अस्थायी परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं आठ नए आईआईटी

नई दिल्ली, 19 अगस्त (भाषा)। देश में 11वीं योजना के दौरान जिन आठ नए आईआईटी संस्थानों की स्थापना की गई है, वे अस्थायी परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं। मानव विकास संस्थान राज्य मंत्री डी पुरंदेश्वरी ने कहा कि 11वीं योजना के दौरान भुवनेश्वर, हैदराबाद, पटना, गांधीनगर, रोपड़, जोधपुर, मंडी और इंदौर में आईआईटी की स्थापना की गई है। वे अस्थायी परिसरों में काम कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने के पी रामलिंगम के सवाल के लिखित जवाब में राज्यसभा को बताया कि हैदराबाद, रोपड़, भुवनेश्वर और राजस्थान आईआईटी के लिए भूमि सीप दी गई है जबकि पटना, इंदौर और मंडी आईआईटी को आंशिक रूप से भूमि दी गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि हर नए आईआईटी को इसकी स्थापना के पहले तीन साल के लिए हर साल 30 सौ काय मद इमारत बनाने के लिए विभिन्न कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं।
IIT hopefuls may go through twin tests

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, AUG. 18

Even though the Union government plans to conduct in a common entrance exam for all higher education institutions in the country, the IITs seem to differ as they want the top one lakh students who clear the Common Entrance Test (CET) to take up joint entrance examination (JEE) to join the institute.

This proposal will make IIT aspirants to sit for both the entrance examinations.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle on Thursday, Prof. V.G. Idichandy, deputy director, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, said the Union government had asked Dr T. Ramasami, department of science and technology secretary, to come up with modalities to conduct single common entrance test for admitting students to higher education institutions across the country.

"About 15 lakh students may take up CET but if a student wants to join IIT then he needs to be one among the top", he said.

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HindustanTimes
Title : NRI-led team invents chips that mimic human brain
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Location : TORONTO: researcher
Article Date : 08/20/2011

NRI-led team invents chips that mimic human brain

A team of IBM researchers, led by an Indian-American scientist, has claimed to have developed a pair of artificial computer chips that can, in some ways, "emulate the brain's abilities for perception, action and cognition."

These chips, mimicking some of the brain's functions, could be building blocks for next generation cognitive computers that "are expected to learn through experiences, find correlations, create hypotheses, and remember — and learn from — the outcomes, mimicking the brain's structural and synaptic plasticity," according to an IBM release.

The two prototype working designs, unveiled on Thursday, are not biological in nature but use digital silicon circuits influenced by neurobiology. The project is lead by Indian-American scientist Dharmendra Modha, who is originally from Perumbal and graduated from IIT-Mumbai.

In an interview, Modha, who is Manager: Cognitive Computing at IBM's Almaden research facility in California's Silicon Valley, did not put a timeframe to when computers based on simulated-brain architecture would go online but said, "It's inevitable, though unpredictable today."

The project has also attracted $9 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advance Research Projects Agency or DARPA. Known as SYNAPSE, short for Systems of Neuromorphic Adaptive Plastic Scalable Electronics, the project brings together a multi-disciplinary team that includes not just IBM Research scientists, but also those from Columbia University, Cornell University, University of California, Merril and University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Modha, who has been with IBM since 1997, said, "At heart, today's computers are calculators, they can do fast, analytical, national computations. They are not good at the kind of tasks human beings are very good at. We have the social network of the brain capable of amazing feats."

The "neurosynaptic core" attempts to replicate the brain's cognitive processors, with integrated memory for synapses, computation for neurons and communication for axons.
AISA hails Supreme Court verdict

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The All India Students' Association (AISA) at Jawaharlal Nehru University has hailed the Supreme Court verdict that the cut-off criteria for admission to seats under the OBC category should be calculated from the minimum eligibility marks and not from the marks obtained by the last general category candidate to secure admission. The original petitioners in the case were two students whose fight was carried forward with strong support shown by AISA (JNU).

AISA (JNU) Secretary Sucheta De said, “This verdict is a vindication of the struggle that began three years ago...this is a moment of celebration for all those who stand by social justice and the constitutional rights of deprived sections of society to reservation.”

She also said they had launched a sustained campaign to rectify the way the OBC quotas were being implemented in the university by using admission data obtained through Right to Information Act to prove their arguments.

Dismissing the appeal against the Delhi High court verdict of September 2010, the apex court ordered all universities and colleges in the middle of the admission procedures to re-define eligibility marks as cut-off and fill OBC seats accordingly by August 31.
Confusion cut off

Apex court brings about clarity on marks for OBCs

There was considerable confusion over the implementation of the Supreme Court's October 14, 2008, order about cut-off marks for OBC students, which has finally been cleared. Various central educational institutions were applying different yardsticks for admitting OBC candidates. Several central universities had adopted the practice of determining the minimum eligibility/qualifying marks for admission of OBC students with reference to marks secured by the last candidate under the general category. Due to this anomaly, many OBC seats remained unfilled and got diverted to the general category.

The court has now clarified that a factor (the marks of the last candidate in the general category) which is neither known nor ascertained at the time of declaring the admission programme cannot be used to disentitle a candidate to admission, who is otherwise entitled. At the same time, the apex court has also refused to lower the bar for OBC students further than 10 per cent, considering that they are "far better placed economically and socially than SCs/STs". Indeed, lowering the qualifying marks further would have led to a large disparity with the general candidates, thus affecting the excellence of higher education.

Equally significant is the court's order that an OBC seat cannot be converted into a general category one when an eligible OBC candidate is available. But to ensure that there is no confusion in admissions for 2011-12, the court has said that this judgement will not disturb central educational institutions which have already decided the minimum eligibility marks for OBCs based on the marks scored by the last candidate in the general category. Nor has it intervened in those cases where any unfilled OBC seats have already been allotted to general category students. That means that the re-defined provisions will be applicable fully only from the next academic session.
Common exam for undergraduates likely by 2013

The Government intends to have a common examination for undergraduate programmes across the country from 2013 and prepare a common merit list as part of efforts to improve quality of education.

The candidates would qualify for prestigious technical institutes, as per the position in the merit list, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal informed the Lok Sabha on Friday. He said that an expert committee was examining the matter and that this was part of his efforts to provide equal opportunities to both rural and urban students.

Sibal also said that the government would crack down on fake universities, the practice of taking capitalisation fee, misleading advertisements and other malpractices regarding which a bill is also being brought.

Replying to a debate on a Bill to amend the National Institutes of Technology Act, which proposes structural changes in educational establishments and bringing in its ambit the five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, he said the government is keen on improving the quality of education and in this regard world class universities would be set up in the country.

Sibal further added that in order to tackle malpractices as misleading advertisements for technical institutes through which students are fooled, transaction of money under the table and charging of capitalisation fees. He pointed out that the Government was preparing Education Malpractices Bill, which would be brought to Parliament soon. He pointed out the Government wants to check mushrooming of such institutes where the father becomes the Chancellor and son the Vice-chancellor, harping on professionalism, claiming the Central government has not given any NOC to any institute so far. He said government was trying to create an environment in which the private sectors can invest enough to set up quality higher education institutes.

Soon, single test for college entry

Soon, single test for college entry

From page 1

Testing authority is being contemplated. As for the proposed test, it will replace all the existing exams for entry to UG colleges including Joint Entrance Exam for IITs.

Once the Ramasami report comes, the government will consult states to take the issue forward. Already, the CBSE has, in consultation with state boards, evolved a core science curriculum and implemented it in schools. The commerce curriculum is also ready and will be now implemented though there are problems in evolving a core curriculum for humanities due to regional and cultural issues involved.

We have implemented the core curriculum for science; the one for commerce is ready. The idea is to offer a uniform education, system to students across boards and thereby have a level-playing field for all those competing in the common entrance exam," Sibal said, allaying fears of MP that those who fail the common test won't have anywhere to go.
Common test on anvil for undergraduate courses

The government intends to have a common examination for undergraduate programmes across the country from 2013 and prepare a common merit list as part of efforts to prepare quality of education, HRD minister Kapil Sibal said on Friday. He also said the government would crack down on fake universities, the practice of taking capitation fee, misleading advertisements and other malpractices regarding which a Bill is being brought.
IIM Kozhikode takes Chandy, ministers's class

Rajesh Ravi

Kozhikode, Aug 18: IIM Kozhikode had 18 new students on Thursday led by 87-year old Kerala Chief Ministe

Rajesh Ravi, Aug 18: IIM Kozhikode had 18 new students on Thursday led by 87-year old Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy including 75-year old minister Arayadan Mohammed and 29-year old Jayalakshmi, took lessons from key faculty at the management varsity on fruitful and speedy governance. Later in an interaction with the press, IIM Kozhikode director Debashish Chatterjee rated the team 90-plus points. Oommen Chandy and cabinet minister P.K. Kunhalikutty, industries minister said while advising the chief minister to reduce his working hours. The programme, structured by the faculty at IIM Kozhikode, was titled ‘Governance Insight for Transformation’ (GIFT) and covered topics such as time management, taking the fruits of governance to the people, and effective performance of tasks and achievement of goals. Interacting with politicians of high energy is an experience in learning. I learnt a lot from the team. They were quite disciplined and were willing to follow classroom etiquette which includes no mobiles and no talking,’ Chatterjee said.

The team had to pay Rs 2,000 per head for a one-day class and interactive sessions with Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, founder of the world's largest cardiac centre, Narayana Hrudayalaya, and Chamrathrat Chatterjee, director (Investments), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

The idea of bringing ministers to Kozhikode was mooted by the IIM and CII’s Management Association president Roshan Kainadi. The objective was to achieve increased productivity and efficiency by sharpening their governance skills, aid in goal-based planning and focus on result-oriented working strategies,’ Chatterjee said.

₹2,000 cr for med colleges

Mail Today ND 20/08/2011 p3

THE government will invest over ₹2,000 crore in upgrading 19 medical colleges across the country.

According to health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, the move is being initiated to improve health infrastructure in the country by establishing super-speciality departments, trauma centres and procuring new medical equipment.

The scheme is part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. In the first phase, 13 medical colleges will be upgraded with an investment of ₹100 crore each, he said.

Out of the 13, civil work has already been completed in five medical colleges.

In the second phase, six medical colleges will be upgraded with a central contribution of ₹125 crore each.

State government medical colleges will also be upgraded by a one-time grant of ₹1350 crore under a new centrally sponsored scheme.
Maharashtra delineates conditions for setting up private universities

**Partnership with foreign institutions to be permitted**

Within five years of establishment, these universities will have to obtain an accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or the National Board of Accreditation.

The Bill, which was also passed by the Legislative Council on August 11, will now be sent to the Governor for his approval, a top State government official said today.

These private universities will not receive government funds, and will have to ensure inclusion in the University Grants Commission list of Authorised University, according to the Bill, a copy of which is available with NewsWire18.

The Bill also says that within five years of establishment, these universities will have to obtain an accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or the National Board of Accreditation.

The Bill has also provided for the minimum campus area for these universities based on their locations. Accordingly, private universities located in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region must have a campus of 4 hectares, in the divisional headquarters 10 hectares, and those located in a tehsil or district headquarters or a rural area must have a campus of at least 20 hectares.

**CURRICULA**

The State will allow these private universities to teach liberal arts, humanities, social sciences, life sciences and biotechnologies, nano sciences and technologies, engineering, technology, management, business and commerce, applied and creative arts, vocational education, media, information and communication technology, and education.

"Medical colleges too are part of the Bill and will have to comply with Medical Council of India norms," Mr Rajesh Tope, the Minister of Higher Education, told NewsWire18.

**FOREIGN PARTNERSHIP**

The State will also permit private universities to collaborate and partner with foreign higher education or research institutions, as per the Bill.

The “sponsoring body” of the private university will have to mandatorily create an Endowment Fund of Rs 100 crore if located in Mumbai and Rs 5 crore if outside Mumbai. Income from this fund may be utilised for infrastructure development but not for recurring expenditure of the university, the Bill said.

The Endowment Fund can be invested only in long-term securities guaranteed by the government, and the instruments will have to be given to the government for “safe custody” until dissolution of the university, the Bill said.

According to the Bill, the proposal for setting up of a private university, to be considered by a government panel, must have a detailed project report, spelling out the financial resources, plans for land acquisition or details of land and infrastructure, and a phased outlay of capital expenditure for five years.

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Forget hurricanes, is US ready for solar storms?

Chris Kimmerle

LIKE a high-altitude nuclear explosion, a geomagnetic storm (GMS) spawned by solar flares has the ability to shut down electricity transmission/distribution systems and damage computers on Earth.

With the 11-year solar cycle entering a peak period, there is increased risk of GMS and ground induced currents in the transmission system.

Grid operators and satellite communications do not appear ready for the worst-case GMS scenario, which, while highly improbable, could include prolonged blackouts and massive disruption to the US economy.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Japan’s recent nuclear disaster, the US government and the power industry are now taking the risk more seriously.

Unlike man-made nuclear bursts, geomagnetic storms are natural phenomena, occur on a periodic basis and can have continent-wide impact.

GMS result from the interaction of solar wind and the earth’s magnetic field. They are the hurricanes of the magnetosphere and can develop almost instantaneously, have complex widespread geographic implications and last for one or more days.

Solar wind intensity increases during periods of high solar activity — solar flares, coronal holes, and disappearing filaments. While frequently coinciding with peaks in the solar cycle, large geomagnetic storms can occur any time.

While the probability of a widespread blackout is low, in 1986, 1989 and 1991 storms caused significant disruptions to power transmission systems across North America and around the world. The 1989 storm caused a blackout that covered all of Quebec and was felt over much of the US. The blackout cost millions of dollars in lost productivity and recovery costs.

The bad news: The combination of increased reliance on information technology for grid management, increases in line voltage and increasing distances between power generation sites and centers of consumption are compounding the risk of serious problems for the nation’s power supply from a major storm.

There has been little incentive to reinforce the transmission system against a low probability, high impact event, even when the economic exposure is in the trillions of dollars.

Despite long being aware of the exposure, The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is only now working to “identify the need to assess the current capability of the bulk power system to withstand these severe-impact scenarios and to enhance restoration plans and procedures.”

The good news: GMS are often accompanied by spectacular aurora borealis displays. Widespread power failures would knock out the lights in major urban and suburban areas, creating opportunities to watch the northern lights in the dark.

A FEMA planning scenario

In October 2010 the US Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and other domestic and international agencies participated in a workshop on managing critical disasters. Under one planning scenario, an intense GMS occurred in the Northeast and Northern Europe. Within an hour of onset a cascading power outage spread across the eastern and mid-Atlantic United States and eastern Canada.

In the exercise, electric transmission system step-up transformers and transmission transformers were damaged and repairs took weeks to months to complete. The loss of power in turn caused losses of water distribution, sewage disposal, hospital care and phone service as well as fuel resupply problems. Satellite and cell phone services were also disrupted.

The worst-case scenario solar storm lasted 24 hours. Many populated areas were without power for months. Full recovery of the US power grid took six months. An unlikely event? Probably ... but not without precedent. — Reuters
150 करोड़ की लागत से बनेगा आईआईएम भवन

रायपुर (ब्यूरो छग.)। इंजी니यरिंग कॉलेज के भवन में चल रहे आईआईएम के लिए नया रायपुर में 200 एकड़ भूमि चिन्हित कर ली गई है। 150 करोड़ की लागत से बनेगा आईआईएम भवन के लिए शुरू करने के लिए निर्माण कारोबारी बोर्ड के निदेशकों व वास्तुविदों ने प्रस्तावित स्थल का प्रत्यक्ष निरीक्षण किया। केंद्र सरकार ने राज्य में तीन साल पहले आईआईएम की स्थापना के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी थी। आईआईएम वर्तमान में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के भवन में चल रहा है।

राज्य सरकार ने रायपुर में आईआईएम की स्थापना के लिए करीब 200 एकड़ जमीन उपलब्ध कराई है। यहां आईआईएम भवन के अलावा छात्रवास और स्टाफ क्वार्टर का निर्माण भी होगा। करीब 150 करोड़ की लागत से आईआईएम भवन का निर्माण किया जाएगा। आईआईएम बोर्ड डायरेक्टरों और वास्तुविदों की एक टीम राजधानी पहुंची। उन्होंने आईआईएम की स्थापना के लिए उपलब्ध कराए गए ग्राम पौला के समीप स्थानों की निरीक्षण की। इसके बाद ड्राइंग डिजाइन तैयार करने का काम होगा। ड्राइंग डिजाइन के बाद भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए टेंडर बुलाए जाएगे।

सूचना की मानने तो इस पूरे निर्माण कार्य में 3 साल का समय लगेगा। आईआईएम वर्तमान में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के भवन में पिछले साल ही शुरू हुआ है। वर्तमान में बाहर से फैक्टरी को अध्ययन कार्य के लिए बुलाया गया है। कुछ नियुक्तियां भी हुई हैं। गौरवलब है कि आईआईएम में एडमिशन के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर परीक्षा आयोजित होती है। चयनित छात्रों को ही इसमें प्रवेश दिया जाता है।