IIT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

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NEW DELHI: A school leadership programme, which will be conducted by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, was inaugurated on Saturday.

The programme aims to train senior teachers and principals in the field of leadership.

The second edition of the four-week programme will be held between May 23 and June 18 and will be free of cost.

In the first edition of the programme, ₹45,000 were charged from each participant.

The programme will be conducted by the director of the Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi.

The programme will be organised in the campus of the institute.
IIT-D to groom school leaders

New Delhi: IIT-D announced the launch of its first social responsibility initiative in the domain of school education on Saturday. Under the month-long School Leadership Programme, the institute will groom young principals, vice-principals, heads of departments, etc., as future leaders of school education.

This is in response to the HRD ministry's call to higher educational institutions for developing quality delivery capability in schools. "The training programme will start from May 23. We will have teachers and heads from across schools, including those from Kendriya Vidyalayas and Delhi government schools. The programme has been developed in IIT," said Dr Harish Chaudhry, programme director of School Leadership Programme.

Kamath, Shibulal to lead Infosys

Bangalore: Infosys Technologies, India’s second largest software firm, on Saturday named veteran banker and seasoned business transformation manager K V Kamath as the new chairman of the company which is facing one of the toughest times in its three decades of existence. Kamath, 83, who is currently a member of Infosys’ board of directors, will succeed the company’s founder N R Narayana Murthy on August 21.

The nominations committee of the company also named current chief operating officer S D Shibulal, as CEO and MD while the incumbent CEO S Gopalakrishnan was elevated to the post of executive co-chairman. Murthy, who turns 65 in August, will take over as chairman emeritus, a non-executive position.
New Infy bosses will have to take innovative path

Pranav Nambar | TNN

Infosys is today in a spot similar to that of Yahoo and Microsoft. Solid foundations, good growth, but outclassed by rivals. If it is Apple and Google for Microsoft, Google and Facebook for Yahoo, it is TCS and Cognizant for Infosys.

And the challenge for its chairman designate, K V Kamath, and CEO designate, S D Shibulal, is to bring in fresh ideas that can restore the pioneering image of the company the company had for a long time.

The Indian IT sector has moved beyond increasing body counts to one that is increasingly becoming consulting-led, with new pricing models and efficiency standards. There is an emphasis on non-linearity, innovation and sustainability. And new technologies like cloud computing are bringing fresh challenges. In this new normal, Kamath and Shibulal need to find innovative paths, so that it can take back mindshare from the likes of TCS, Cognizant and HCL, all of who have been growing faster than Infosys over the past few quarters.

Some attribute the slower growth to the company's focus on high margins and lower re-investments in its business. As compared to Cognizant and HCL, the company's investment in marketing as well as experienced hires is lower. Also, growth across emerging geographies has been softer compared to peers in recent times.

R Chandrasekaran, MD for global delivery in Cognizant, said that re-investment in business is vital to drive repeat business from existing customers, while seeding growth for future years through new client wins.

Another area of concern is that despite having the largest pile of cash reserves amongst IT companies, Infosys is the least aggressive in acquisitions. Analysts say that acquisitions in fast growing areas such as product engineering, and emerging verticals like healthcare could fast track its growth.

Krishnan Chatterjee, VP for corporate marketing at HCL Tech, said that innovation has become a key factor at a time when even the Fortune 500 clients are not growing at rates that we saw pre-recession. Innovation does not mean coming out with software products, but IP-driven solutions that reduce costs and improve efficiencies, said Chatterjee.

But Arvind Rao, co-founder and CEO of OnMobile, a company incubated by Infosys in 2000, says Infosys needs to develop a strategy of incubating product companies to retain their image as pioneers and innovators. They are at a scale where they can incubate. They have the raw material for that in terms of technology savvy people. Earlier there were generalists, now there are a lot of people with domain expertise, who have the ability to come out with products to solve real life problems, he says.
It’s time IIMs give degree, not diploma

HRD-appointed panel says move necessary to increase global competitiveness

Mathang Seshagiri | TNN

Bangalore: Apart from enviable pay packets, future managers will pass out from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with degrees instead of diplomas, if a HRD ministry-appointed panel has its way.

The committee has also proposed an academic review of departments once in every five years and complete autonomy to boards to appoint IIM directors.

IIMs, the top B-schools currently award only diplomas. “IIMs have not been set up through an Act of Parliament, but through the charitable societies route. When you are taking of increasing global diversity diploma creates a confusion. When you have a whole global environment that is attracted to IIMs, I feel a little more explaining has to be done with regard to a diploma or degree. I feel that allowing IIMs to award degrees is more of a hygiene factor,” IIM-Bangalore director Pankaj Chandra, who is part of the Centre’s autonomy panel, told TOLI.

This comes months after the HRD ministry rejected IIM-B’s proposal to amend its Memorandum of Association — its primary rulebook — allowing it to confer degrees. The proposal was not acceptable to the ministry as it asked: “Is it not understood how IIM-B can award a degree?” The proposal is yet to be vested by HRD.

The panel appointed to evolve a more comprehensive policy of autonomy for higher education institutions, including IIMs and IITs, has also proposed a peer-based academic review of departments/areas once in every five years and complete autonomy to boards to appoint IIM directors solely via a search and selection panel.

The Menon Committee has also called for a liberal flow of grants to all IIMs to enhance their competitiveness.

FROM A GENE CALLED HIPPO, A POSSIBLE HEART ATTACK THERAPY

Researchers have found genes that block the heart from growing new heart muscle cells in mice

Nicholas Wade

If you should ever have a heart attack, Hippo, Warts, Merlin, Sadako, Saladin, Snapple, Raggby, Pinhead, Unlucky and Mel in supernatural may have a lot to do with why you don’t get better in a hurry.

These are not characters from the Disney Harry Potter story but a crew of genes that work together to switch on genes and off. A team of biologists led by Robert C. Martin and Todd Hochede of the Texas A&M System Health Science Center, US, has now found that these genes block the heart from growing new heart muscle cells, at least in mice. Knock out Hippo, for example, and the mouse’s heart grows two and a half times bigger than usual, they report in Science.

This is one of several genes identified in a recent study for their role in heart muscle growth. The researchers found that the genes regulate the formation of heart muscle cells in the embryo, a process that is disrupted in heart disease.

The genes, called Hippo, Warts, Merlin and Sadako, are found in all multicellular organisms and are thought to be important for the proper development of the heart. When these genes are knocked out in mice, the heart muscle cells do not develop properly, leading to heart disease.

The scientists used a technique called gene editing to remove the genes from the mice’s DNA. They found that the mice that lacked the genes had a smaller heart and fewer heart muscle cells than normal mice.

In humans, these genes may be important for the development of heart disease. For example, mutations in the Hippo gene have been linked to a rare type of cancer called leiomyosarcoma.

The researchers are now trying to understand more about how these genes work, and how they might be targeted to treat heart disease.

They believe that by targeting the Hippo gene, they might be able to slow down the growth of heart muscle cells and prevent heart disease.

“The Hippo gene is essential for the growth of the heart muscle cells,” said lead researcher Robert C. Martin. “We believe that by inhibiting this gene, we could prevent heart disease.”

The findings could lead to new treatments for heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States.

The researchers are now working on developing drugs that target the Hippo gene, in the hope that they can be used to treat heart disease.

The work was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, and the American Heart Association.

Reference:

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Pint-size satellites to help us get wind of solar chemistry

By Max Martin in Bangalore

WHEN the NASA space shuttle Endeavour takes off finally, it will carry on board three fingernail-sized satellites that will eventually drift in the solar wind.

Developed by three Cornell University students, the prototype satellites meant to study the solar wind's chemistry, radiation and particle-impact, will be launched from the International Space Station (ISS). The three chips, called Sprite, look identical, but have different transmissions.

But on Friday, a faulty heater forced NASA to defer its biggest event in years, till beyond the weekend.

So on Monday, Sprite will be mounted to the Materials ISS Experiment (MIDEX) pallet, which signifies a set of experiments on the ISS to study the effects of long-term exposure to the harsh space environment.

The flight dynamics of the chip satellite are fundamentally different. "Their small size allows them to travel like space dust," says Mason Peck of Cornell. "Blown by solar winds, they can 'sail' to distant locations around the orbit - which is called solar sailing."

He said Cornell is trying to test the largest minimum design for communication from space.

The solar sail is a form of spacecraft propulsion that makes use of the radiation pressure of light from stars, on very thin materials -like mirrors or beams.

Scientists see solar sailing as the future of deep space missions.

Last year Japan launched IKAROS, which they claimed was the first interplanetary satellite that uses solar sailing as the main propulsion. NASA's NanoSail-D spacecraft launched this year is the first-ever solar sail to circle the earth.

When the MIDEX-8 is removed and returned to Earth in a few years, the survival of Sprite will be assessed — and so, its future.

Times of India ND 01-May-11 p-21

Soon, material thin as paper, stronger than steel

A composite material based on paper thin graphite and 10 times stronger than steel is set to revolutionize the automotive, aviation, electrical and optical industries, experts predict. Graphene paper or GP, developed by a team from the University of Technology Sydney, can be processed, reshaped and reformed from its original raw material state. Compared to steel, the prepared GP is six times lighter, five to six times lower in density, two times harder with 10 times higher tensile strength and 13 times higher bending rigidity, the Journal of Applied Physics reports.
आज पसीने छुड़ाएंगे गर्मी और पेपर

जाना सांगलकर, चढ़ रहा है पारा

राजधानी का तापमान बढ़कर शानिवार को 41.1 डिग्री सेल्सियस पर पहुंच गया। इस तीसरा दिन का यह सांसारिक तापमान है और सामान्य से तीन डिग्री सेल्सियस अधिक है। यह तो नयूनतम तापमान भी बढ़कर सर्वाधिक ऊंचाई 27.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस पर पहुंच गया। यह भी सामान्य से चार डिग्री सेल्सियस अधिक है। गृहमंत्री लिआमान का कहना है कि रविवार को भी पारा 40 के नीचे नहीं रहा है। इस भीषण गर्मी में रिवाज की सात लाख रेठ इंजीनियरिंग और मैनेजमेंट की प्रेषण परिस्थिति में शामिल होंगे।

पूरा भारत में होने वाली इस परिस्थि के लिए छाया भाला-भाला इंस्टीट्यूट से कोटिंग ले लें। इस वर्ष एआईईई की परिस्थिति देखने वाली बिन्दु निम्न का कहना है। यह नई जीवन इंस्टीट्यूट आर्क इंफ्रामेंट टेक्नोलॉजी में दाखिला लेना चाहती है इसके लिए उन्होंने एक साल पहले से ही परिस्थिति के तौर पर चुन दी थी। इससे ऑर्ज नैनोटेक्नोलॉजी के जीवन भी विविधता को मैच की परिस्थि देखे। मैच के स्कोर पर देखे के कई स्कूल छात्रों को दाखिला देते है। यह परिस्थि सामने में दो बार होती है। इस साल की पहली परिस्थि आया है। यह मैच के स्कोर पर कालेन्दर निर्माता करता है।

2010 के आईटी

पिछले साल कहीं व्यापार लाख छात्रों के एआईईई के लिए अपने आप को निष्पट कराया। 10,59,152 परिस्थितियों ने एआईईई की परिस्थि हो।

कच्चे जिल सकता है दाखिला

हा जीवन युवा

इस साल पहली बार एआईईई एक ताप छात्रों को अधिकारियों दिखाया। इसके लिए छात्रों का उत्साह पहले आई-पहले वापसे आया चाहिए।
अब पत्राचार में भी सेमेस्टर सिस्टम!

राकेश नाथ/एसआईनबी

नई दिल्ली। डीयू के पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रमों में भी सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू हो सकता है। विश्वविद्यालय के स्कूल ऑफ ऑपन लर्निंग (एसआईनबी) के तहत चलने वाले पांच स्नातक कोर्सेज में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू करने की सिफारिश की गई है। यह सिफारिश एसआईनबी की पूर्वस्था-कमेटी ने की है। कमेटी ने पीएम और बीमारियों में दाखिले के लिए बाहरी में 40 प्रतिशत की पटकर दोबारा 33 प्रतिशत लागू करने की भी सिफारिश की है। कमेटी की सिफारिश को स्कूल के कार्यकारी निदेशक के पास पेश कर जाएगा। जिसके यदि इस पत्राचार के स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू हो सकता है। हालांकि एक और अन्य परिवर्तन के तहत स्कूल का पूरा कमेटी शैक्षणिक 2011-12 के वाह तत्कालीन सिस्टम में चलना। एसआईनबी को, इस संबंध में विश्वविद्यालय से स्पष्टीकृत मिल गया है।

बता दें कि डीयू के पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रमों में डीयू के कुल विषयों के 60 प्रतिशत विद्यार्थियों दर्शित होते हैं, जबकि 40 प्रतिशत विद्यार्थियों का दाखिला नियमित कक्षाओं में होता है। डीयू के स्कूल ऑफ ऑपन लर्निंग में हर साल करीब एक लाख विद्यार्थियों का दाखिला होता है। नए शैक्षणिक वर्ष में दाखिले के लिए अभी हल्ला ही है। एसआईनबी एंड स्टूडेंट्स वेलफेयर कमेटी की बैठक हुई। स्कूल सूची के अनुसार बैठक में पत्राचार के पांच स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों मसलन बीए, बीएच, बीएच ऑफ एंड, बीए राजनीति शासन ऑफ एंड बीए, ओएजी ओफ एंड सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू करने की बात कही गई है। बैठक में कहा गया कि जब डीयू के नियमित कक्षाओं में सभी स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम में लागू होने जा रहे हैं, तो इससे पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम में भी लागू हो जाएंगे।

बैठक में कहा गया कि पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रमों में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू करने के लिए किसी तरह की परीक्षा नहीं है। केवल डीयू द्वारा नियमित कक्षाओं के लिए तैयार किया गया सेमेस्टर कोर्सेज फिल्में को ही पत्राचार में लागू किया जा सकता है। इसका एक कारण यह भी है कि अब डीयू कुल्लग्गी द्वारा नियमित कक्षाओं के स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम लागू करने के लिए विद्यार्थियों का अधिकार भी ले लिया गया। डीयू कुल्लग्गी वर्तमान पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रमों में सेमेस्टर सिस्टम स्वीकृति कर सकते हैं। पत्राचार का स्नातक कोर्सेज के बाहर कोर्सेज पहले से ही सेमेस्टर सिस्टम में चल रहे हैं।