Newspaper Clips
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MailOnline India

IIT students light up the slums with ingenious bulbs made from water bottles

Students at IIT Delhi have set out to light up the lives of the poor this Diwali, using bottle bulbs.

Taking a cue from the "Liter of Light" concept, popular in the Philippines, the students associated with the National Service Scheme at IITD have started installing water-filled bottles in the ceiling of slums. The bottle refracts light from outside and lights up the dark rooms.

The bulbs have already been installed in Munirka and the team is now planning to tie up with other colleges to expand it to different parts of the city.

A team of IIT Delhi students has implemented the bottle bulb concept in Munirka slums

"In slum clusters, the shacks are so cramped that it is extremely dark inside even during the daytime. So, people have to switch on lights to work, or stay in dark for during the day to save on their electricity bills," said Revant Soni, secretary, NSS IIT-D.

The team started the project in May this year. After research and training workshops to prepare the bulbs, the team - comprising 10-15 core members, all of whom are undergraduate students - sought guidance from My Shelter Foundation of India which holds experience of installing similar devices in Mumbai.

The team is planning to expand the service to other parts of Delhi. Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh.

Soni says that ever since they installed bottle bulbs in the slums, the residents have become more productive - and their neighbours are curious.

A lighter moment: The bottles work by refracting light from outside, and the team hopes to train slum-dwellers to make the devices

"Earlier, they would just sleep during the day because they would not want to switch on lights. Now they work even during the day. We are planning to train the dwellers to make the bulbs so that they can be self-reliant and use it as a vocation," Soni said.

The 1.5 or two-litre bottle is filled with water, fitted in a sheet and fixed in a hole drilled in the ceiling. The bottle is sealed to prevent evaporation and bleach is added to water to keep it clean. It can be made for less than Rs 100.

"Once installed, the bottle bulb can last for two to three years," added Soni.

IIT Bombay had carried out a similar project two years ago, which also provided a guiding path to the local team.

The bottle bulb concept is known to be the brainchild of Alfredo Moser, who first used it in Brazil in 2002.

IIT-B alumni meet focuses on crisis

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MUMBAI: The Student Alumni Meet (SAM) at IIT-Bombay concluded on Sunday with students deliberating over the falling rupee value at a panel discussion. The two-day event was organized by Student Alumni Relations Cell (SARC). also featured important talks by some of the alumni.

This was the third SAM edition; over 150 alumni visit the campus every year to interact with curren students at the event. Saturday saw a discussion on the recently implemented honour code in the chemical engineering department. On Sunday, Bombay Stock Exchange CEO Ashish Chauhan, alongwith other panelists, discussed the nation's rupee crisis. TNN

The discussion on 'honouring the honour code' was aimed to address the growing instances of plagiarism and unethical practices in academics. The code received evoked mixed reactions from the students and the alumni. The SAM also launched the orchestra of IIT-B called 'Y-Point Orchestra'. The band comprises over of 10 alumni who transformed their love for music into their own band.

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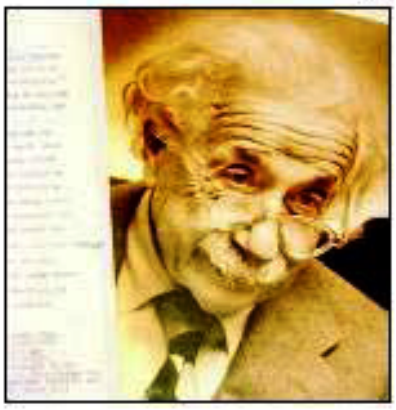
An unusually 'well connected' brain key to Einstein's genius

Washington: The left and right hemispheres of Albert Einstein's brain were unusually well connected to each other and may have contributed to his brilliance, according to a new study.

Lead author Weiwei Men of East China Normal University developed a new technique to conduct the study, which is the first to detail Einstein's corpus callosum. The corpus callosum is the brain's largest bundle of fibres that connects the two cerebral hemispheres.

Men's technique measures the varying thicknesses of

NYT



THE INSIDE STORY

subdivisions of the corpus callosum along its length, where nerves cross from one side of the brain to the other. These thicknesses indicate the number of nerves that cross and therefore how "connected" the two sides of the brain are in particular regions.

This technique permitted registration and comparison of Einstein's measurements with those of two samples — one of 15 elderly men and one of 52 men Einstein's age in 1905. It was found that Einstein had more extensive connections between certain parts of his cerebral hemispheres compared to both younger and older control groups. PTI