Dengue cases on the rise in IIT-Delhi


Number of dengue cases in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is climbing with worried parents and students stating that as many as 40 cases of dengue have been reported from this green pocket.

While IIT authorities were not available to confirm the exact number of cases, parents of the students here have asked immediate remedial measures to ensure that more persons here should not be affected.

The Institute saw a surge of dengue cases in 2010 when 150 students were affected. The authorities had then claimed that only 50 cases had tested positive for dengue. Meanwhile city doctors have said that there is no cause for panic. According to international guidelines, unless a patient’s platelet count is below 10,000, and there is spontaneous, active bleeding, no platelet transfusion is required in case of being dengue positive.

“The rising number of dengue cases is a cause of concern in the city. Patients should not insist on platelet transfusion unless recommended by doctor. It is not the first line of treatment for dengue and in fact does more harm than good if used in a patient whose counts are over 10,000,” cautioned Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, of Indian Medical Association.

“While treating dengue patients, physicians should remember the ‘Formula of 20’ i.e. rise in pulse by more than 20; fall of BP by more than 20; difference between lower and upper BP less than 20 and presence of more than 20 hemorrhagic spots on the arm after a tourniquet test suggest a high-risk situation and the person needs immediate medical attention,” he added.

IIT Delhi Student Named Most Promising Young Entrepreneur in Singapore


Singapore: A 22-year-old IIT Delhi student has been named as the most Promising Young Entrepreneur at a business competition in Singapore.

Chiraag Kapil, led a team of five from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, in the 8th Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition and won the award prize of $5,000 last night.

"I feel brilliant. It is one of the most exciting things that happened in my life. (I am) very privileged to be called Most Promising Young Entrepreneur," Chiraag told PTI after receiving the award.

Chiraag’s team Leaf from IIT Delhi also won the second prize of $12,000 for its revolutionary smart pendant called SAFER, which together with an app, serve to enhance the safety of women.

When a woman feels threatened, she just needs to press SAFER twice.
An alert and her location will be sent to the people she had pre-designated as Guardians, as well as nearby SAFER users who will be able to track her location real-time by navigating on maps.

The SAFER app is installed on mobile/cell phones for transmitting messages.

SAFER is developed by five co-founders of Leaf Innovation Pte Ltd, a start-up from IIT Delhi which is seeking $500,000 funding to expand its jewelry-embedded app product globally.

About 50,000 SAFER-embedded pendants are worn by women in India and Turkey, with another 10,000 pre-orders from India and Europe, said Leaf team leader Paras Batra who along with Chiraag received the awards last night.

"We will be expanding to South East Asia and the United States in one year," said the 22-year old Batra, who along with Manik Mehta, Ayush Banka, Avinash Bansal and Chiraag have started on the path of entrepreneurship.

This year's competition received 185 submissions from 445 students studying in 140 universities across 44 countries.

Named after Singapore's founder Prime Minister, the late Lee Kuan Yew, the biennial award was incepted in 2001.
दिल्ली के चिराग को युवा उद्यमी का सम्मान

सिंगापुर। आईआईटी दिल्ली के 22 वर्षीय विद्यार्थी चिराग कपिल को यहां एक कारोबारी प्रतिस्पर्धा में सबसे अधिक संभावनाओं वाला युवा उद्यमी नामित किया गया है। चिराग ने 8वें ली कुआन यू ग्लोबल बिजनेस प्लान कंपनी के भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, दिल्ली से पांच विद्यार्थियों की टीम की अगुवाई की और 5,000 डॉलर का अवार्ड जीता।

अवार्ड प्राप्त करने के बाद चिराग ने बताया, ‘मैं बहुत रोमांचित हूं। यह मेरे जीवन में घटित सबसे उत्साहजनक घटना है और खुद को मोस्ट प्रोमाइजिंग यूंग आंत्रप्रेरित कहलाते हुए गर्व की अनुभूति कर रहा हूं।’

आईआईटी दिल्ली से चिराग की टीम लीफ्ने अपने क्रांतिकारी स्मार्ट पेंडेंड ‘सेफर’ के लिए 12,000 डॉलर का दूसरा पुरस्कार भी जीता। सेफर महिलाओं की सुरक्षा बढ़ाने वाला एक ऐप है।

जब एक महिला खतरा महसूस करे तो वह सेफर को दो बार दबा सकती है और उससे जुड़े लोग सतर्क हो जाते हैं।
IIM Bill: Social inclusion vs autorocratic autonomy

The recent drafting of the IIM Bill is making headlines with many alleging that the proposed move will jeopardise the autonomy of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Amidst the chairmen of IIMs' recent move against the Government's move to introduce the Bill, this seems to raise a few questions about the provisions of the IIM Bill 2015 that are drawing criticism. What are the clauses of the IIM Bill that affect other institutions of excellence governed by a similar Act? How beneficial has the autonomy of IIMs been?

Did autonomy exist before?

It is necessary to explore the provisions of the IIM Bill 2015 and the reason for which it is being opposed. One of the most controversial provisions is that of Clause 17(2) which is being argued by many is a direct attack on the IIM Act. The IIM Act, passed in 2005, is the only provision that arrests the Central Government with the approval of the Council of IIMs for such terms and conditions of service to be prescribed.

On April 16, 2015, much before the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) came into power, the government of Rajasthan, in a move to alleviate the financial crisis, introduced an amendment to the IIM Act, thereby, removing the requirement of the approval of the Central Government for such terms and conditions of service to be prescribed.

IIM Bill and acts governing other institutions

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Act, 2015, passed by the Delhi Assembly on March 16, 2015, is said to be similar in spirit. The Bill was introduced during the Delhi Assembly on June 5, 2015, and was passed the very next day. The Bill too has provisions similar to the IIM Act. Interestingly, there was no protest or resistance despite the fact that the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Act too lacks approval by the Council of IIMs for such terms and conditions of service to be prescribed.

In the IIM Bill, the provisions of the IIM Act, 2005, are again reiterated. The Council of IIMs is the supreme authority in the IIM system, and as per the IIM Act, it controls the finances, administrative, and academic affairs of the IIMs.

The proposed IIM Act is not very different from the IIT Act, the NIT Act, and the AIMA Act. In fact, a detailed comparison between the IIT and IIM Acts reveals that both enjoy more liberty than the IITs, while the central government is more involved in the IIMs. The IIT Act, in contrast, is more stringent in terms of the academic freedom of the institutions.

Omid Gupta

The recent success of the two outstanding brothers from their father's small village, Prashant and Prateek, who managed to secure impressive ranks in IIT entrance examinations, once again highlights the importance of social inclusion. Such inspiring incidents reveal the potential of IITs and other institutions of higher education. It is evident that the IITs have been practicing social inclusion.

Who governs the IIM?

A deeper analysis reveals that the board of governors which recommends prospective candidates on the basis of their academic achievements and the Government, for instance, the current chairman of the board of IIMs is at ANU, the executive chairman of the JNUSU, and the executive chairman of the NLSIU, and the government has been even more lenient in its approach.

What about the IITs?

The IITs are controlled by the government, which is a source of great concern. The government is also responsible for setting the standards of education and maintaining the quality of education. It is evident that the government has been lenient in its approach, allowing the IITs to function independently.

Excellence and social inclusion

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Who supports the IIM Bill?

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The author of the IIM Bill, who is also the chairman of the IIM Council, has been a consistent advocate of social inclusion. He has been vocal in his support for the IIMs and their role in promoting social inclusion. His views have been widely publicised in various media outlets, and his support for the IIMs has been unwavering.

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‘Hub in the Sky’ facility at IIT-M to boost academia-industry collaboration

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, August 21

Hub in the Sky, a facility to promote greater collaboration between the academia and industry, set up by the IIT Alumni Industry Interaction Centre (AIIC) will be commissioned in 2016. The facility was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Research Park.

Objective
The facility is aimed at facilitating informal interaction between academia and industry. The objective is to create an opportunity to connect with the alumni from corporate R&D, technology and senior management as well as local industry and professionals for increased collaboration. The centre is spread over 35,000 sq ft in the upper floors of the IIT-M Research Park and has come up at a cost of ₹14-15 crore.

The AIIC’s first facility, Club in the City, was started in 2010 in Chennai.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras, told a press conference that though most of the interaction happens in the campus, the alternate social setting will create a space for the industry players to network with a different frame of mind.

K Ananth Krishnan, Chief Technological Officer, Tata Consultancy Services and an IIT alumnus, said given the proximity of the Hub in the Sky to Tidel Park and Ramanujan IT City, it will facilitate beneficial exchange between stakeholders.

The facility is also expected to heighten the faculty participation, as most of them stay within the campus, which is closer to the facility.

Other initiatives
Industry Round Table (IRT) is another initiative of AIIC to promote industry collaboration. M Subramanian, Chief Executive Officer, Development Office, IIT-M Alumni Charitable Trust, said after four rounds of IRT conferences with the automobile players, an Auto Industry Cell is being set up in the IIT-M and will be funded by the automobile industry for research.

An IRT will be held in 2-3 weeks on medical devices to discuss indigenous production of low-cost diagnostic equipment.
The IIT Alumni Industry Interaction Center (AIIC), a pan IIT initiative (spread across all 16 IITs), recently held an inaugural puja (prayer) for its 'Hub in the Sky' facility at the IIT Madras Research Park.

The event was conducted in the presence of Professor Bhaskar Ramanurthi, Director IIT Madras, Professor Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Head, IITM Research Park and Dr. R. Nagarajan, Dean Alumni and International Affairs.

Faculty, invitees and other alumni also graced the occasion to support the IIC initiative

Suresh Kalpathi of Kalpathi Investments and the president of IIT AIIC thanked the governing council that includes Professor Ramamurthi, Mr. Arjun Malhotra, Mr. M.S.Ananth, Professor Jhunjhunwala, Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan and Dr. R. Nagarajan amongst others for their guidance and support.

As a step closer to achieving the Prime Minister's seven-point focus Charter for IITs, a part of its vision to project India as a brand worldwide, the AIIC announced the collaboration between academia, apex corporate houses and business institutions on financial technology (FinTech) innovations.

This comes as a part of a series of Industry Round Tables (IRT) through which IRT for automotives was successfully launched early this year.

Interacting with media, Kalpathi said, "With giants like Cognizant, TCS, Saint Gobain, L&T, Sundaram Finance, JK Fenner and Carborundum Universal Limited as our institutional members providing industrial expertise to technological innovations from the IIT eco system, AIIC will facilitate mutually beneficial dialogue between academia and industry".

Welcoming the AIIC to its new premises, Professor R.Nagarajan, Dean, International and Alumni Relations, IIT Madras said, "IITs and their alumni share one common characteristic-innovation in all their endeavours. The AIIC is another example of that-a path-breaking effort to integrate academia/ alumni/ industry interaction into
traditionally social setting. I'm sure the success of this initiative at IIT Madras Research Park will spur similar Centres at other IITs as well”.

The Indian landscape is primed for entrepreneurs using technology to promote financial inclusion. With IITs being a hub of innovations and the Research Park having the facility of an incubation cell, AIIC will bring closer the industry requirements to novel ideas and solutions.

The 'Hub in the Sky' facility is the first in a series of similar ventures planned across metros to foster discussions on technology, business and social networking amongst alumni & faculty of all IITs.

At this second facility, AIIC aims to take the vision of Alumni Center to a new level with world class facilities that will include a Member's lounge, Fine dining, Banquet halls, Meeting rooms, Library, Business center, AV Room and Executive rooms.

Over and above the vision of Alumni Center, the objective of "HUB IN THE SKY" will be to supplement and complement the vision of IITMRP. It will provide world class ambience for meaningful and fruitful discussions and interaction between industry, academia, research scientists, policy makers, legal/finance/technical specialists and investment managers thus enabling value creation for a greater good through networking amongst its members. The IITM Research Park, designed by Hafeez Contractor, will eventually add more than 1 million sq. feet of well architected and environment friendly space.

AIIC corporate member Dr. E.S.Sivashankar, Director - KKK-JAPAN & Director - CKIPL, Chennai said, "Being a member, could develop business contacts with reliability which could be useful mutually. In the long run, we can explore the possibilities of collaboration in areas of common interest between my Japanese company and a reputed institution like IIT. Being a part of the group will also help in exchange of ideas which are mutually beneficially. We also think that with help from IIT, KKK Japan lookout for ways to be of use to the community in Chennai and later for India."

Through this initiative, AIIC will systematically map and group IIT alumni to leverage on their collective experience in different sectors, identify innovation and serve as a platform that inspires path-breaking changes.

AIIC Patron Member, Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder, Infosys congratulated the Center on the success of a pan IIT initiative of such magnitude and said over a video call, "I am glad that IIT Alumni Club is moving to the IIT Madras Research Park. With larger area, the activities of the club can increase and serve the IIT Alumni community better. I hope all IIT Alumni will join and take full advantage of the facilities.

**IIT-B’s info highway choked up**


Mumbai: The internet connection at IIT Bombay is choked up and experts have not been able to diagnose the problem that has dogged systems for a fortnight.

Faculty believe a host of factors have caused the slowing down of the internet. Interventions to boost speed have only led to brief easing, followed by clogging up. The campus community has been asked to "improve" browsing by restricting it to academic and professional requirements.

"A thing we have observed is an unusually high rate of requests to some external websites. We have also seen very high levels of activity on some links and are unable to diagnose the source of this activity," said a letter from the head of the computer science department, D Manjunath.

The gravity of the problem seems to be bigger than what meets the eye. Even if a solution is found, experts are unsure if it
will be lasting. "I am unable to promise a date and time by which the problem will be resolved. The best I can say is that we will be trying very hard with the meagre resources we have to identify and resolve it. Given the experience of the last few days, it is not clear if the solution, when we find it, will be permanent."

The mail asked students to refrain from sending complaints about the poor quality of the net service. "Do not send your complaints to me or to the website about poor internet performance. This will only add to already strained resources.... It is especially expected that sarcastic and smart alec emails will not be attempted," read the letter.

Among all the IITs, it is believed browsing is smoothest on the Powai campus; the download speed too is considered to be jet category due to the high bandwidth of 100 Mbps. But currently the net speed is a crawl.

The batch of incoming freshmen who have plugged in their laptops have also been asked to ensure that they did not bring in any virus. "Make sure that your PCs/laptops are virus-free. Take the help of your tech-savvy friends and sysads (system administrators) to achieve this. This has been the source of problems before and could be haunting us this time too," professor Manjunath's letter said.
New Delhi: Red tape consumed nearly 4,000 MBBS seats in the 2014-15 academic session, and this at a time when India is lagging behind the doctor to population ratio by a wide margin.

The country has one doctor for every 1,700 persons against the WHO-prescribed standard of one doctor for every 1,000 persons.

The Supreme Court held the government and the Medical Council of India (MCI) guilty for the loss of 3,920 MBBS seats mainly because of lethargic inspection of infrastructure in medical colleges and non-grant of timely permission to colleges to admit students.

A bench of Justices A R Dave, Vikramjit Sen and U U Lalit said, “The affidavit filed on behalf of Union of India shows that though the number of seats had risen, obviously because of permissions granted for establishment of new colleges, because of disapproval of renewal cases, the resultant effect was net loss in terms of number of seats available for the academic year.”

According to the affidavit, total capacity in MBBS courses increased from 51,598 in 2013-14 to 54,348 in 2014-15. However, renewal of seats was not permitted in case of 3,920 seats in 2014-15, leading to a net loss of 1,170 seats.

The MCI had recommended rejection of renewal in case of 8,667 seats. However, renewal permission for 4,747 seats in 73 government medical colleges was granted by the Centre on the last date, that is July 15, 2014, by relying on the undertaking/compliance given by the respective state governments.

Calling the loss of MBBS seats serious, the bench said, “It not only causes loss of opportunity to the student community but at the same time it causes loss to society in terms of less number of doctors being available. The MCI and the central government must, therefore, show due diligence right from the day when applications are received.”

The SC has time and again dealt with the issue of admissions to medical colleges and attempted to streamline it by laying down a detailed schedule for inspection of medical colleges.

On rectification, a fresh inspection is to be carried out and a report sent expeditiously to the central government for either grant or rejection of the application seeking renewal of permission to admit students well ahead of the commencement of each academic session.

Writing the judgment for the bench, Justice Lalit said the Centre had been empowered to make minor adjustments in the schedule for inspection and grant of permission to medical colleges. However, the bench clarified that the September 30 deadline to complete admissions to all MBBS seats must be scrupulously adhered to.
IIT Roorkee gears up Student Council elections


'Gathering of more than 5 students is not permitted anywhere inside the campus.'

'Inter-Bhavan movement of students is not permitted after 11 p.m.'

The above lines are diktats from the authorities at IIT- Roorkee. All this is because of the upcoming Student Council elections in the campus. The students are all charged up, and this electric atmosphere has led to skirmish in the campus. The authorities were prompt to take swift actions, and implement strict rules until elections are done. Although the students are irked by these instructions, authorities feel it is the best way to ensure there is no breach of discipline.

"The matter was miniscule, but this being the election time, it escalated. There are various factions of students from different Indian regions. This has led to a kind of group-ism resulting in a brawl," says a student, in the 4th year at IIT Roorkee. The authorities took immediate steps to avert any future confrontations. "There was an incident where the students from one Bhavan (hostel) had gone to the other to address the students there which led to a minor argument. In order to prevent any such situations, we implemented the rules," says Professor, D.K Nauriyal, Students Affairs Dean at IIT- Roorkee.

Did Google try to derail Net neutrality in India?


New Delhi: Joining hands with Facebook, Internet search giant Google is allegedly lobbying against net neutrality in India, according to reports.

As per a MediaNama report, Google has been trying to prevent Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), which represents some of the largest Internet companies in India, from taking a stand that counters Zero Rating.

The report also reveals that Vineeta Dixit, a member of Google’s public policy and Government Relations team has written to IAMAI for removal of any mention of ‘Zero Rating’ from its submission to the Department of Telecom. The news site has got its hands on the copies of the emails written.

Stating that there is no consensus on Zero Rating, Dixit's email dated August 14 to IAMAI government relations committee requested for removal of the same from the submission.

It should be noted that Google has not participated or even commented in the consultation process on net neutrality issue to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the past.

Meanwhile, yesterday was the last day for submitting your suggestions on the issue of Net Neutrality and as many as 73,326 people posted their views on the DoT report on mygov.In, the government's platform for citizen engagement.
Spelling mistakes in letter embarrass Smriti

New Delhi, Aug 22, 2015, DHNS

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/496564/spelling-mistakes-letter-embarrass-smriti.html

Red-faced HRD minister seeks explanation from CBSE

Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Irani faced an embarrassment after a language teacher from Chhattisgarh posted on social media an official letter written on her behalf that contained spelling mistakes.

As the image of the letter went viral on Twitter, with users sharing it and deriding Irani, the ministry sought an explanation from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) after it found that it was the board’s faux pas. The HRD minister told reporters as much.

The CBSE had sent the letter to Richa Kumar, a language teacher with the Delhi Public School in Bhilai, to congratulate her on the “stellar performance” of her students in the secondary school examination in July.

Though the spellings of the words "Minister" and "Sansadhan (resources)" were incorrect in Irani's official letterhead, the CBSE officials ignored them and sent it on behalf of the Minister with her digital signature.

“The minister did not physically sign the letter. It was her digital signature the board officials used,” said a top HRD Ministry official.

The teacher had initially posted the letter on her Facebook account. “Thank you for congratulating me on the excellence I exemplify. However, having been a teacher for the last 20 years, your official letter head is an affront to my sensibilities as a Language teacher. The attached photographs are self explanatory. Please ensure that at least the people who work for you, in your ministry, are well educated (sic),” she also wrote.

“Would not misspell my own name in Hindi. Have asked concerned organisation to give an explanation (sic),” said an upset Irani on Twitter on Friday morning, replying to one of the scathing comments against her on the micro-blogging site.

She also acknowledged on Twitter that among other things in the letter, the Hindi spelling of middle name, Zubin, was also wrong.

The CBSE had sent similar letters, bearing Irani’s digital signature, to school teachers across the country to congratulate them on the success of their students in the board examination. It, however, was not clear at this moment if all the letters had similar spelling mistakes.
Smriti Irani Gets an Apology From CBSE for Spelling Mistakes


**New Delhi:** Education Minister Smriti Irani today received an apology from the national school board over spelling mistakes in a letter sent on her behalf, which was flagged by a teacher and derided on social media.

"Inconvenience caused due to the errors is deeply regretted," Joseph Emmanuel, the Secretary of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), wrote in a letter to the minister.

The words "minister" and "sansadhan (resources)" were spelt incorrectly in the letter that was sent by the CBSE in Ms Irani's name to schoolteachers across the country, congratulating them on the performance of their students.

A teacher from Chhattisgarh responded with a "thanks" - and some advice.

Highlighting the errors in a Facebook post, Richa Kumar of the Delhi Public School wrote: "Thank you for congratulating me on the excellence I exemplify. However, having been a teacher for the last twenty years, your official letter head is an affront to my sensibilities as a Language teacher. The attached photographs are self explanatory. Please ensure that at least the people who work for you, in your ministry, are well educated."

In response to the post, which has been liked by over 80 people and has nearly 800 shares, Smriti Irani asked CBSE for an explanation.

Rattled by comments on twitter, Ms Irani said: "I would not misspell my own name in Hindi."

Citing "oversight during proof reading", CBSE said it would send fresh letters to teachers and principals, along with an apology.