SHORT CUTS

'Social networking sites are a modern form of madness'

They may be a venue to socialise and keep in touch with people, but social networking websites like 'Facebook' and 'Twitter' are making people “less human” by isolating them from reality, a US sociologist has claimed. According to Prof Sherry Turkle of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the way in which people frantically communicate online via social networking sites can be seen as “a modern form of madness”. In her new book, 'Alone Together', Turkle writes that a behaviour that has become typical may still express the problems “that once caused us to see it as pathological”.

Volcanoes caused largest extinction:
Violent volcanic eruptions caused the largest ever mass extinction in history that occurred some 250 million years ago, scientists have claimed. Scientists from the University of Calgary who found layers of coal ash in rocks from the extinction boundary in Canada’s High Arctic, said huge volcanic eruptions were the reason behind the mass extinction that devastated life on Earth at that time.

Simulated Mars walk in February:
Three men will simulate walking on Mars in February as part of a project in which a multinational crew has been locked up inside a mock Moscow spaceship since June. The team of six participants will “land” on the Red Planet on February 12 after spending more than eight months in isolation in the module, which was constructed at Moscow’s Institute for Biomedical Problems (IBMP).
Final frontiers? Cellphone set for a space odyssey

The Device Is To Be Put In Orbit To Control A Satellite

London: Can your mobile phone survive the swings in temperature and the harsh radiation found in space? Well, to find this out, British engineers are planning to put a smartphone into orbit which will be used to control a satellite.

The team at Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) want to see if the sophisticated capabilities in today's smartphones will function in the most challenging environment known. The phone, which will run Google's Android operating system, will control a 30cm-long satellite and take pictures of the Earth in the mission expected as early as later this year, the BBC reported.

Although mobile phones have been flown on high altitude balloons before, this would likely be the first time such a device has gone into orbit several hundred kilometres above the planet, the report said. "Modern smartphones are pretty amazing," SSTL project manager Shaun Kenyon was quoted as saying. "They come now with processors that can go up to 1GHz, and they have loads of flash memory. First of all, we want to see if the phone works up there, and if it does, we want to see if the phone can control a satellite."

The mission is part of the company's quest to find whether more inexpensive and off-the-shelf electronics can be used to lower the cost of its spacecraft designs. According to the researcher, the phone will be placed inside the the satellite casing so that it can survive the great swings in temperature and the harsh radiation found in space. A hole will have to be cut in the side of the casing therefore to allow the phone's camera lens to see out. The phone itself will not "call home"; messages and pictures will come back via the satellite's radio link.
‘Being plump is good for health’

London: Are you a reluctant dieter? Then, it would be a perfect excuse for you, as scientists have claimed that staying fat may be better for your health.

The researchers said the idea that weight is harmful has been “exaggerated” and people who are little heavier may actually live longer. The California University (CU) study that looked at about 350,000 people in the US also suggested that the obese put their health in greater danger when they obsessively try to slim down.

It recommended that people should eat a varied and balanced diet, and take “enjoyable” amounts of exercise — even if they still end up carrying a few extra pounds. The researchers also noted that society’s obsession with dieting is “ineffective” and often leads to people becoming fatter as they crave food and binge, the Daily Mail reported.

Linda Bacon, a CU professor who led the study, claimed there is evidence to show that overweight people live longer than normal. Those who are obese in old age also tend to live longer than elderly people who are thin, they said. They are also more likely to survive certain health conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and kidney failure, added the researchers.

Although it’s known that obesity puts people at higher risk of heart disease and other illnesses, the scientists said that “being fat” is not the cause. Instead, they blame poor diet and lack of exercise — which almost always come with obesity.
Breast cancer drug shields lungs too

London: A drug commonly used to treat breast cancer may also help reduce the risk of lung cancer deaths, a new Swiss study has claimed.

Researchers at the University of Geneva found women who were given "Tamoxifen" to treat their breast cancer had a very low death rate from lung cancer. The scientists said that their research, if backed up, could have substantial implications for clinical practice, the BBC reported. Tamoxifen, which cancels out the sex hormone oestrogen, was first used to fight breast cancer more than 40 years ago.

Elisabetta Rapiti, who lead the study at the Geneva Cancer Registry, said: "Our results support the hypothesis that there is a hormonal influence on lung cancer, which has been suggested by findings such as the presence of oestrogen and progesterone receptors in a substantial proportion of lung cancers."
Dr’s 6-point advice to win cancer fight

Kounteya Sinha

New Delhi: Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee, author of the bestselling ‘The Emperor of Maladies: A Biography of Cancer’, has a six-point formula to help India control and combat the cancer epidemic.

“Put in place a strong tobacco control programme, initiate sexual health education to prevent sexually transmitted cancers like cervical and oral, encourage vaccination, conduct mammography and screening of vulnerable women for breast cancer and those above the age of 50, start screening for and vaccination against Hepatitis B that causes liver cancer and create centralized systems modeled on comprehensive cancer centres in the US that allow researchers to share data and engage in high quality clinical work,” says Mukherjee.

“It’s simple and achievable advice. But as he says, “The will of the highest authorities is crucial.”

Currently an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University, Mukherjee studied in St Columbia’s School before becoming a Rhodes scholar. With degrees from Stanford University, Oxford and Harvard Medical School, he feels sad when somebody refers to effective and affordable cancer prevention and care as synonymous with the first world.

Cervical cancer prevention, P 13

Now, common test for PG, MPhil, PhD in central univs

Akhilaya Mukul

New Delhi: A committee of vice-chancellors of Central Universities (CUs) has recommended common entrance test for admissions into postgraduate (PG) and MPhil/PhD courses across 42 CUs.

Sources in the committee said if the model works well, it can be adopted at the undergraduate level. However, the report is silent on admissions into undergraduate courses.

Another panel on Navarasa Universities — Indian equivalent of Ivy League varsities — has recommended direct funding from the central government, freedom to fix salaries, fee structure, reward for performing teachers and increasing teaching staff and flexibility to invite the best faculty from any part of the world.

The recommendation on common entrance test could evoke strong reactions. Set up last year by HRD minister Kapil Sibal, it said common entrance for PG courses should be based on both performances in entrance test and in the graduate examination. Performance in the first two years of graduation would be factored. The weightage for performance in graduate course may be 30%, and 70% weightage could be given to performace in the entrance test.

The entrance test will consist of two sections: scholastic aptitude and knowledge of subject in which admission is being sought. The committee has suggested that relative weightage between the two could be in the ratio of 40:60. The panel has said universities with special character/historical reasons could be free to have their own admission process.

In case of MPhil or PhD courses, the committee has recommended, common entrance could be similar to the UGC National Eligibility Test for Junior Research Fellowship. The various would be free to have their own interviews for MPhil and PhD courses. The institutions would also have the freedom to decide weightage for the interview, but it should not be more than 40% in any case.
London: Scientists say they are close to achieving a 200-year-old goal of creating a universal system of measurements based on stable quantities, as they progress towards changing how the kilogram is defined.

The kilogram is the only base unit in International System of Units (SI) still defined by a physical object — a prototype of platinum-iridium kept at the International Bureau of Measurements (BIPM) in France. The stability of the kilogram is crucial as it forms the basis from which many other units are derived.

But measurements made over more than 100 years suggest that the mass of the international prototype may have changed by about 50 micrograms—the size of a small grain of sand—prompting the BIPM to try to develop a new definition based on a fundamental physical property.

Scientists will gather at the Royal Society, Britain's national academy of science, to present their progress on redefining the kilogram according to “the Planck constant”, a fundamental constant of quantum physics. The International System of Units is the most widely used system of measurements. It is made up of seven base units—metre, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, candela and mole—each of which represents a physical quantity. Reuters
IITs hostels set for major hike

ON CAMPUS IIT Delhi, Bombay & Madras may be costliest

ht SPECIAL

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: Thousands of students in Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) hostels may soon need to pay significantly higher fees to live on campus. The country's premier engineering schools are set to hike their hostel fees significantly from the ₹850 a semester charged at present, top IIT and government sources said.

The decision of the IIT Council to remove hostel fees from a list of statutory fees last week will facilitate the hike in hostel fees, the sources said.

IIT Council is the highest decision-making body of the institute.

Current hostel fee was set decades back. It is ridiculous to continue with the same figure now.

AN IIT DIRECTOR

Over 10,000 students — cutting across streams and including undergraduate and postgraduate students — live in the hostels of India's 15 IITs.

The hike in hostel fees was allowed by the IIT Council even as it blocked a proposal by a government panel under former atomic energy chief Anil Kakodkar to hike the tuition fees significantly at the IITs.

"You could call the decision to allow a hike in hostel fees some compensation to allow us to reduce the subsidy to students," an IIT director said.

"The current hostel fees are paltry and set decades back. It is ridiculous to continue with the same figure now," he added.

Till the approval of the IIT Council last Friday, hostel fees were among a number of fees that were fixed under statutes and could only be changed by statutory amendments.

Now, the board of governors of each IIT will independently decide the amount by which it will hike the hostel fees.

Sources indicated that IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras are expected to hike their hostel fees the most — using the argument that living in hostels would still be much cheaper than finding accommodation outside campus in these cities.

The IITs follow a residential education model, with lectures and assignments that require students to generally live on or near the campus.
War of words over questions on semester, radioactive leak

DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

* On behalf of the Science students, prepare a representation to your college principal stating how a major portion of the syllabus for the Semester Examination could not be covered due to frequent strikes in the (Delhi) University.

* It has been discovered that one of the laboratory technicians is negligent in handling the radioactive pencils used in science practicals. Prepare a memorandum to be issued to the employee giving him stringent warning for his carelessness and warn him that any such repetition would result in a serious action against him.

The Delhi University science students who took the first semester exams were expected to answer these two questions that featured on the 'Technical Writing and Communication in English' paper.

The fact the two 'sensitive' sub-units — semester system and mishandling of radioactive material — featured on the question paper and the way in which the questions were posed, has raised many an eyebrow.

The examination was held on January 13 and was taken by the first semester students of BSc (Hons), BSc Physical Sciences and BSc Life Sciences.

The identity of the teacher who drafted the question paper is unknown, thanks to the secretive nature of the examination process. Both papers are part of the fourth question, which carries 10 marks. Students can opt to answer either.

Also featured in the question paper, which carries 75 marks, is a question asking students to prepare a speech to be delivered by a candidate for Delhi University Students' Union seat. Students have been asked to write a speech that their principal would deliver as part of the Save the Tiger campaign and have been asked their opinion on whether the (sic) politicians be allowed to employ the relief money for the benefit of people for their vote bank.

While the question on the semester system is being read as a move to make students give evidence against their teachers, the question on the radioactive leak is misleading. On April 30 last year, Newswise had reported that a laboratory assistant in the Chemistry department of the DU had warned the Head of the Department of the dangerous nature of the Gamma Irradiator. This was corroborated by a three-member committee which later looked into the case. The examination question, however, chooses to fault the laboratory assistant.

Course and correction

When the syllabus for the Technical Writing course was placed before the University's Academic Council on May 13, 2009, Head of the Department of English Sumanta Sapaty had objected to its approval, as the course was not designed by his Department. Later, English teachers decided not to teach the course. For most part of the first semester, the course remained un-taught in most colleges. Teaching started only after the Delhi High Court intervened in the matter. Even now, ad hoc teachers handle the course in some colleges.

What AIIMS students live with: Dirty water, no doors in women’s washrooms, stray dogs

Meanwhile, NDMC once again returns institute’s masterplan for new hostel at Masjid Moth, asks for more details

PRITHA CHATTORJE & HARIKUMAR JAMATI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 24

UNHYGIENIC drinking water, missing doors in women’s washrooms, naked high-tension wires a few are of the many ailments that students of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have been living with as they wait for a promised new hostel building for postgraduate students at Masjid Moth.

Theere are issues with the building, which has been in the pipeline for the past seven years, has been pushed back once again, with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) returning the AIIMS 2011 masterplan. The civic agency, which had received the revised copy of the plan on December 28, has asked for more information.

Students, meanwhile, have sent repeated complaints to the authorities, hoping for relief.

In September last year, fecal coliform bacteria were found in samples of the institute’s drinking water supply in the boys’ hostel and the swimming pool — the water pipeline has, however, not been examined till now by the Engineering department.

“Engineering personnel came and cleaned the tanks, but the drinking water is still visibly muddy. The effectiveness of the sewage water has been coming in contact with the drinking water for over four months now,” said Dr Delipoy Karmakar, president of the AIIMS Resident Doctors’ Association (RDA).

* The hostel’s drinking water pump station has been dysfunctional for the past two years.

Bigger problems lie at the women’s hostel, where the washrooms either do not have doors or do not have doors at all. While new doors were installed in October last year, students said they fell apart within a month.

“It is barbaric. Not only do the doors not shut, most of the lights don’t work either.” Daga room inside the bathrooms and it is terrible to use them at night,” said a woman resident doctor.

Getting hot water for bathing is another issue, as most of the geysers are not working. “Two men’s hostels have solar heaters. This year, despite repeated reminders, the heaters were activated only at the end of December,” said another resident doctor.

According to Dr Karmakar, six doctors have complained of dog bites inside hostel premises in the last two months.

High-tension naked wires, lack of parking facility and the non-working ‘Fast Internet Wi-Fi’ facility also feature on the list of complaints.

“We were promised special parking stickers months ago, but that never took off. At first faculty members started using the space, but now even patients park their vehicles in our allotted space,” said Dr Karmakar, talking about the reserved parking facility for resident doctors.

Meanwhile, the 1,700-bed hostel site at Masjid Moth continues to lie deserted. After five years of non-activity, the masterplan was first sent to the NDMC in October 2009. After additional information was sought, the institute sent a revised copy on December 28 last year, which has now been labelled inadequate.

NDMC officials said they have asked the AIIMS administration to provide additional inputs in their proposal, such as the FAR ratio of the buildings and ground coverage. “In the past, AIIMS built structures without proper clearance of the building plans,” AIIMS RDA representative Dr Bhavnik Shah has now filed an RTI with the NDMC to get details of the delays in the promised new hostel.

At present, 70 percent men and 80 percent women doctors have to wait for around 20 minutes to get a hostel seat, even as the residency programme itself runs for three years. “We are called at odd hours due to the nature of our job, and it is difficult for women who rent places far away from the hospital to report for duty at night. There have been repeated complaints of one instance,” said Dr Karmakar. In October last year, a junior resident was beaten up and robbed while returning to his rented house in Jamia Millia.

While the AIIMS administration refused to comment on record, senior administrative officials told Newswise that the delay in the Masjid Moth hostel is due to the “frustrated” nature of the civic body. “AIIMS is a very old institution. A lot of structures have come up, which may not necessarily meet strict building requirements, but it is not practical to bring them down. We have now been asked to furnish details of all existing buildings, which is resulting in additional delay,” said a source.

For the new masterplan 2014, the NDMC has asked AIIMS to submit the FAR of all its buildings. “Once the submission is done, we can clear the plans and forward them to Delhi Urban Art Commission,” said a senior official of the NDMC. The AIIMS also highlighted the fact that part of the AIIMS land in Gustam Nagar belonged to the MCD. “The process of giving sanction to the project is complicated, and it has recently been sorted out. The NDMC can now clear the building plans on the land owned by the MCD,” he said.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: AIIMS site at Masjid Moth; naked high-tension wires inside hostel premises; washrooms at the Women Junior Resident Doctors hostel.
NEW COURSES

IIM-Raipur plans research on Chhattisgarh’s natural resources

By Prashant K. Nanda
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NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Management, Raipur (IIM-R) plans courses and research centres to study Chhattisgarh’s natural resources and energy management, hoping to contribute to its home state’s development.

“The state we are in is zero power-cut state. At least 44% of its geography is forest cover. This will be our focus, to be different and more worthwhile,” IIM-R director B.S. Sahay said.

“Chhattisgarh will become a developed state within 10 years, and we will play our role in helping them achieve it,” he said in an interview on Wednesday. Sahay was in Delhi to attend a conference organized by the All India Management Association.

The 10 IIMs are India’s elite business schools, and IIM-R became the youngest of the lot when it began operations last year. While IIM graduates form the cream of India’s business leaders, the institutes have been criticized for neglecting research.

That is where IIM-R wants to make a difference, said Sahay, who was earlier director of the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. “We have to do research of contemporary relevance, which is beneficial for the growth of the economy,” he said.

The institute plans to introduce courses in energy management and forest management in the next academic year beginning July. It will also carry out case studies on power generation and coal, focusing on how to use the mineral for economic development.

Chhattisgarh has 17% of India’s coal reserves as well as the potential to harness solar energy. The state plans to add 1,500MW of generation capacity by the end of 2012 with the help of two power projects being set up by Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Co. Ltd, taking total capacity to 3,500MW.

Such an energy rich state is bound to attract energy-intensive industries. IIM-R said it wants to contribute to the process by drawing up case studies and preparing research papers that the government and the private sector would find useful. “This will increase exposure for our students,” Sahay said.

Sahay said that in addition to its flagship two-year master’s in business administration programme, IIM-R plans to offer executive courses for managers as well as customized courses for companies.

Besides training students to become corporate executives, IIM-R also wants them to be aware of social and cultural concerns, he added.

“While we have arranged for a luncheon meeting with a corporate czar for our students, they have just finished a project on museums in the state. This should help the department concerned in the state to devise ways for its conservation and other issues,” Sahay said.

To lead the institute’s research work, IIM-R plans to hire 10-15 faculty members with a rich research background this year. It currently has very few full-time teachers.

IIM-R admitted 70 students in its first batch last year, and plans to increase that number in the next academic session. “Being new is not a constraint, but an opportunity for us,” Sahay said.

M.R. Rao, dean emeritus at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, said new IIMs will find it easier to establish themselves as global brands.

“When you start, you don’t have the baggage of the past. You can orient yourself with a global vision. Research and desire to give solutions to society will be key for better brand building,” Rao said. “The problem in India is we talk about global standards but end up as teaching institutes only. We have to be research-oriented institutions in the higher education space. If they (new IIMs) are thinking of giving solutions, then it’s great.”

Sahay said the central and state governments have been supportive.

“The state has allocated 200 acres of land for the permanent campus and we hope it will be ready in two-three years,” he said. “Once we move to the new campus in New Raipur, you will see some centres of excellence there. The effort is to address regional issues while aiming for international stature.”
BRITISH scientists say they have made a breakthrough in understanding how cancer spreads through the body.

Researchers from the University of East Anglia said their findings could lead within a decade to the development of new medicines to halt a critical late stage of the disease known as metastasis, when cancer cells spread to other parts of the body.

They have discovered a rogue gene which — if blocked by the right drugs — could stop cancer in its tracks.

The culprit gene, called WWP2, is an enzymic bonding agent found inside cancer cells, the researchers explained in their study, published in the journal Oncogene on Monday.

It attacks and breaks down a naturally-occurring protein in the body which normally prevents cancer cells from spreading.

The team found that blocking WWP2 boosted levels of the natural inhibitor, which left the cancer cells dormant.

If a drug was developed that deactivated WWP2, conventional therapy and surgery could be used on primary tumours, with no risk of the disease taking hold elsewhere.

Lead author Andrew Chantry said the discovery could lead to a new generation of drugs within the next decade that could stop the aggressive spread of most forms of the disease, including breast, brain, colon and skin cancer.

"The late stages of cancer involve a process known as metastasis — a critical phase in the progression of the disease that cannot currently be treated or prevented," Dr Chantry said.

"The challenge now is to identify a potent drug that will get inside cancer cells and destroy the activity of the rogue gene. This is a difficult but not impossible task, made easier by the deeper understanding of the biological processes revealed in this study."

The research was funded by UK-based charity the Association of International Cancer Research (AICR), with additional support from the Big C Charity and the British Skin Foundation.

Dr Mark Matfield, of AICR, said: "This is a very exciting new discovery and a perfect example of the way that basic research into cancer can open up ways to develop new ways to treat cancer."

The initial discovery was made while researchers were studying a group of natural cancer cell inhibitors called "Smads".

Dr Surinder Boond, who spearheaded the experimental work in the laboratory, said: "This is a very novel and exciting approach to treating cancer and the spread of tumours which holds great potential."

Daily Mail and Agencies

Gotcha! A rogue gene that could halt cancer in its track

The gene is found inside a cancer cell (above).

Deccan Herald Bangalore 22.01.2011 p-13

Govt rejects fee hike proposal for IIT undergraduates

Committee had recommended a four-time increase in fees

NEW DELHI: IIT aspirants can now heave a sigh of relief as the government has rejected a proposal to increase fees for undergraduate programmes of premier technical institutes by about four times.

The Aam Aadmi Party committee, set up by the government to study the roadmap for the autonomy and future of the IITs, had recommended that the fee be raised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 to Rs 25 lakh per annum.

As the committee reported for discussion at the 42nd meeting of the IIT Council here on Friday, Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal rejected the fee increase proposal, noting that it will be a "deterrent" for aspiring students, ministry sources said.

The council asked the committee to rework the fee structure taking into account the aspirations of all sections. During the meeting, Sibal announced setting up five research parks at a cost of Rs 200 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan period.

Under the programme, industry will undertake research on various subjects with the support of experts from the IITs.

The research parks have been opened to be set up on public-private-partnership (PPP) model. One such research park has already been set up in Chennai.

The meeting took note of the fact that credit-based practices were being followed by different IITs for promoting students from one semester to the next and agreed that academic bodies of the IITs should consider acquisition of credits as a criterion for students and granting of degrees to bring uniformity.

This came after the report of the S G Dhanve committee on uniform and homogeneous criteria for promoting students in the IITs was placed before the council for discussion.

The council decided that a panel for the voter's nominee for a particular department would be created which all IITs could use for faculty selection. "This will ensure timely selection of faculty," the council noted.

It also decided that the appointment of the dean and director of the IITs should be advertised as well as the dean and director of the IITs.

It was decided that the nepotism issue in the IITs should be resolved by setting up an in-house institute and the council for discussion.

At the meeting, a presentation was made on the role of cyber security as part of the curriculum for the IITs. It was decided that a committee be set up to develop a roadmap for the future with a report in next three months.

The committee would involve all educational institutions as well as government departments, the HRD Ministry official said.

DH News Service
Grounding B-school curriculum

P.K. VASUDEVA

With globalisation taking its root and the inter-connectivity of the global economy asserting itself, the demand for management education is experiencing exponential growth. Nowhere is the craze more conspicuous than in India.

The number of MBA graduates churned out by about 2,000 government-approved B-schools in the country is around two lakh annually. China has some 200 B-schools and an annual turnover of 40,000 graduates, while the corresponding figures for the US are around 900 B-schools churning out 1.5 lakh MBA students.

A comparative analysis of the figures made by the Technopak Consulting Group, shows that India has 100 management school seats per billion dollars of GDP, as against six in China, 11 in the US, and 13 in the UK. The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) are flooded with applications from 200 new institutions every year for accreditation of their MBA courses. With the numbers registering a steep rise exceeding 20 per cent every year, it is becoming difficult to separate the chaff from the grain.

Management education has become a sort of El Dorado, with aspirants willing to pay whatever they asked for in the hope of making up in the placements and salaries they hope to command.

The result is that fees are skyrocketing with no regulating authority going into whether they are commensurate with the quality of education and teaching and the employability of the products. The AICTE has to be very strict in allowing such poor quality institutions to stop mushrooming.

A more disturbing aspect is that most of the so-called B-schools are content to be clones of each other. They offer identical courses, indistinguishable nomenclature and parrot similar jargon, unabashedly imitating Western B-schools, especially those of the US.

Most of the so-called B-schools are content to be clones of each other. They offer identical courses, use indistinguishable nomenclature and parrot similar jargon, unabashedly imitating Western B-schools, especially those of the US.

Also, new methods of marketing research for the "bottom-of-the-pyramid" require creative approaches to survey and measure key issues such as customer needs, preference and choice because of hurdles such as customer illiteracy or semi-literacy. These methods are being developed and can be expected to become a part of curriculums in the successful B-schools of tomorrow.

Today, management education is at a crossroads. There are unique opportunities emerging from the changes, challenges, and expectations shaped by technology, market needs, the public’s perception of business, and discerning MBA aspirants.

The B-schools that excel tomorrow will likely be those that grab these opportunities by modifying existing curricula to address the public’s expanded expectations of business leaders and cater to new priorities in emerging markets. For these schools will need to make available to their students areas of knowledge outside traditional business functions, and facilitate life-long learning for their alumni by providing access to modern knowledge from faculty involved in cutting edge research, and offering these faculty incentives to be involved in beyond-the-classroom teaching and mentorship.

This is a high order; however, the B-schools that pursue such an agenda are likely emerge as true catalysts of change in the personal growth of budding business leaders, and through them, in the growth of corporations and communities of tomorrow.

The author is a former trade senior professor, ICFAI Business School, Chandigarh.

ADMISSION DEADLINE

From now, more information on Admission Deadline will be available online. Please visit The Tribune website at: www.tribuneindia.com and click on "Education" in the "Weekly Specials" section to get details.

Pervin Malhotra,
www.careerguidanceindia.com
MMR vaccine & science fraud

A 1998 paper linking measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine with a 'new syndrome' of autism and bowel disease was retracted by The Lancet in February 2010. The retraction came after the U.K. General Medical Council's Fitness to Practise Panel conducted a 217-day hearing and found Andrew J. Wakefield, the lead author of the paper, guilty of dishonesty in relation to “the study's admissions criteria, its funding by the Legal Aid Board, and his statements about it afterwards.” Deep-going investigation by Brian Deer, a journalist based in London, and published online recently as a series (www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.c5258.full) in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), has revealed that the researcher from the Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine, London, whose licence to practise has been revoked by the GMC, indulged in acts that went far beyond dishonesty as specified by the GMC. For instance, the critical data of all the 12 children included in the study had been “misrepresented or altered,” especially the symptoms and the timeline when the symptoms first showed up. Dr. Wakefield’s conflict of interest included a patent for a diagnostic test to “detect a new syndrome — autistic enterocolitis.” The doctor also stood to gain financially from the proposed development of the test kit and a ‘safer’ vaccine. The journalist has revealed how Dr. Wakefield had the support of his institution when he sought to exploit the MMR scare for financial gain.

Dr. Wakefield’s research will remain a textbook case of how falsified medical research involving 12 hand-picked children can discredit the safety of a vaccine used for a few decades on millions of children. Scientists were quick to point out the flaws in the paper. No study has been able to replicate his work, and more than a dozen large-scale studies have found no link between the two. Yet it took more than a decade to fully expose the science fraud owing to the inexplicable failure of several institutions and individuals. The fallout of the 1998 study has been severe in some developed countries — public fear has been whipped up, and suspicion about a link between MMR vaccine and autism strengthened. Measles, once considered eradicated in the United States, emerged with a vengeance in 2008 when 131 cases were reported, double the annual average for the previous six years. The same year, England and Wales declared measles as an endemic, the first time in 14 years. Although signs of autism appear around the same time children receive the MMR vaccine, there is an urgent need to educate the public that no link has been found between the two. Awareness-building is all the more important as Dr. Wakefield continues to defend his work.
Courting talent

Is the government really prepared to provide funds for necessary infrastructure and recruit people to prove track records, particularly the large number of expropriates particularly engaged as scientists, technologists and basic science teachers in US and European countries, to even comparable pay structure, asks aradhana chatterjee.

LEARNING and innovation go hand in hand: The arrangement of access is as quick that you will not remember to attend for solutions. William Billon

ECONOMIC growth is inseparable with the progress of human life. In the world of higher learning and technology, it probably has a comprehensive attempt to set up the structure of the "idea of the "idea of technology as a science and technology, information and knowledge, information and knowledge, technology and knowledge". These "emerging areas of science" are presently under discussion in the Indian education system. Growth is an area, too, has so far been a significant factor. Therefore, the recent emphasis on higher education in India, through learning and advancement in the field of science and technology and the mushrooming of private and foreign players in an unregulated educational environment has to do with higher science and technology education at an affordable cost.

At the recently concluded 8th Indian Science Congress in Chennai with its focus on the future of "Science Education and Excellence in Science Research in Indian Universities" both Dr Ramaswamy Venkataraman and minister for science and technology Kishore R. Datar have pointed out that what is needed is the convergence of efforts and the government has to work with universities to bring down the costs of higher education in India.

The paper has been prepared for the report of the DESB Planning Panel. 31st March 2011. 2011-2012. Besides explaining existing problems and policy options, it has also proposed ways to make the process work. The government needs to ensure that institutions are equipped with adequate resources and research. It has already been stated that the government has been working with universities to bring down the costs of higher education in India.

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ऑनलाइन एआईडीई कोरीज़ टेस्ट लाईन पर नहीं। ज्यादातर स्टूडेंट्स ने इसमें नहीं दिखाई रूचि, सिर्फ 4904 ने ही किया आवाज़।

उदासीनता
> एक साथ छाँटा जिसे ऑनलाइन टेस्ट लेने की ध्यान की तैयारी।
> इस टेस्ट के लिए लिखि नीलजन से सबसे अधिक 776 स्टूडेंटेरन।
> एआईडीई के लिए हुई 11 लाख से अधिक रजिस्ट्रेशन।
> सीईएसई ने पहली बार ग्राफ की है ऑनलाइन टेस्ट की प्रक्रिया के लिए फिल्ड बैंडिंग ने अपनी खाता है, उसके सबसे ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स दिल्ली के हैं।
> फिल्ड के लिए 776 सबसे अधिक ऑनलाइन टेस्ट देने चाहते हैं।

भूख पूरी नहीं कहलाते

Rashtriya Sahara NA 25/01/2011

कृत्रिम माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीईएसई) ने ऑनलाइन एआईडीई ऐडमिटिंग प्रोसेस में कहीं ही बार अनुप्राणित किया है। ज्यादातर स्टूडेंट्स ने इसमें नहीं दिखाई रूचि है।

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