Options-> General में जाकर Browsing History पर क्लिक करें और Settings से होते हुए History ऑप्शन के सामने जीरो लिखें। यहां आपसे पूछा जाता है कि आप कितने दिनों की वेब एक्सेस का लेखा-जोखा रखना चाहते हैं। जीरो का मतलब हुआ – एक दिन भी नहीं।
- अगर आप फायरफॉक्स यूज करते हैं तो अपनी ब्राउजिंग हिस्ट्री डिलीट करने के लिए Tools -> Options -> Privacy पर जाएं और अब Clear Your Recent History ऑप्शन खोल लें। अब दिखने वाले बॉक्स में Everything को चुनकर Clear Now क्लिक करें। ब्राउजिंग रेकॉर्ड डिलीट हो गया है। आगे से फायरफॉक्स आपकी हिस्ट्री दर्ज न करे यह पक्का करने के लिए Tools -> Options -> Privacy में जाकर Firefox will: ऑप्शन के आगे दिए गए बॉक्स में Never Remember History को चुन लें। फिर Ok कर दें।
- क्रोम ब्राउजर में यही काम Settings -> Options -> से होते हुए Under the Hood को क्लिक करें। सारे ऑप्शन सिलेक्ट करें। अब Clear Data from this Period के आगे Everything सिलेक्ट करें। इसके बाद Clear Browsing Data क्लिक करें। लगे हाथ Personal Stuff में जाकर Passwords सेक्शन में Never Save Passwords बटन को क्लिक कर अपनी प्राइवेसी को और पुख्ता कर लें।

येल विवि भारत में शुरू करेगा लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम

⬤ अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की उच्च शिक्षा में सुधार की मुहिम को आगे बढ़ाने में अमेरिका की येल यूनिवर्सिटी सहयोग करेगी। येल प्रतिष्ठित आईवी लीग का हिस्सा है। यूनिवर्सिटी अध्यक्ष डॉ. रिचर्ड लेविन अगले सप्ताह भारत आकर सिब्बल से मिलेंगे और 28 अक्तूबर को भारत येल लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम का औपचारिक ऐलान करते हुए मंत्रालय के साथ इस आशय के सहमति पत्र पर दस्तखत करेंगे।

प्रोग्राम के तहत भारत में एकेडेमिक लीडरशिप विकसित करने पर जोर दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए आईआईटी कानपुर और आईआईएम कोझिकोड में एक्सीलेंस इन एकेडेमिक लीडरशिप के दो केंद्र खोले जाएंगे। येल का भारत में लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम शुरू करने के लिए तैयार होना एक बड़ी उपलब्धि कहा जा सकता है। भारतीय सांसदों के लिए 2007 से प्रति वर्ष लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम का आयोजन करने वाली येल यूनिवर्सिटी के ऐकेडेमिक लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम का सीधा लाभ भारतीय उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए वर्तमान और भविष्य के लीडर, करीकुलम और फैकल्टी तैयार करने में मिलेगा। 28 अक्तूबर को ही सिनसिनाटी यूनिवर्सिटी भारत में अपने

● **घोषणा 28 को आईआईटी कानपुर में खुलेगा एक्सीलेंस केंद्र**

● **मनमोहन-ओबामा नॉलेज इनिशिएटिव की दिशा में अहम कदम**

भावी कार्यक्रमों की रूपरेखा बनाने के लिए यहां गोलमेज चर्चा करने वाली है। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ब्राक ओबामा की दिल्ली यात्रा के ऐन पहले वहां के दो प्रसिद्ध विश्वविद्यालयों की गतिविधियों का तेज होना मनमोहन सिंह-ओबामा नॉलेज इनिशिएटिव के लिए अहम माना जा रहा है।

वर्ष 2009 में 25 नवंबर को भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह और अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा ने दोनों देशों के बीच उच्च शिक्षा, अनुसंधान, विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र में आपसी सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए यह पहल की थी। इस दौरान, संसद ने विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों को भारत में अपने कैम्पस खोलने की इजाजत देने वाला विधेयक भी पारित कर दिया।

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छात्रों का आमरण अनशन जारी

नई दिल्ली, जासं : संघ लोक सेवा आयोग में धांधली के विरोध में जंतर मंतर पर छात्रों का आमरण अनशन दूसरे दिन भी जारी रहा। आंदोलन के दूसरे दिन भी उन्होंने यूपीएससी में फैले भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ नाराजगी जताई। भूख हड़ताल पर बैठे 20 छात्रों की तबीयत फिलहाल स्थिर है, किंतु दो दिन बीतने के बावजूद छात्रों से मिलने कोई नहीं पहुंचा। ज्ञात रहे कि यूपीएससी में भ्रष्टाचार के विरोध में सिविल सेवा की तैयारी कर रहे छात्रों ने शुक्रवार को जंतर-मंतर पर आमरण अनशन शुरू किया था। इससे पहले सितंबर महीने में प्रदर्शन किया था, लेकिन सिविल सेवा परीक्षा 2010 में हुए भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ उन्हें न्याय नहीं मिला है। अब उन्होंने आमरण अनशन का रास्ता अपनाया है।

जंतर-मंतर पर यूपीएससी में धांधली के विरोध में आमरण अनशन पर बैठे छात्र।