Newspaper Clips
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Nai Duniya ND 07.10.14 p-2

मॉरीशस में आईआईटी कराएगी पीएचडी

- इंटरनेशल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी रिसर्च एकेडमी होगा संस्थान का नाम

नईदुनिया ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली। इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई में अपनी एक अलग पहचान रखने वाले भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली अब मॉरीशस में विदेशी छात्रों को इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स व कम्प्यूटर साइंस की पढ़ाई कराएगा। मॉरीशस सरकार और मानव संसाधन एवं विकास मंत्रालय के प्रयासों से आईटी दिल्ली व मॉरीशस रिसर्च काउंसिल ऑफ रिपब्लिक ऑफ मारीशस के बीच हुए एक समझौते के बाद मॉरीशस में एक संस्थान स्थापित किया जा रहा है।

इंटरनेशल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी रिसर्च एकेडमी नामक इस संस्थान को लेकर बीते एक साल से जारी प्रयासों के बाद अब ये तय हो गया है कि यहां पहले विद्यार्थियों को पार्ट टाइम व फुल टाइम पीएचडी पाठ्यक्रम उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे और फिर पांच साल के बाद स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों की शुरुआत की जाएगी। यहां बता दें कि इस योजना के अन्तर्गत आईआईटी दिल्ली को अपने जैसा ही इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान मॉरीशस में शुरू करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई थी। इस संस्थान को आईआईटी पाठ्यक्रम व मेंटरशिप के स्तर पर मदद दे रहा है।

बीते साल इस दिशा में हुई शुरुआत के बाद पहले आईआईटी दिल्ली की टीम मॉरीशस में अध्ययन के लिए गई थी। वहां विभिन्न पहलुओं की पड़ताल के बाद अब न सिर्फ नए संस्थान के लिए फैकल्टी के सदस्यों की भर्ती प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी गई है बल्कि ये भी तय हो गया है कि इस संस्थान में विदेशी छात्रों को इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स व कम्प्यूटर साइंस में पहले मास्टर्स व पीएचडी पाठ्यक्रम उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे और फिर पांच साल के अन्तराल पर स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों की शुरुआत की जाएगी।

Amar Ujala ND 07/10/2014
p-7

मॉरीशस के छात्रों को पढ़ाएगा आईआईटी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और कंप्यूटर साइंस के कोर्स शुरू होंगे

फुल टाइम और पार्ट टाइम पीएचडी स्तर की होगी पढ़ाई

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली विदेशी छात्रों को भी विभिन्न कोर्स की पढ़ाई करानें की दिशा में काम कर रहा है। आईआईटी के सहयोग से मॉरीशस में एक संस्थान स्थापित किया जा रहा है, जिसे इंटरनेशल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलोजी रिसर्च एकेडमी नाम दिया गया है। इस संस्थान से वहां के छात्र पार्ट और फुल टाइम पीएचडी स्तर के पाठ्यक्रम कर सकेंगे।

दरअसल, आईआईटी दिल्ली और रिसर्च काउंसिल ऑफ रिपब्लिक ऑफ मॉरीशस के बीच एक समझौता हुआ है। इसके तहत आईआईटी दिल्ली इसे अपने जैसा संस्थान बनाने में सहयोग करेगा। इस संस्थान को आईआईटी करिकुलम और मेंटरशिप देने का काम करेगा। यहां इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और कंप्यूटर साइंस की पढ़ाई होगी। शुरुआती स्तर में यहां से मास्टर ऑफ साइंस और पीएचडी कोर्स ऑफर किए जा सकेंगे। ऐसी योजना है कि भविष्य में पांच साल के अंतराल के बाद यहां स्नातक कोर्स भी पढ़ाए जाएं। इस संस्थान के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली ने फैकल्टी सदस्यों की भर्ती शुरू कर दी है।

गौरतलब है कि मॉरीशस सरकार ने बीते साल मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से इस योजना के लिए सहयोग देने के लिए कहा था। उसके बाद एक टीम मॉरीशस गई भी थी। दौरे के बाद एक प्रस्ताव तैयार कर आईआईटी ने मॉरीशस सरकार को दिया था, जिसे अब वहां की सरकार से मंजूरी मिल गई है।

Indian Express ND 07/10/2014 p-3

Father alleges foul play in IIT student's fatal fall from highrise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, OCTOBER 6

TWO days after a 21-year-old IIT student, Anchal Bhardwaj, mysteriously fell to his death from his cousin's eighth floor apartment in Noida's Sector-121, Noida police have registered a case under sections relating to murder based on a complaint by the boy's father.

The father, Mahavir Bhardwaj, had alleged that Anchal had been killed after his cousin had accused Anchal of stealing items from his house.

Senior police officers however said that no evidence indicating murder has been found so far.

"Based on the complaint of the father, we have registered a case. However, no evidence suggesting that the boy was murdered has been found. There is one witness to the case, who is the security guard of the highrise. He said that he only heard a loud thud and found the victim sprawled on the ground. We are speaking to the family in an attempt to get more details," Preetinder Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police, said.

GAJENDRA YADAV

The highrise in Noida Sector-121 where Anchal's cousin lives

THE FATHER
had alleged that Anchal had been killed after his cousin had accused him of stealing items from his house. Police, however, are yet to find evidence pointing to murder

Police said that the boy was a resident of a paying guest accommodation in Sector-22, Noida. His cousin lived along with his wife in the highrise in Sector-121.

"We have spoken to the cousin's family. So far, they have told us that the victim had allegedly stolen some items from the house but have maintained that the death itself is accidental. They said that though they were in the house, they did not see Anchal fall. We will continue to look for evidence," Vishwajeet Srivastava, Deputy Superintendent of Police, said.

A senior police officer said residents in the locality rushed Anchal to Fortis Hospital, but he was declared brought dead.

"The postmortem report has confirmed that the cause of death is due to the impact of falling from such a height. His father has also alleged that there were other injuries, but there is little evidence of this so far," he said.

The victim's father, however, said that the relationship between his son and his nephew had been strained.

"It was they who had called Anchal to their home. A few days ago some jewellery had gone missing, and they had accused my son. They had even searched his PG accommodation for the stolen items. I only want a fair investigation," he said.

Deccan Herald ND 07.10.2014 P-06

NBA invites top IT schools, techies to assess engg colleges

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is keen on engaging senior industry professionals as its volunteers to conduct assessment and accreditation of technical institutes.

The board is also reaching out to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and "many other reputed" institutions to engage their senior faculties as its volunteers for carrying out assessment and accreditation of technical institutes.

The move comes after India became full signatory of the Washington Accord in effect from June 14 this year.

As the signing of the Accord made it easier for the Indian engineers to get plum jobs in the US or anywhere in the developed world, the NBA is being flooded with applications from technical institutes seeking accreditation.

"We need a huge number of volunteers, because of the number of programmes we have to accredit. The number of applications that we are getting is large. We are trying to reach out to the communities of academics and industry, who will serve as volunteers in terms of programme evaluators and mentorship," a senior official of the NBA told *Deccan Herald*.

The NBA is reaching out to India Inc through industry bodies—Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). "If senior professionals from industry can get involved in our system of assessment of programmes, there will be many benefits. The biggest advantage is that they will know directly what's happening in the technical institutions and will bring their experiences to improve their programmes. It will also develop industry-academia link, which is a very weak component in our present system," he added.

With signing of the Washington Accord, engineering programmes accredited by the NBA under tier-I category will be treated as equivalent in the member countries. The US, UK, Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey are among the 17 signatories of the Accord.

The member countries will give equivalence to only those engineering programmes of India which are accredited after June 14.

The NBA has accredited over 100 programmes so far under tier-I category.

Apart from institutes seeking accreditation under tier-I category, sources in the NBA said, there is a significant rise in the number of applications from those seeking accreditation under tier-II category also.

"We give quality assurance certificate after rigorous assessment of a technical programme, which is not only significant for an institute but also its students. If our volunteers in team are technically competent and understand accreditation issues very well, we will do a good job. We are creating an army of volunteers to help us because NBA is just an office. The real manpower is in the field. We have to identify the right kind of people and motivate them to help work with us," the NBA official said.

DH News Service

Millennium Post ND 07/10/2014 P-4

IIT student death: Police register murder case

OUR CORRRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The police have finally registered a case three days after the mysterious death a 21-year-old youth Anchal Bhardwaj, studying in M Tech at IIT Delhi.

Bhardwaj died after falling from eighth floor of Ajnara apartment, located in the area of Noida Sector 58 police station.

Police informed that the murder case was registered on complaint lodged by the father of deceased, against unidentified persons.

The police have also called Anchal's father Mahavir Bhardwaj from Haryana to seek his help in the investigation. Anchal had fallen to his death on Friday from the eighth floor of an apartment when he had gone to visit his relatives.

Police said that during the investigation it was revealed that Anchal's cousin and his wife were present in the flat at the time of the incident. It was also found that Anchal was not killed before she fell and pushed from the eighth floor.

He died after he fell down from the building, revealed the post-mortem report.

Twenty-one-year old Anchal was a student of M Tech from IIT and was living as a paying guest at Sector 22 in Noida. The officials are also investigating the claims of deceased's father that he was accused of stealing jewellery from the house of his relatives.

'So far, we have not found any proof which can indicate that this is a case of murder. The FIR has been registered following the complaint of deceased's father. No signs of scuffle were found at the spot,' said a police official investigating the case.

Mahavir Bhardwaj, who is a principal of a private college in Haryana, said that he only wants a fair investigation. 'He was called by the relatives before the incident and he was also accused of stealing jewellery from their house. There should be a proper investigation in the case,' said Mahavir.

HT.COM ND 07.10.14 P-1

NOBEL AWARDED FOR DISCOVERING THE BRAIN'S 'GPS' SYSTEM

■ John O'Keefe and couple May-Britt and Edvard Moser picked up the prize AP

STOCKHOLM: An Anglo-American scientist and a Norwegian husband-and-wife research team won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for discovering the brain's navigation system – the inner GPS that helps us find our way in the world.

The research by John O'Keefe, May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser could help researchers understand the spatial memory loss associated with Alzheimer's disease.

O'Keefe, 75, of University College London, discovered the first component of this system – the 'place cell' – in 1971. In 2005, 34 years later, May-Britt and Edvard Moser, neuroscientists at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, identified the 'grid cell' – that generates coordinates for mapping. MORE ON P04

WHEN A FAMILY WINS THE NOBEL PRIZES HALF A DOZEN TIMES

Agence France-Presse

STOCKHOLM: Since the creation of the Nobel prizes in 1901, six children of a family have followed in the footsteps of their parents, becoming Nobel laureates themselves.

A seventh won the award jointly with his father in 1915 at the tender age — in Nobel terms — of 25.

The Curie family alone clocked up a grand total of five awards: two to Marie Curie, who first won the physics prize 1903 with her husband Pierre and Henri Becquerel, and then the chemistry distinction in 1911.

Irene, her eldest child, was awarded the chemistry Nobel with her husband Pierre Joliot in 1935. For Ulrika Bjoerksten, director of science programmes at Swedish public radio, the appearance of Nobel families down through the decades 'shows the importance of social inheritance'.

Nobel Museum curator Gustav Kaellstrand says, "They all had a parent who succeeded in transmitting their interest." He adds, "having a well-known name doesn't favour the candidates." For the Nobel committees being the child of an existing laureate is neither a handicap nor an advantage.

Just 18% Indian engineers get jobs

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

India Inc is going through a near crisis situation due to lack of employable candidates. A recent NASSCOM report says that only 10% of fresh graduates in India are employable. More shocking facts have come up in the third edition of the National Employability Report, Engineering Graduates – 2014 conducted by a private employability solutions company that reveals that only18.09% engineers actually get a job.

Further, even those employed lack key skills. Of the 1.2 lakh IT/engineering/ management candidates surveyed across multiple states, 91.82% lack programming and algorithm skills, 71.23% lack soft and cognitive skills, 60% lack domain skills, 73.63% lack English speaking and comprehension skills, and 57.96% have poor analytical and quantitative skills.

What do industry experts have to say about this unhealthy trend? “Quality of education is now below par. Moreover, the curriculum in educational institutes doesn’t have any relevance to the requirements of the industry,” says Rajiv Burman, managing partner, Lighthouse Partners.

Sidharth Agarwal, director, Spectrum Talent Management, says, “Every year, more than three million students graduate, but just 40 to 45% of them are employable. Poor quality of teachers combined with an outdated curriculum is to be blamed for this major issue. Not much emphasis is laid on developing skills.”

Sunil Goel, managing director, GlobalHunt India Pvt Ltd, explains, “College/university education has become very textbook centric and candidates get little to no industry exposure. Employers require candidates who have the basic technical knowledge, interpersonal skills, a focused approach along with high level of integrity and stability.” So, is this leading to an attitudinal mismatch between employer expectations and candidate expectations?

R Anand, vice president, rewards, career management and planning, HCL Technologies, states, “Young professionals who wish to be future-ready must be prepared to learn to cope with work and life pressures as unlike their secure university life, the real world is a much harder place with fewer buffers.”

Can employability skills be taught? “Industry and education need to work together. Candidates should work towards acquiring industryspecific skills through some skill training courses; get exposure though industry training programmes to get on-the-job experience,” suggests Goel.

Online labs can reduce scientific fraud, says study

Hindustan Times (Gurgaon)

Online video games and remote experiments can combat the rising level of errors and fraud in life sciences research, says a new study co-authored by an Indian-origin researcher.

“Online game-like approach is more scientifically rigorous than the standard practice of scientists,” explained Rhiju Das, from the Stanford University.

“Massive online laboratories today use videogames to engage large numbers of non-professional investigators and prevent scientists from manually testing their own hypotheses,” Das noted.

Deccan Herald ND
07.10.2014 P-06

Serious penalties for plagiarism in research

Panel set up by UGC

NEW DELHI: In a major effort to discourage researchers from plagiarism, a high-level committee has suggested severe punishments including salary cuts and even dismissal in the case of a university faculty.

The panel, set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and headed by former Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande, is finalising regulations including punishments for plagiarising doctoral and post-doctoral thesis and academic papers by students and teachers of institutions, sources told *Deccan Herald*.

"Before submitting doctoral or post doctoral thesis as well as research paper for publication in journals, students and research scholars will have to undertake in writing that their work is original and free from any plagiarism. The draft of the thesis of a student will only be read by the supervisor concerned after they take such an undertaking," sources said.

If a plagiarised paper appears in a journal with the name of the research guide as one of the co-authors, then even the supervisor can be punished.

The panel will recommend use of software to identify plagiarism in thesis, several of which are currently available in the market.

The Dhande panel is likely to finalise the regulations along with penal provisions for both "minor and major" cases of plagiarism and submit it before the UGC for its approval within six weeks, sources added.

The panel has identified four different sets of plagiarism prevalent in higher education sector. "One is where some sentences are cut and pasted without acknowledging the author from where it has been lifted. The second level is where diagram, bar card, pie-chart and thematic (graphics and visuals that go with a paper) are copied without taking the permission from the original author or the publisher," sources said.

Lifting data from another published work and incorporating them in their papers and claiming conclusions and discoveries made by other researchers as their own are the third and fourth levels of plagiarism, sources added.

"So the crime is there. But, there has to be different punishment for different level of offence. It cannot be same for all. The Committee is working on it," sources said.

DH News Service

Millennium Post ND 07/10/2014 p-6

Mars Mission"s success to inspire kids to science

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the success of Mars Orbiter Mission, the Department of Science and Technology has decided to use it as a tool to inspire school children and inculcate interest in science.

Vigyan Prasar, a wing of DST which looks into promotion of science and technology, has set up a ISRO exhibition, showcasing achievements of the space agency, in the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) award programme organised by the Ministry starting on Monday.

The exhibition traces the history of space programme by showcasing major developments in the Indian programme- right from how the first rocket was transported on a cycle in the initial days to the latest achievements of MOM, successful launches of PSLV, GSLV and Chandrayan I, the moon mission programme of India.

Vigyan Prasar has set up a ISRO exhibition, showcasing achievements of the space agency, in the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research award programme organised by the Ministry starting

'The Mars Orbiter Mission has heightened the interest of school children in science. We are using the success to inculcate and attract more students towards science,' T V Venkateswaran, a scientist with Vigyan Prasar, said.

Venkateswaran said the ISRO exhibition was undertaken by the DST and not the space department as the attraction towards the space programmes had increased greatly. More importantly, the occasion is also an ideal opportunity for Vigyan Prasar as more than 900 students from all the states across the country are vying for a INSPIRE award for their scientific experiments.

People's suggestions to be taken for New Education Policy: Smriti Irani

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/peoples-suggestions-to-be-taken-for-new-education-policy-smriti-irani/articleshow/44498927.cms

GUWAHATI: The Centre would invite suggestions from students, teachers and parents for the proposed New Education Policy, the process of which will begin from next year, Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani said today.

"For the New Education Policy, we will go to all the states. We will invite suggestions from students, teachers and parents for it and will discuss with them how this policy should be," Irani said at a function here.

The government would use all the media -- print, electronic and Internet -- for engaging the society in the process, she said.

Stating that all the past education policies were framed by educationists and academicians, she said for whom such a policy mattered most were never associated.

Irani, however, added: "I am not here to blame the past. I am here to frame the course for the future."

The minister said the process for the New Education Policy for the country will begin from next year.

India had last formulated the National Education Policy in 1986.

IISc plans career fest to get more non-IT companies on campus

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iisc-plans-career-fest-to-get-more-non-it-companies-on-campus/articleshow/44477038.cms

BANGALORE: The premier Indian Institute of Science, under a new administration, has chalked out a fresh plan to have more non-IT companies on its campus for student placements and academic collaboration.

This month, the 105-year-old institute founded with the help of JRD Tata is set to take its first big step in reaching out to the industry to showcase those departments and students that companies have not yet explored.

A two-day career fair — Samanway 2014 — will bring an ensemble of companies on its campus, including GE, Tejas Networks, Function Space, St Gobain, JSW and so on. "This is an institute where half the faculty comes from science and the other half from engineering.We cover a very broad range of topics and IT isn't the only area we represent. Our students obviously want a variety of companies to take note of their work and be placed in companies that aren't only IT," IISc director Anurag Kumar told ET.

The third edition of Samanway to be held on October 17-18 at the JN Tata Auditorium in the IISc campus would act as a pre-placement drive ahead of the actual placement session. The previous editions were not as aggressive as the one that has been planned. Also, the first batch of the four-year undergraduate programme, with 83 students, will graduate this year, enabling them to interact with the participating companies.

In the last three years, over 80 companies visited the IISc for campus placements picking up about 200-250 students every year. These were mostly the likes of Cisco, IBM, Qualcomm, Honeywell, Yahoo and many other IT firms. "A majority of the companies recruiting on campus are from the IT sector. We hope that Samanway will help the industry look at what we have to offer wholly. This will be a platform to catalyze non-IT firms to come in," said M Narasimha Murthy, dean, IISc faculty of engineering.

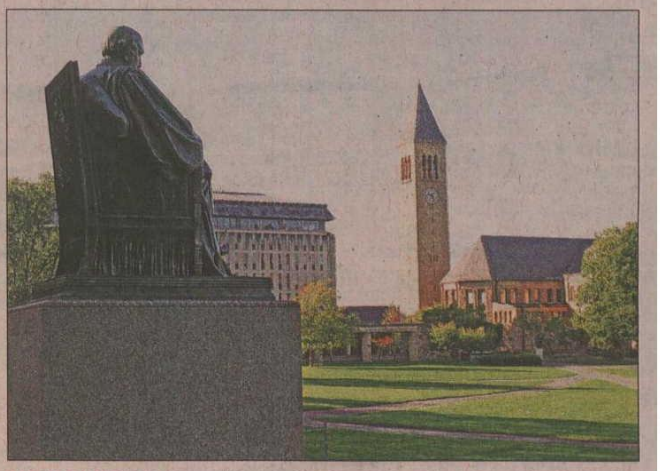
"These companies hire generally from the Department of Computer Science and Automation, the System Science and Automation or the usual electrical engineering and related courses," said Pankaj Jain, secretary (academic affairs), IISc Students' Council. Even the best of mechanical engineering, the non-IT or non-computer science graduates tend to go to the IT companies, according to retired aerospace engineering professor B N Raghunandan. "This may be lucrative from their perspective, but it isn't good for the country in the long run. I am sure companies will start focussing on materials sciences, aerospace and even the biological sciences." The institute's core emphasis would continue to be basic, fundamental research. "But what we want is our work to have a significant impact on society and industry," said Kumar, who took charge as director in August.

While the institute enjoys indisputable reputation for its faculty and research, it has suffered in global rankings. It does not figure in the top 200 higher education institutions brought out by internationally-renowned rank publishers. "The most important factor for rankings is research and publications. They will go up for different reasons and not for industry interaction alone," Kumar said. It may be noted that IISc is ranked 11th globally in the area of high research output in the latest QS World University rankings.

Economic Times ND 07.10.2014 P-10

Cornell Plans to Expand Off-Campus Engagement

Ariel Kaminer



INNOVATIVE IDEAS Cornell University plans to transform its curriculum to make real-world experiences as defining aspect of undergraduate experience

New York: Not just conducting laboratory experiments about water filtration, but building water filtration systems and installing them in towns that cannot afford to buy them. Not just studying South American musical traditions, but going to a village in Peru to hear them firsthand, armed with a slew of instruments on which to train local children. Not just reading about workplace diversity, but going to India to assist with an employment program for people with disabilities.

Through an initiative, Cornell University plans to transform its curriculum to make real-world experiences like these a defining aspect of the undergraduate experience. Backed by $50 million from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust, which university officials intend to augment with $100 million from other philanthropies, the program will be called Engaged Cornell.

By the time the program is fully functioning in 2025, the goal is for all graduating students to have taken at least one course with a community component, "in which they play a direct role supporting, enhancing, contributing to solving problems and contributing to the greater good," said Laura Brown, the senior vice provost for undergraduate education. Many students will take a number of these courses. "Probably no two students would have the same experience," Brown said.

At first, the university will offer grants to professors interested in developing new courses. But with 30 to 40 percent of faculty members expected to retire over the next decade, the hope is that the younger group that replaces them will arrive at Cornell with new plans and ideas for this educational model.

Interest in educational styles tends to run in cycles, and community engagement is a trendy topic these days. Many other institutions have built programs around it; Cornell consulted with the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Tulane and Stanford, among others, all of which have undertaken experiments of this nature.

According to Richard Kiely, the director of Cornell's Engaged Learning and Research center, the interest reflects several cultural dynamics: growing student awareness of the people who live outside university gates; the tradition of experiential learning - learning by doing - supported in the writings of John Dewey, among others; and the attention that accrediting agencies are now paying to the professional development opportunities that colleges and universities provide. Kiely spoke from New Orleans, where he was attending a conference on service learning and community engagement.

The idea that Ivy League students have much to offer underprivileged communities struggling with complicated problems will strike some as naïve, even condescending. But David Einhorn, a trustee for the Einhorn trust, pointed to Cornell students, not the members of the communities they will work in, as the most immediate beneficiaries of local engagement.

"If people are engaged and they learn how to react on an interpersonal level, get out of the traditional setting, they're going to interact with different kinds of people and have different kinds of experiences and build prosocial skills," said Einhorn, a hedge fund manager and Cornell alumnus whose family foundation has donated more than $100 million toward two dozen partner organizations with the aim of "helping people get along better," according to the trust's tagline.

By working on a team, Kiely said, students will "learn about the political and cultural dimensions of a problem, the technical challenges, or the multiple perspectives for stakeholders. So one substantial kind of learning is on a professional level." Beyond that, he said, there is the satisfaction that comes from making something happen rather than simply writing papers about it. "It's an incredible way to see learning in action."

Kiely cited a number of examples already in progress at Cornell: Human ecology students who get a firsthand look at the issues they've been studying by working with health care professionals in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Landscape architecture students who work with residents of Utica, New York, to revitalize public spaces there. Theater students who help stage dramatic productions at Auburn Correctional Facility. City planning students who conduct research or provide data to help communities in the region determine their land use and transportation needs. All are rooted in Cornell's position both as a private university and a state-supported land-grant school with a public mission.

The plan, for now, is somewhat vague. A beautifully produced Engaged Cornell brochure is long on buzzwords like "empowerment" and "high-impact practices," but short on specifics. School officials say it will be up to professors, in fields ranging from engineering to the classics, to figure out how to implement the program's goals. "In some contexts it's really easy; in some, it's almost impossible," Brown said. "It will be highly varied."

For Cornell students, one measure of engaged learning may count above others: its ability to guide them to a paycheck upon graduation. The college's leaders hope it will, ultimately, change Cornell's identity.

Gretchen Ritter, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said, "It will be part of what makes us different, and part of what helps us to attract students who really want to think about how to engage in a broader world."

New York Times

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Science & Technology

Giving an Edge to Scientific Research

Some big givers like Kris Gopalakrishnan are stepping in to fund areas of science and technology conspicuous by their absence in India. A lot more needs to come for greater impact, as in the West, reports Hari Pulakkat

Observers of Indian science would have noticed this. About a year ago, Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan did something unprecedented in Indian science: he gave the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) ₹226 crore to set up a brain research institute. It's not the first contribution by a philanthropist towards scientific research in India, but it is by far the largest. It's why Gopalakrishnan seems to have brought to the centrestage an activity that had started to happen slowly in Indian science and technology research: philanthropic contributions.

In the decade immediately following economic liberalisation, the Indian research establishment was starved of funds. But no more. Starting with the Vajpayee government, research institutions in the country received such generous funding from the government that their infrastructure improved by leaps and bounds.

At the moment, if you ignore some highly-expensive facilities like particle accelerators, India's research infrastructure is world class in most areas. Scientists now struggle to use up their allotted funds towards the end of each financial year, but it doesn't mean that Indian research laboratories do not need any more increases of funding.

Certain areas of science and technology are conspicuous by their absence in India, and all of them are important to the future health of the country. Brain research is one such area. Cancer research is another. A third area would be renewable energy.

It is not that research does not happen in these areas — India has, for example, a dedicated brain research institute in Manesar, Haryana — but it lacks the complete ecosystem that can perform cutting research in sufficient scale, while also taking the fruits of that research all the way to the market. Now, philanthropists are beginning to chip in with their contributions in areas specific to their intellectual interests.

N NARASIMHA MURTHY

CHANGING MINDSETS: Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan's ₹226-crore contribution to IISc for a brain research institute has brought giving in science research to the centrestage

Paying It Back

Consider brain research. Dementia is one of the major problems of old age, and the disease is increasing its prevalence in the country. But it is also among the most poorly-understood of health problems, especially in India. Gopalakrishnan's contribution would bring together imaging specialists, geneticists, epidemiologists, data scientists, clinicians and neuroscientists to work towards a common goal. IISc has set up the new Brain Research Centre as an autonomous society, which gives it full freedom to operate free from government rules and regulations, while also drawing on the intellectual and physical facilities of the institute campus.

Indian research institutions covet this financial and operational freedom, and so far the government has not obstructed their path. Some IITs, for example, are well on their way towards setting up facilities that are funded and operated differently from regular campus laboratories.

The IITs are fortunate in one way. They have an enormous network of rich alumni who are only too willing to help their alma mater. The older IITs are thus tapping their alumni to fund research in a number of ways, and their contributions are rising.

At IIT Bombay, the class of 1975 funded a ₹2-crore tinker lab, where students can go and build whatever they want, free from restrictions of the class curriculum. At IIT Madras, alumni have made contributions that are making a big difference to the institution.

The Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre, which develops healthcare technologies, has now started attracting funding from alumni and other philanthropists. Several of its technologies have now found their way into the market, and it is raising its ambitions. "Alumni funding helps us stabilise the corpus and aspire for bigger things," says Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam, assistant professor, IIT Madras.

IITs and Research

IIT Madras has seen other significant contributions too. Philanthropists Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta, neither of whom is from IIT Madras, kickstarted the department of biotechnology there and continue to fund it. Kishore Chivukula, founder of the Bangalore firm Indo-US MIM, gave ₹1.5 crore for the IIT Madras satellite project.

Its Silicon Valley alumni have set up a $1 million incubation fund for start-ups. Its 1981 batch set up a ₹80-lakh fund for faculty and students to start companies, and the 1984 batch has given a similar amount for a centre for social innovation and entrepreneurship. "I think we will see more of this in the future when institutes develop the capacity to absorb money," says R Nagarajan, professor and advisor at the office of alumni affairs at IIT Madras.

Most alumni are interested in funding transformational research, for which both IIT Madras and IIT Bombay have managed to draw some big money as well. Over the next three years, Kris Gopalakrishnan will give IIM Madras ₹45 crore to set up three chairs on brain research.

At IIT Bombay, alumni and Syntel founder Bharat Desai gave ₹5 crore to found a centre for entrepreneurship. Over the next five years, entrepreneur Romesh Wadhwani will give ₹3 crore every year for a centre for bioengineering to IIT Bombay. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust gave IIT Bombay ₹95 crore to work on technologies for the bottom of the pyramid.

Such contributions have helped IITs do things differently. "Certain activities are very difficult to do with government money," says Ravi Sinha, IIT Bombay professor. This includes providing special salaries to certain individuals or inviting experts like Nobel Laureates to the institution, as they command fees that are beyond the permissible limits of government rules. Sometimes, they go towards enhancing compensation and other activities of an institution. The Infosys Foundation recently committed ₹30 crore to the Chennai Mathematical Institute, to support the faculty and students.

Big Shift

The occasional philanthropic contributions to science can happen away from big institutions like IITs and IISc. Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, always a campaigner for cancer awareness, gave ₹40 crore to set up a cancer hospital and research centre inside Narayana Health City. To improve the cancer research expertise in India, Mazumdar-Shaw has also funded two-year fellowships for Indians at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT, for which she has committed $2.5 million.

In spite of the rising contributions of philanthropists, the impact of philanthropy in Indian research has so far been minimal, with very little money going towards setting up core research in an area, Gopalakrishnan's contributions being the exception. In developed countries, led by the US, such contributions have built extraordinary institutions. Bill Gates, Paul Allen, Lawrence Ellison, David Koch, Michael Bloomberg and many others have made extraordinary contributions amounting to billions of dollars for many institutions.

For these billionaires, philanthropic contributions can go up to a few hundred million dollars. For example, Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen once gave $500 million to set up an eponymous brain research institute in Seattle. Philanthropist Eli Broad has contributed $600 million to the genomics centre Broad Institute at MIT. BlackBerry founder Mike Lazaridis gave $150 million to set up the Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics in his home town of Waterloo.

All these institutions have become world-class centres in their fields of research. Indian billionaires can take the country on a similar path, and a few seeds have been sown by Kris Gopalakrishnan. Indian science can go up several notches if some world-class institutions come up this way.

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The Indian Donors

PHILANTHROPIST	RECIPIENT INSTITUTION	AMOUNT	CAUSE
Pratisha Trust/Kris Gopalakrishnan	Indian Institute of Science	₹225 cr	Creating brain research institute, investigating neural diseases in the Indian context
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust	IIT Bombay	₹95 cr	Developing technology for low-income group
Kiran Mazumdar Shaw	Narayana Hrudayalaya	₹40 cr	Cancer research, specifically on translational research and reducing cost of care
Infosys Foundation	Chennai Mathematical Institute	₹30 cr	Mathematics research, especially on faculty compensation and support fellowships

The Foreign Donors

Philanthropist	Recipient Institution	Amount	Impact
Paul Allen	Independent initiative in Seattle	$500 m	New institute that studies the human brain by providing free tools to scientists
Lawrence Ellison	Ellison Medical Foundation, Bethesda	$300 m+	Biomedical research, especially aging, age-related diseases and disabilities
David Koch	MIT, Boston	$100 m	Integrative cancer research, with experts from biology, medicine and engineering
Michael Bloomberg	Johns Hopkins University	$1 b	Several projects in alma mater, probably the most given to one institution
Mike Lazaridis	Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics, Waterloo	$150 m	Institute for theoretical physics, where computer science has affected funding
Fred Kavli	Multiple institutions	$200 m	New institutes in physics and nanoscience brain research

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गाड़ी की बैटरी सड़क पर खुद चार्ज होगी

स्कूली बच्चों के अविष्कार

बेहतर कल के लिए स्कूली छात्रों ने ऐसी सड़क बनाई है जिस पर गाड़ी की बैटरी खुद चार्ज हो जाएगी। इस तरह के ढेरों इनोवेशन देशभर के स्कूली छात्राओं ने प्रगति मैदान में चल रही विज्ञान और शोध पर आयोजित राष्ट्रीय स्तर की प्रतियोगिता में पेश किए हैं। छात्रों के हुनर पर **रोहित पंवार** की रिपोर्ट...

नई दिल्ली। प्रगति मैदान में नेशनल लेवल एग्जिबिशन एंड प्रोजेक्ट कॉम्पिटिशन (एनएलईपीसी) की शुरुआत हो गई। विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय द्वारा 2008 से आयोजित की जाने वाली यह प्रतियोगिता आठ अक्तूबर तक चलेगी। यहां देश के हर राज्य से स्कूली छात्र अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स और इनोवेशन के साथ आए हैं। इनकी प्रदर्शनी लगाई गई है।

सोलर रोड से दुर्घटना रुकेंगी : पंजाब के विभिन्न स्कूलों से कुल 35 प्रोजेक्ट्स के साथ छात्र आए हैं। इनमें सबसे दिलचस्प सोलर रोड प्रोजेक्ट है। इसे लुधियाना के दसवीं कक्षा के छात्र आयुष खन्ना ने तैयार किया है। आयुष ने बताया कि यह सड़क सौर ऊर्जा पर आधारित होगी। सड़क तीन परतों में बनेगी। सबसे नीचे बेस प्लेट की परत होगी। उसके ऊपर बिजली पैदा करने वाली परत। इसमें माइक्रो प्रोसेसर सेंसर डाले जाएंगे। उसके ऊपर साधारण परत होगी जिस पर गाड़ियां चलेंगी। इन तीन परतों से सोलर रोड तैयार होगी। सूर्य की रोशनी से सड़क के नीचे बिजली पैदा होगी। जब इस पर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गाड़ियां चलेंगी तो सड़क के नीचे की परत से इंडक्शन सेल बैटरी खुद चार्ज कर देगा। इससे ईंधन बचेगा।

आयुष ने कंट्रोल रूम भी तैयार किया है। यह सड़क से जुड़ा रहेगा। जैसे ही गाड़ी सड़क पर उतरेगी कंट्रोल रूम में उसकी मौजूदा स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी मिल जाएगी। यदि दो गाड़ियां नजदीक में आती हैं तो सड़क के नीचे लगे माइक्रोप्रोसेसर सेंसर से कंट्रोल रूम में दोनों के नजदीक आने की जानकारी चली जाएगी। इससे दुर्घटना से बचा जा सकेगा। इतना ही नहीं, बर्फीली पहाड़ी वाले इलाकों में यह सबसे ज्यादा कारगार है। सौर ऊर्जा वाली सड़क पर कभी भी बर्फ जमा नहीं होगी। सड़क के नीचे की गर्मी बर्फ को पिघाल देगी। इसका पानी अन्य जरूरी कामों में इस्तेमाल में लाया जा सकेगा।

नेशनल लेवल एग्जिबिशन एंड प्रोजेक्ट कॉम्पिटिशन में सोमवार छात्र आयुष खन्ना ने सौर ऊर्जा पर आधिरत रोड पेश की। इस रोड पर बैटरी खुद चार्ज होती है। • हिन्दुस्तान

ऑटोमेटिक टोल टैक्स से चालकों का समय बचेगा

जम्मू के छात्र अजेश कुमार ने रेडियो की तरंगों पर आधारित ऑटोमेटिक टोल टोक्स का प्रोजेक्ट तैयार किया है। यह प्रोजेक्ट जम्मू कश्मीर में तीसरे स्थान पर और जम्मू में पहले स्थान पर चुना गया। 10वीं के छात्र अजेश ने बताया कि गाड़ियों पर सेंसर युक्त चिप होगी। इस चिप में मोबाइल के बैलेंस की तरह टैक्स देने के लिए बैलेंस डालने की व्यवस्था होगी। चिप का संपर्क टोल टैक्स से होगा। जैसे ही गाड़ी टोल टैक्स पर आएगी। सेंसर काम करने लगेगा और चिप से टैक्स का भुगतान हो जाएगा। इससे समय बचेगा। साथ हर गाड़ी की जानकारी टोल स्टेशन पर होगी।

दो ट्रेन एक पटरी पर आई तो टक्कर नहीं होगी

मथुरा के 8वीं के छात्र उत्कर्ष शर्मा ने लाइट डिपेंडिंग रेसिस्टर यंत्र तैयार किया है। यह एक ऐसा यंत्र है जो रोशनी और आवाज पर निर्भर रहता है। रोशनी और आवाज से रफ्तार बेहद कम हो सकती है। उत्कर्ष ने बताया कि इसे ट्रेन के आगे और पीछे एक एलईडी लाइट के साथ लाइट डिपेंडिंग रजिस्टर को लगाया जाना चाहिए। यदि दो ट्रेन एक समय पर एक ही पटरी पर चल रही है और बेहद नजदीक आ रही है तो ऐसी स्थिति में यह यंत्र एक दूसरी गाड़ियों की रोशनी से करंट को बिल्कुल खत्म कर देगा। इससे रफ्तार कम होगी और ट्रेन आपस में टकरा नहीं पाएगी।

आज से जनता के लिए खुलेगा

प्रगति मैदान में चल रही विज्ञान प्रतियोगिता की विभिन्न परियोजनाओं और इनोवेशन को मंगलवार से आम जनता देख सकेगी। गेट नंबर -07 से प्रवेश होगा। हॉल-8 से 12 ए में इन्हें प्रदर्शित किया जा रहा है। प्रवेश निशुल्क होगा। कुल 950 प्रोजेक्ट्स छात्रों ने पेश किए हैं।

ये काफी अच्छे इनोवेशन हैं। यदि गहन जानकारी के साथ इन पर और काम करें और शोध के लिए फंडिंग कायदे से हो तो इन्हें व्यवहारिक तौर पर अमल में लाया जा सकता है।
- प्रो. दीप्ति छाबड़ा, मैकेनिकल एंड ऑटोमेशन विभाग, आईजीडीटीयू

मंत्रालय की प्रतियोगिता सराहनीय है। छात्रों की सोच से बने इन प्रोजेक्ट्स में से कई ऐसे हर साल चुने गए हैं जिनका आगे चलकर पेटेंट भी कराया गया। स्कूली छात्रों के पास बेहतर आइडिए होते हैं।
- प्रो. पीवी राव, आईआईटी दिल्ली

Economic Times ND 07/10/2014 P-6

गाड़ी की स्पीड से बनेगी बिजली, ₹1000 में AC!

नेशनल साइंस एग्जिबिशन में स्कूली बच्चों ने लोहा मनवाया

[ईटी ब्यूरो | नई दिल्ली]

आए दिन शहरों और महानगरों में बन रहे हाईवे और एक्सप्रेसवे का पहला मकसद गाड़ियों की स्पीड बढ़ाना हो सकता है, लेकिन क्या इस स्पीड से भी कुछ हासिल किया जा सकता है? एक स्कूली बच्चे को इससे बिजली बनाने का तरीका सूझा और एक प्रोजेक्ट तैयार कर डाला। इसी तरह आठवीं क्लास के एक छात्र ने घरेलू सामान से बेहद किफायती एसी बनाने की तरकीब निकाली है। इस तरह के सैकड़ों स्कूली बच्चों के प्रॉडक्ट और इनोवेशन इन दिनों प्रगति मैदान में चल रहे नेशनल साइंस एग्जिबिशन में आकर्षण का केंद्र बने हुए हैं। इन्हें अधिकारियों और उद्यमियों की वाहवाही तो मिल ही रही है, वैज्ञानिक संस्थाएं भी उनमें भविष्य तलाश रही हैं।

टेक्नोलॉजी इनफॉर्मेशन, फोरकास्टिंग एंड असेसमेंट काउंसिल (टीआईएफएसी) के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि डिपार्टमेंट के पेटेंट फैसिलिटेशन सेंटर ने पहले दिन दर्जनों प्रॉडक्ट पेटेंट के लिए शॉर्टलिस्ट किए हैं। हालांकि मौलिकता और उपयोग के हिसाब से इनका असेसमेंट होगा और फिर पटेंट कराया जाएगा।

उड़ीसा के दसवीं के छात्र प्रज्ञाशीष सारंगी का हाईवे इलेक्ट्रिक सिस्टम वैसे तो विंडमिल के सिद्धांत पर आधारित है, लेकिन यहां हवा का स्रोत गाड़ियों की तेज स्पीड होगी। इसके तहत एक्सप्रेसवे के बीचोबीच चौड़े डिवाइडर पर विंड टरबाइन और विंड रिफलेक्टर लगे होंगे। 80 से 100 किमी प्रतिघंटे या इससे अधिक स्पीड से गुजरने वाली गाड़ियों की हवा को विंड रिफलेक्टर टरबाइन की ओर मोड़ देगा, जिससे उसके पंखे चलने लगेंगे। टरबाइन एक जेनरेटर से कनेक्टेड होगा, जो बिजली पैदा करेगा।

सारंगी का कहना है, 'विंड मिल जहां समुद्री या पहाड़ी इलाकों में चलते हैं, यह सिस्टम सभी हाइवे या एक्सप्रेसवे पर यूज हो सकता है। इसकी सबसे बड़ी खूबी ईकोफ्रेंडली होना है।'पेटेंट फैसिलिटेशन सेंटर के अधिकारियों को छत्तीसगढ़ के नागेश कुमार ढेरिया का देसी एसी भी रास आया, जो 1000 रुपये से कम लागत में ही एक छोटे कमरे का तापमान 35-40 डिग्री सेल्सियस से घटाकर आधा करने का दावा करता है। ढेरिया ने घरेलू सामान से जो सिस्टम तैयार किया है, उसमें एक बाल्टी या ड्रम में मध्य भाग तक पानी में भिगोया हुआ कोयला रखा है।

ऊपर एक मोटर फैन फिट है, जिसकी हवा ड्रम के भीतर जाएगी। ड्रम के मध्य से थोड़ा ऊपर बराबर दूरी पर तीन होल किए गए हैं, जिनमें छह इंच मोटे तीन छोटे पाइप बाहर की ओर लगे हैं। इसके पीछे साइंटिफिक तर्क यह है कि ठंडे पानी में भीगे कोयले पर जब हवा चलती है तो आसपास की हवा तेजी से ठंडी होती है। पाइप से ठंडी हवा बाहर निकलकर कमरे को ठंडा करती जाती है।

गुजरात के हर्दीकुमार जे. श्रीमाली ने लंचबॉक्स के तीन डिब्बों से मच्छर भगाने वाला ईकोफ्रेंडली सिस्टम तैयार किया है। सबसे ऊपरी डिब्बे में यूकेलिप्टस की पत्तियों का जूस रखा जाता है, जो एक छिद्र के माध्यम से बीच के डिब्बे में गिरता रहता है।

मिडल बॉक्स खाली होता है, जिसमें बहुत सारे छिद्र होते हैं। सबसे निचले डिब्बे में एक दीया या मोमबत्ती रखी जाती है। इससे मिडल बॉक्स का सर्फेस गर्म होता है और जूस वाष्प में बदकर पूरे कमरे में फैल जाता है।

- **आठवीं क्लास** के छत्तीसगढ़ के नागेश कुमार ढेरिया ने 1000 रुपये से कम लागत में एक एसी बनाया है। यह एक छोटे कमरे का तापमान 35-40 डिग्री सेल्सियस से घटाकर आधा करने का दावा करता है
- **गुजरात के** हर्दीकुमार जे. श्रीमाली ने लंचबॉक्स के तीन डिब्बों से मच्छर भगाने वाला ईकोफ्रेंडली सिस्टम तैयार किया है
- **सैकड़ों स्कूली** बच्चों के प्रॉडक्ट और इनोवेशन इन दिनों प्रगति मैदान में चल रहे नेशनल साइंस एग्जिबिशन में आकर्षण का केंद्र बने हुए हैं

There is no substitute for teachers: Founder of Super 30

http://zeenews.india.com/news/education/there-is-no-substitute-for-teachers-founder-of-super-30_1481083.html

Washington: Asserting that there is "no substitute" for teachers, Indian mathematician and founder of well-known Super 30 tutorial programme has said that there is a need to create an atmosphere in which teachers get respect and recognition to draw the best to this profession.

Anand Kumar, the founder of Super 30 tutorial programme that started in Patna, Bihar in 2002, was speaking at an event organised by the Stanford India Association of the Stanford University, coinciding with the world teachers' day, wherein he underlined the need to develop more and more teachers to spread the light of education in all corners of the world.

"World Teachers' Day is celebrated on October 5 every year to mobilise support for teachers and to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers. The first and the foremost need for any generation is knowledge and it comes through teachers only. There is no substitute for teachers, no matter which part of the globe we go," Kumar said.

Established in 2002, the programme selects 30 meritorious and talented candidates each year from economically backward sections of society and trains them for the IIT-JEE, the entrance examination for the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Noting that Teachers' Day should not remain just a day lip service, he said: "It should help create an atmosphere in which teachers get the respect and recognition they deserve to draw the best from the society to this pious profession."

"After all, be it doctors, engineers, scientists they all have one thing in common. They are all made by teachers."

In his remarks, Kumar exhorted the Indians present there to contribute to faster growth of their country by using their enormous expertise, which took them to new heights.

"India is progressing and it has realised its potential to be the world leader. With people like you all, who are capable of doing so much, it can be achieved," Kumar added.

He, however, lamented the new trend, in which very few people want to become teachers, though just everyone in the society wants the best teacher for his/her wards.

"This is a big question requiring an answer. The world today faces acute shortage of teachers. India has huge vacancies right from the primary school level to higher and technical education. What is alarming the response to meet this challenge. Invariably, just anyone is made a teacher, which is affecting the quality," Kumar added.

Times Of India ND 07/10/2014 P-17

400 genome regions responsible for deciding your height: Study

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London: A varying genetic make-up has now been found to be the cause behind why some people are taller than others. An international collaboration of scientists have identified about 400 genome regions that may be responsible for the extra inches, according to research involving more than 250,000 people. Studies suggest up to 80% of what determines height lies in our genetic code.

The collaboration co led by the University of Exeter Medical School and part-funded by the Wellcome Trust, involved more than 450 experts from well over 300 institutions in Australia, the US and several European countries.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

The study from the international Genetic Investigation of Anthropometric Traits (GIANT) Consortium has revealed that more than half of the factors involved in determining height are explained by simple common genetic variation — the sort of genetic variation that exists in more than one in 10 people.

The GIANT investigators shared and analysed data from the genomes of 253,288 people. They checked about two million common genetic variants (those that showed up in at least 5% of their subjects). From this pool, they pinned down 697 (in 424 gene regions) as being related to height, the largest number to date associated with any trait or disease. "We can now explain about 20% of the heritability of height, up from about 12% where we were before," says Tonu Esko of Boston Children's Hospital.

Times Of India ND 07/10/2014
P-17

New privacy system to make web surfing safer

London: Researchers have built a new system that protects internet users' privacy and dramatically improves the safety of surfing the web.

Researchers from University College London, Stanford Engineering, Google, Chalmers University of Technology and Mozilla Research have built the system called 'Confinement with Origin Web Labels', or COWL. It works with Mozilla's Firefox and the open-source version of Chrome web browsers and prevents malicious code in a web site from leaking sensitive information to unauthorized parties, while allowing code in a web site to display content drawn from multiple web sites — an essential function for modern, feature-rich web applications.

Testing of COWL prototypes for the Chrome and Firefox web browsers showed the system provides strong security without perceptibly slowing the loading speed of web pages. Currently, web users' privacy can be compromised by malicious JavaScript code hidden in legitimate websites. The website's operator may have incorporated code obtained elsewhere into his or her site without realizing that the code is malicious. Such code can access sensitive data within the same or other browser tabs, allowing unauthorised parties to obtain or modify data without the user's knowledge. PTI

Hindu ND 07.10.14 P-7

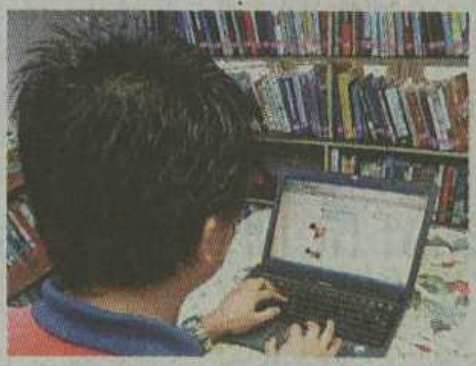
New web privacy system promotes safe browsing

LONDON: Researchers have built a new system that protects Internet users' privacy. It also helps to increase the flexibility for web developers to build web applications that combine data from different web sites, dramatically improving the safety of surfing the web.

The system called "Confinement with Origin Web Labels" (COWL) works with Mozilla's Firefox and Google's Chrome web browsers and prevents malicious codes in websites from leaking sensitive information to unauthorised parties.

Currently, web users' privacy can be compromised by a malicious JavaScript code hidden in seemingly legitimate websites.

The website's operator may have incorporated a code obtained elsewhere into his or her website without realising that the code contains bugs or is malicious.



"Such codes can access sensitive data within the same or other browser tabs, allowing unauthorised parties to obtain or modify data without the user's knowledge," explained study co-author professor Brad Karp from the University College London.

"COWL achieves both privacy for the user and flexibility for the web application developer. Achieving both these aims, which are often in opposition in many system designs, is one of the central challenges in computer systems security research," Mr. Karp said.

Free to download

Free to download, COWL lets web developers build feature-rich applications that combine data from different websites not requiring users to share their login details directly with third-party web applications.

"This ensures that the user's sensitive data seen by such an application does not leave the browser. Both web developers and users win," added Deian Stefan, PhD student at Stanford University.

The team included researchers from University College London, Stanford University, Google, Chalmers and Mozilla Research. — IANS

Times Of India ND 07/10/2014 P-17

World goes green with bio cremations

After US & Canada, Europe Set To Okay Chemical Hydrolysis For Disposal Of Bodies

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London: Bio cremations — a practice that ensures that the human body is turned into a liquid and not ashes — is all set to be legalized in parts of Europe. At present, the only legal way to cremate the dead in the continent is to exhume the body or bury it.

Belgium and the Netherlands are contemplating allowing the mass use of bio cremations which has been legalized recently in the US and Canada.

The process is also known as chemical hydrolysis — an environmentally-friendly alternative to present day trend of the disposal of bodies. The technology replaces the use of flame with the utilization of water, blended with an alkali solution of potassium hydroxide (KOH).

The process uses 95% water and 5% alkali instead of direct flame and fossil fuels to cremate human remains.

The body is placed in a stainless steel cremation chamber where water, an alkali additive, heat and pressure are added. The body is reduced to bone fragments and a sterile solution that is recycled to the earth.

The average adult body takes approximately 2-3 hrs to complete a bio-cremation. Upon completion of the cremation cycle, bones are dried and processed to a powdery substance which is then placed in an urn and given back to family.

FINAL GOODBYE: Bio cremation, which involves the human body being turned into a liquid rather than ashes, is an environment-friendly option as it releases less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

Bio cremation is an environmentally friendly option as it uses less energy and releases less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It also uses eight times less energy than traditional flame based cremation.

The practice is being pushed by the Flemish funeral sector in Belgium while the Dutch parliament too is discussing the possibility of making it legal.

In 2011, a Florida funeral home became the first in the world to perform a bio cremation and since then, over 3,000 people in the United States have chosen the procedure.

The decision will soon be taken by the European Council.

Economic Times ND 07.10.2014 P-10

Top 5 Attributes of a Good Leader

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Students aspiring to become leaders need to "stay hungry, stay very foolish", according to Neville Wadia, managing director of Altitude Energy, and a master trainer in altitude training.

Wadia was addressing students at the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management Pune for The Economic Times Young Leaders B-School Edition.

Wadia spoke about improving listening and communication skills and learning to appreciate others. Here are the highlights of his message and what he thinks are the essential attributes of a leader:

Listening: Want to become a better leader? Stop talking and start listening. Astute leaders know there is far more to be gained by surrendering the floor than by dominating it. In this age of instant communication everyone seems to be in such a rush to communicate what's on their mind, they fail to realise the value of everything that can be gleaned from the minds of others.

Communication: Focus on honing communication skills. Being able to clearly and succinctly describe what you want done is extremely important. If you can't relate your vision to your team, you won't be working towards the same goal together.

Humility: Great leaders are humble people. They don't seek success for their own glory. Success is necessary so that the team and organisation can thrive. They share credit for success and accept blame for mistakes. They are shy but fearless when it comes to decision making. Understanding why arrogance is destructive is important.

Appreciation: It generates a marvellously giddy feeling of self-worth and creates a human connection to others that encourages us towards even more collaborative relationships. As a leader, it is important to give appreciation because it enhances self-esteem for both giver and receiver and creates a human connection. One reason why appreciation is powerful is that, "I appreciate you" is very different from "thank you." An appreciation, however, is special, intimate and should always be given thoughtfully.

Passion: Be passionate about what you are doing and don't be afraid to show it. Love and believe in what you are doing. You've got to find something you are passionate about, something you love.

Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Show confidence – it is addictive to the receiver. Don't do something because everyone else is doing it; don't choose a career path because it pays the most, and don't make choices based on the norm in society. Take risks. Do something that will make you happy.

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