**Newspaper Clips**  
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**IIT-Madras designs eye-screening technology**

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NEW DELHI The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has designed an eye-screening technology that is affordable and accessible to a wider section of people.

The computing technology Eye-PAC created by the Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) at the Institute is used for extracting information from eye images.

The technology can be deployed to create screening and diagnostic solutions for a range of vision-threatening diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration. This enhances visual appearance of eye images produced by 3nethra, an ophthalmic imaging system, and locates disease signs that may lead to vision loss at a very early stage.

Dr Mohanasankar, head of HTIC and faculty of IIT-M, said, “Considering the shortage of doctors, we felt that there was a need for a technology where even non-experts can screen the eye. This can act as the first level of screening so that only the needy patients are referred to the experts.”

The technology’s intelligence in extracting clinically important information enables screening for eye diseases even when an expert is not available. Those who are tested positive during screening can later be sent to an expert for diagnosis.

“The ability to perform eye-examination without dilatation saves time for the patient,” Dr Mohanasankar added.

Eye-PAC technology’s intelligence in extracting clinically important information enables screening for eye diseases even when an expert is not available.

Those who are tested positive during screening can later be sent to an expert for referral and diagnosis.

Dr Mohanasankar said, “This capability of Eye-PAC combined with 3nethra’s ability to perform eye-examination without dilatation saves time for the patient.”

IIT Madras director, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy said, “It is a matter of great satisfaction that IIT Madras has been able to, within two years of its inception, partner with an Indian tech start-up to develop a world class product with tremendous impact in bridging the gap in ophthalmic screening.”
भारतीय छात्र बनाएंगे साइलेंट एयरक्राफ्ट

यूनास्को और एयरबस के कॉम्पीटिशन के लिए चुने गए एसआरएम यूनिवर्सिटी के छात्र

एनजी | लंडन

यूनास्को और एयरबस निर्माण कंपनी एयरबस की ओर से आयोजित की जा रही एक प्रतियोगिता में भारत से एयरबसों इंजीनियरिंग के तीन छात्रों का फाइनल मुकाबले के लिए चयनित किया गया है जो कि एक साइलेंट एयरक्राफ्ट यानि विकृत भी आवाज न करने वाला विमान तैयार करे।

चेनाई की एसआरएम यूनिवर्सिटी के स्टूडेंट अनीता मोहली, बालाकुण्डी सोलराजू मुराली और माइकल थॉमस और उनके मेटर शक्तिवाल काशीनाथ भी इस टीम में शामिल हैं। वर्ष 2008 में 'फ्लाई चौर आईडियाज' नाम से यह प्रतियोगिता शुरु की गई थी ताकि विश्वविद्यालय स्टूडेंट अपनी प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन कर एक नई तकनीकी इजाद कर सकें। टीम के सदस्यों ने बताया कि जीमंडिस्लेक्ट्स मैटेरियल के जरिए इजन से निकलने वाली हीट को कम कर ऐसा किया जा सकता है। 82 देशों के 6 हजार स्टूडेंट जिन्हें 618 टीमों में दांता गया है इस प्रतियोगिता में अपना लोहा मत्तत करने।

ब्राजील, इटली, मलेशिया के स्टूडेंट भी अलग अलग तकनीकों पर काम कर रहे हैं। सभी टीमों 12 जून को एयरबस की ज्यूरी के समने अपने आईडियाज रखें। 14 जून को यूनास्को के हेडक्वार्टर पेरिस में विजेता टीम को 30 हजार युगे (21 लाख रुपए) व उपविजेता को 15 हजार युगे (करीब 11 लाख) की राशि प्राप्त करेगी।

एयरबस के भारतीय वाइड प्रोजेक्ट चाल्स चेपियन ने कहा कि इस कंपीटिशन में बी टेक, एम टेक व पीएचडी के स्टूडेंट भी शामिल हैं। हम उम्मीद से हैं कि यूनियार्स से आए ये स्टूडेंट भविष्य को बेहतर बनाने के लिए एक बड़ी तकनीकी इजाद करेंगे।

- 12 जून को ज्यूरी यूनास्को विजेता - हिराना जाएगा 21 लाख का इनाम - विश्वविद्यालय से 6000 छात्र व फाइनल में 618 टीमों बनाई गई हैं स्टूडेंट्स की
Traditional engineering courses rule the roost in an evolving world

Despite introduction of several new branches of engineering, demand for regular programmes soars

M SARASWATHY & KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 29 May

Early this month, when counselling at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) in Tamil Nadu began, merely four students opted for the institute's civil engineering course. This was at a time when the institute had about 200 seats on offer. Computer science engineering was the preferred choice, followed by mechanical and electronics & communication engineering courses.

"In the initial days, a course may not be opted for by students. All seats in civil engineering would be filled by the end of the counselling session," said the admissions director of a Chennai-based university, on condition of anonymity.

Traditionally, civil and mechanical engineering courses have been the building blocks of engineering in India. While institutes have introduced new areas such as aeronautics, biomedical and automotive engineering, traditional courses continue to attract students. "With a slowdown in the general IT, ITeS sectors and economic slowdown, it is time for consolidation and back to basics," says Shankar S Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the country's technical education regulator. He said the trend was to return to core engineering branches such as civil, electrical and mechanical streams.

AICTE data say as of 2012, there were 210 engineering streams. These could be grouped into 15 major groups such as mechanical and allied, electrical and allied, computers and allied, chemical and allied, etc.

Mantha said the demand for traditional courses was due to the versatility of these courses and the inherent capability most of these had to provide employment and create entrepreneurial avenues. Devang Khakhar, director, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, agreed. "Due to the fact that job prospects in these traditional areas are now stronger, courses such as mechanical and civil engineering have again become popular in the engineering segment," he says.

In 2012-13, there were 1.7 million engineering seats at the entry level across 3,820 colleges and 126 engineering institutes. In the past five years, the number of engineering and management seats has nearly doubled. Human resource (HR) experts say while Indian institutes have tried to offer specialised engineering courses in areas such as automation and information technology, demand for traditional courses would never fade. "Mechanical and civil engineering are the bread and butter of engineering. While demand for niche courses may come and go, that for traditional engineering subjects wouldn’t disappear. Some students may take up new courses, considering the pay packages. But this doesn’t mean traditional subjects have less demand," says a Mumbai-based HR consultant.

Narayanan Ramaswamy, national head (education) at KPMG, says the trend is to offer blended courses, with stronger fundamentals. "The courses are the same but are run in a different way. For example, a student now prefers to do a course in mechanical engineering and join fields such as ‘mechatronics’, rather than specialising in this niche field," he says.

With head-hunters still positive on the segment and the process of counselling set to continue for the next two months, VIT and its likes can be hopeful.
Ministry not to intervene in FYUP

New Delhi: The HRD ministry is veering around to a non-intervention approach in the four-year undergraduate programme proposed from the current academic session in the Delhi University.

After nearly two-hour meeting on Wednesday — attended by the HRD minister M M Pallam Raju and senior ministry officials — the dominant view was that FYUP is a good initiative and should be implemented. Sources said since the admission process is barely a few days away, the ministry is unlikely to have another meeting on the issue. “Right now, the mood is to keep away from any intervention,” a source said.

In the meeting, various representations made by those opposed to FYUP were also discussed. DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh’s written clarification on each contentious point was taken up. Few officials pointed to the positive aspect of the FYUP and argued that the public opinion is not really known as only a few eminent academics are opposing it. Positive media coverage, though limited, was also discussed.

Instead of delving into the merits of arguments of those opposing FYUP, the meeting took stock of the process followed by DU.

“Academic arguments against FYUP would be best answered by the varsity administration. How can you intervene if Executive Council and Academic Council of DU have unanimously approved the new course?” a ministry source asked.
UGC forbids varsities from granting affiliation to colleges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked universities to stop granting any further affiliation to colleges offering technical or professional degrees till further communication. The crucial decision ahead of the coming new academic session comes in the wake of a Supreme Court's ruling last month that colleges do not need AICTE's approval for running MBA and MCA courses.

While the HRD Ministry has already initiated steps to bring an ordinance restoring the powers of All India Council for Technical Education, the UGC's directive has come as it is in the process of working suitable guidelines and regulations in view of the apex court ruling. The guidelines would ensure standard of teaching and learning in affiliated colleges offering professional and technical courses.

Last month, the Supreme Court had ruled that colleges affiliated to a university do not come under the purview of the definition of 'technical institution' as defined in the AICTE Act and in such a case, AICTE cannot directly control or supervise affiliated colleges. It had ruled that AICTE was only an advisory body and colleges affiliated to various universities are not required to take its approval for running MBA programmes.

The UGC in its notice said "any dilution of standards of technical education at this juncture would also belie the trust reposed by the Supreme Court on the sanctity of the autonomy of universities."

Earlier this week the HRD Ministry cleared a proposal to bring an ordinance restoring the powers of AICTE after a Supreme Court ruling that it was only an advisory body and colleges affiliated to various universities are not required to take its approval for running MBA programmes.

The proposal to amend the AICTE Act through the ordinance route was cleared by HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju and has been sent to the Law Ministry, HRD Ministry officials said. They said since the matter required immediate attention to stop mushrooming of institutes offering management programmes, the ordinance is being brought in.

The apex court in its ruling in April had said that as per provisions of the AICTE Act and UGC Act, the former has no authority which empowers it to issue or enforce any sanctions on colleges affiliated with the universities as its role is to provide guidance and recommendations.

The court also said MCA is a technical course while MBA is "not a technical course" within definition of AICTE Act. Ministry officials said the ordinance would seek to rectify the anomalies by redefining technical education and making clear mention of institutes and universities which require the prior AICTE approval.
Helpline for students abroad on the anvil

ON CALL: The helpline will forward complaints to embassy officials concerned

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: For the 3,00,000 Indian students and researchers at universities abroad, immediate government response to crimes and threats may soon be a mouse click away.

India is ready to launch an online helpline to bring accessibility of prompt help to its growing population of students at foreign universities, who in recent years have fallen victim to a spate of crimes ranging from racist attacks in Australia to fraud by dubious US and UK universities.

The ministries of external affairs (MEA) and human resource development (HRD) will jointly run the helpline that will register and track complaints, and then immediately forward these to a designated officer at India’s mission in that country.

"The portal is ready and we are just waiting for details of the designated officers at missions," SS Mantha, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) told HT. The AICTE will manage the portal and follow up complaints with the MEA.

Initially, students from 22 countries will gain. These countries – the US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, China, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago – together host over 95% of all Indian students abroad.

Indian students pursuing higher education abroad have increased from about 53,000 in 2000 to over 3,00,000 now.

Relations between India and Australia took a blow in 2009 after a series of racist attacks on Indian students. Over 1000 Indian students faced the threat of deportation from the US in 2011 after California-based Tri Valley University was shut down for visa fraud.

Hundreds of Indian students at Herguan, another California University, and UK’s London Metropolitan University were also threatened with deportation in 2012 when their institutions had their licenses suspended.
एनएलयू में पढ़ेंगे आईआईटी के छात्र !

तीन शीर्ष शैक्षणिक संस्थान एक-दूसरे को बाँटेंगे झांक, संसाधनों का करेंगे उपयोग, जल्द होगा एमएक्सू

नवीक गोतम @ जोधपुर.

आने वाले समय में राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालय के परिसर में आईआईटी और एम्स के विद्यार्थी अध्ययन करते नजर आएंगे। वही एम्स में एनएलयू और आईआईटी कैम्पस में एम्स के छात्र-छात्राएं अपनी नॉलेज अपडेट करेंगे।

इन संस्थानों का उपयोग

ये संस्थान आपस में मानव संसाधन, आईटी, युद्धकालीन और आर्थिक सुविधाओं का उपयोग करेगे। पाठ्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत खेल, सांस्कृतिक और सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं का भी आवश्यकता किया जाएगा। इसका लाभ एकक्षणी और विद्यार्थी दोनों उठा सकेंगे। अधिवास में एक-दूसरे संस्थान में तेज़ी देंगे।

जुलाई से होगी शुरुआत
Earth in line of lethal gamma-ray burst
If hit, It Will Destroy Quarter Of Our Planet’s Ozone Layer, Up UVB Radiation By 50%

Washington: Earth may be lying within the sights of a potentially lethal gamma-ray burst that can wipe out a quarter of our planet’s protective atmospheric ozone, scientists claim.

A Wolf-Rayet star called WR 104, some 8,000 light years away, is ripe to undergo a core-collapse supernova of the sort that could generate a second-long burst of dangerous gamma-rays.

We could see it go supernova anywhere from tomorrow to 500,000 years from now,” said Grant Hill, an astronomer at the WM Keck Observatory in Hawaii. “For all intents and purposes, the gamma-ray burst and optical photons from the supernova would arrive simultaneously,”

Hill said. It has been debated whether a GRB from WR 104 — which lies in the direction of our Milky Way’s galactic core — would actually cross Earth’s way. However, Hill said that given the continuing uncertainty about the star’s alignment with our own, such a scenario can’t be ruled out, Forbes.com reported.

If such a GRB did hit Earth’s atmosphere, said Adrian Melott, a physicist at the University of Kansas, it would likely cause a 50% increase in solar UVB radiation. This would not only disrupt photosynthesis among marine and freshwater plankton, but also likely precipitate some sort of broader extinction event, Melott said. There have been conflicting measurements of the star’s rotational axis and whether WR 104’s polar orientation lies ‘face-on’ to Earth’s line of sight or whether it is inclined by as much as 30 to 40 degrees. If the star lies ‘pole-on’ to Earth that would mean that we would be directly in the line of fire of such a burst which might travel along a beam as large as 20 degrees in diameter. If, however, the star’s polar inclination to earth is 30 degrees, then Earth would be untouched.

Peter Tuthill, an astronomer at the University of Sydney in Australia, and colleagues, first found WR 104 in 1998.

More than honest govt, Indians want better job, education

Siidharta Dutta

NEW DELHI: A good education, job opportunities and better healthcare top the list of things that Indians want to improve their lives, shows a UN survey.

Globally, the top three demands are a good education, healthcare and an honest and responsive government, shows data from the UN Global Survey of 194 countries. Honesty and responsiveness from the governing class figures a low eighth on India’s list.

‘My World’ is a survey which asks citizens of all the countries to select six key changes that they thought could bring about the biggest difference to their lives from a broader list of 16 options like education, healthcare or job opportunities. It gives people a direct voice in the choices involved in drafting the world’s developmental agenda.

To make voting easier, UNICEF launched its mobile application on Monday that uses an Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based system available in four languages — English, Hindi, Oriya and Tamil. To cast your vote on mobile, call 07322016000 or cast your vote online at www.myworld2015.org.

“Given the deep penetration of the mobile phone in this country, we are hopeful that millions of people will cast their vote,” said Minar Pimple, regional director, Asia Pacific, UN Millennium Campaign.

“This is a step towards making the process more participatory and inclusive. The survey is designed to engage common citizens in global conversation.”

“After identifying the key problems affecting the people across the globe, the UN will develop a post-2015 agenda for the new Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),” he added.

India lags behind in the pressing issues of hunger, malnutrition, infant and maternal deaths, and sanitation.