Newspaper Clips
November 21, 2014

Germany to help set up new IIT, research centre


NEW DELHI: Removal of German as the third language from KendriyaVidyalaya schools might have caused some setback to India-German collaboration at the school level, but in higher education it seems it is business as usual.

The German government has agreed to approve the setting up of a Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (CASHSS) in India. Of the two proposals received from Heidelberg University in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University and the second one from Max Weber Foundation in collaboration with Institute of Economic Growth, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and Centre for the Studies of Social Sciences, Kolkata, the latter has found favour with the German government.

In the meeting of India-German joint working group on education on Tuesday, it was decided that Germany will help in setting up of one of the new IITs proposed by the NDA government. IIT-Madras and Mandi were established with German collaboration. India also wants Germany to help Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISER), which are devoted exclusively to pure science and high-end research. IISERs are less than a decade old and government is keen to enhance their branding.

Setting up of CASHSS in India is seen as recognition of the giant strides India has made in social science research. India is one of the four places where German government will establish CASHSS. Germany wants one school each in south and south-east Asia, Latin America, Africa and middle-east. University of Singapore has also shown interest in having CASHSS. CASHSS will be funded in three phases and up to 12 years.

In the first phase Germany and partner country will plan and prepare the establishment, and the German side will meet the entire cost of 1 million euros. In the second phase, German and Indian partners will develop a research plan for the school under a joint funding programme. Research work will be on jointly identified topics. Germany will provide up to 2 million euros each year up to 6 years. In the final phase, exhaustive research in individual fields will be taken up.
IIT-B breakthrough may cut dialysis cost by half

NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED

Research project was commissioned to IIT-Bombay in 2006-07

KEY INNOVATIONS

➤ Have successfully developed an indigenous and low-cost pilot plant for the continuous production of hollow-fiber membranes to be used in hemodialysis and other applications

➤ Have formulated a special membrane material that improves the performance from separation and biocompatibility viewpoint

➤ New membrane permits faster treatment, lesser side reactions and could spur novel devices like portable/wearable dialysers

Any time 8 lakh Indian patients need dialysis treatment

As per a 2009 AIIMS study, over 90% of the 2.3 lakh people who develop chronic kidney failure each year in India die within months because of a lack of treatment

Dialysers in use today have undesirable side-reactions in a few patients. Among them are atherosclerosis, hypertension, chronic inflammatory diseases and nephritis.

High prevalence of kidney failure due to diabetes. Number of Indians with diabetes is predicted to reach 101 million by 2030

The global dialysis market was valued at

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New Delhi:Scientists at IIT Bombay have developed a special membrane that promises to reduce the cost of dialysis by 50%, cut down time taken for the process by half and be safer for the patient. It could also spur development of portable or wearable dialysers.

Dialysis is the process of artificially removing waste and excess water from the blood in people suffering from chronic kidney failure. Due to the high cost of the procedure, around 90% of those who develop kidney failure in India die within months because of lack of treatment, according to an AIIMS study.

That could change in the coming years, with researchers at IIT-B’s chemical engineering department hoping that their product will be available in the next three years. The hollow-fiber membrane developed by them has completed laboratory tests and awaits pre-clinical trials.

An Indian patent has been procured for the product. An indigenous and low-cost pilot plant for production of these membranes has also been functioning for the last two years.

“This membrane promises faster; efficient dialysis with less side affects at a significantly lower cost,” said Jayesh Bellare, who is leading the IIT team.

Annually two lakh people in the country develop advanced kidney failure. The number of Indians with diabetes is predicted to reach 101 million by 2030. Diabetics are at particular risk of developing kidney failure.

“Very few kidney failure patients are able to afford dialysis because of lack of infrastructure and cost constraints. Dialysis is a recurring cost, because it requires a filter; each costing Rs 600-1,000. To save costs, many patients reuse this filter five or six times, exposing themselves to infections such as Hepatitis B and C. Most of these filters are imported and they remain a financial burden to the patients. A filter developed indigenously in India will help decrease the cost and more people will be able to afford it,” said Dr Jitendra Kumar, director, nephrology, Asian Institute of Medical Science.

The membrane developed by IIT is a key component of the filter and removes impurities from the blood during hemodialysis.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com
MoU has been signed between Hindustan Prefab Ltd and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Indian Institute of Information Technology for the construction of new campus of IIIT, Guwahati. The MoU was signed by Prof. Gautam Barua, Mentor Director, IIIT, Guwahati and Sanjiv Kumar Gupta, Director (Technical), HPL.
‘EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES LACK GLOBAL RANKING’

Guwahati: President of India Pranab Mukherjee here on Thursday said that educational institutions of India lag in international rankings brought out by reputed agencies, reports our correspondent. Addressing 12th Convocation of Tezpur University here on Thursday, Mr Mukherjee said, “Few of our leading institutions deserve a better position though. They need to adopt an effective strategy to project their achievements.” The President said that while the students should try and fulfill their own dreams, they should also try to fulfill the expectations of the society and country which is theirs and which has nurtured them. “The education has shaped the destiny of nations in no small measure. Nations consigned to poverty, social disorder and economic malaise have advanced through superior knowledge built by a strong education system,” he said.
HRD plans ‘Think in India’ drive to up innovation: Irani

Ministry aims to discourage students from leaving country

GREATER NOIDA: In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Make in India’ campaign, the HRD ministry is planning to come up with a ‘Think in India’ drive to encourage students and researchers to come up with innovations and new ideas and to keep the talent back home from leaving abroad.

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Irani said this at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) here.

She said, the campaign would aim to curb the outward flow of the country’s students, who leave their homeland in search of backing for their ideas.

“We all know the prime minister has spoken about the ‘Make in India’ project and we in the ministry of Human Resource Development want to complement it by ‘Think in India’ campaign through the ‘Rashtra Avishkaar Yojana,’ she said. Irani said that through this initiative the ministry wants to encourage students to come up with new innovations and new designs.

We also hope that in collaboration with the industry, the ministry can come up with ideas as to how these innovations can be rewarded and funded within our own country.

‘So that our faculty and our students need not leave our shores in hunt for money to back their research with,’ the HRD minister said. She also said that Prime Modi had once expressed his desire to facilitate interaction with the best academicians for children who cannot go abroad overseas to get education.

‘We have initiated a programme Global Initiative for Academic Networks called GIAN, where we are seeking to invite very celebrated academicians and industry experts from across the world, who will come and teach at least one semester in India at the cost of Government of India, so that our students and faculty members benefit,’ she said. The HRD minister said that IITS, IIMs, Central Universities, NITs are already drawing up their wishlists. She said that in the last six months, the HRD ministry has set up committees to look at the mandate and the overall functioning of the UGC, the AICTE and also for the National Council for Teachers’ Education.
Adopt five villages each, Pranab tells central varsities

SAMUDRA GUPTA KASHYAP
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 20

PRESIDENT Pranab Mukherjee Thursday asked all central universities in the country to adopt five villages the way National Institutes of Technology (NIT) have been asked to, and transform them into model villages by providing solutions to a wide range of issues in order to make India progressive and equal.

Addressing the 12th convocation of Tezpur University in Tezpur, 180 km from here, Mukherjee said higher educational institutions in general and central universities in particular must actively involve themselves to make an India which is progressive and equal.

“Central universities have a pioneering role to play in setting standards for higher education across the country. They have to be a catalyst for rejuvenating other institutions of higher learning in their region thereby reducing regional academic imbalance. More importantly, central universities have to become a vehicle of social rejuvenation,” he said.

The President said universities have to reach out to people in their region by disseminating knowledge, encouraging innovation, promoting environmental conservation and developing skills. “They have to elicit the participation of talented local youth, increase their employability and usher in upward mobility of the deprived sections... Their work must resonate needs and aspirations of the people,” he said.

Mukherjee said India as a developing nation has to search for solutions to issues like renewable energy, climate changes, drinking water, sanitation and urbanisation.
हर कोई चाहे ‘ड्रॉन’ मिल जाए

अब सब लड़, पुलिस, प्रशासनिक, कैंपिंग और आम आदमी का भी ड्रॉन रखने की जरूरत महसूस हो रही है। इसमें सिद्धांत न होने के बावजूद कैंपिंग इन क्षेत्र में जोरदार उत्कृष्टता भी दिखाया रहे हैं। यह रहे है सुरक्षा का गुप्तांगा।

व 2013 के प्रथम प्रतिबंधित जनयोग (आतंकी) के बाद में कहीं भी नहीं जीया जा रहा है। वहीं ने हर कोई चाहे एक्जीवेट ड्रॉन बनाना शुरू किया है। इसके लिए आधुनिक उपकरणों का उपयोग किया गया है। सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में इसका उपयोग किया जा रहा है।

इसलिए, पूलिस और प्रशासन के लिए इसका महत्व बढ़ा है। पुलिस के लिए ड्रॉन का उपयोग वापस नहीं नहीं किया जा सकता। इसका महत्व बढ़ा है। पुलिस की चौंकी बनाने वाले गंभीर प्रभाव के लिए ड्रॉन का उपयोग किया जा रहा है। पुलिस की इस तरह की चौंकी बनाने के लिए ड्रॉन का उपयोग किया गया है। पुलिस के लिए ड्रॉन का उपयोग किया जा रहा है।

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Mumbai among world’s best cities to live and work in: INSEAD survey

It is the only Indian city to appear in the list of 15 best cities worldwide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Dubai, November 20

India’s financial capital Mumbai is among the world’s most attractive cities in terms of professional and private life in a list topped by Dubai and followed by Amsterdam.

INSEAD, one of the world’s leading and largest graduate business schools, carried out the survey titled ‘INSEAD Alumni’ and found that Dubai was rated world’s most attractive city to live and work in. Surprisingly, London ranked 10 and Paris II.

Mumbai, which ranked 13, is the only Indian city to appear in the list of 15 best cities worldwide.

It came 13th in overall attractiveness, seventh in economic dynamism, 15th in quality of life and fifth in cost of living, INSEAD said.

Dubai was followed by Amsterdam which rated second, then Toronto, Singapore, Madrid, Hong Kong, New York, Tokyo, Shanghai, London, Paris, Milano, Mumbai, Moscow and Sao Paulo respectively.

“Of some it might come as a surprise that Dubai has been ranked as the best place to work globally by the INSEAD Alumni Association, but for INSEAD in the region this is not a revelation.

Top of the list
Dubai ranked first in economic dynamism, third in overall attractiveness and stood received the fourth place in quality of life and cost of living.

INSEAD Alumni Association France recorded and assessed the responses of 835 INSEAD Alumni with international working experience.

The assessments were drawn from 30 criteria dealing with professional and private life that include economic dynamism (quality of labour, access to funding, etc), quality of life (sports and cultural facilities, air quality, etc) and cost of living (real estate, dining and entertainment, etc) among others.