उम्दा सुरक्षा के लिए जरूरी हैं बेहतर तैयारी
आईआईटी में विशेष लेकर, देशी-विदेशी विशेषज्ञों ने रखे विचार

भाकर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

सुरक्षा के मोड़ों पर लगातार बदलती साइंस के मददेनजर आज बेहद अहम हो। चला कि ऐसी सिस्टमों का इस्तेमाल हो जो न सिफ़र बेहतर हो, बल्कि समय रहते कार्य परिणाम देने वाले भी हो। भारतीय इंडिया में तेजी से विकसित हो रही सुरक्षा से जुड़ी नई तकनीक को समझने और उनके बदलाव के लिए समारोह को आईआईटी, दिल्ली में विशेष लेखक का आयोजन हुआ। इसमें देश-विदेशी सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञों ने आईआईटी के विभागों के साथ मिलकर न सिफ़र भारतीय सुरक्षा के नए-नए तौर-तरीकों और उनकी उपयोगिता पर बात की हुई, बल्कि सुरक्षा क्षेत्र में काम कर रही सरकारी व गैर सरकारी एजेंसियों के कमिश्न के लिए जरूरी ट्रेनिंग पर भी चर्चा हुई।

इंडिया प्रोफेशनल सिक्योरिटी एजेंसी (एप्सा) के प्रादर्श में आईआईटी दिल्ली के स्वर्ण जयवर्धन कर्म के अभ्यर्थर आयोजित इस लेखन में हिस्सा लेने पहुंचे अस्ट्रेलिया की इंटरनेशनल सिक्योरिटी ट्रेनिंग ओर्जनेसिया के टिम सेल्स ने साबित की कि आज न सिफ़र सुरक्षा सम्बन्धी उपकरण, बल्कि भारत में काम करने वाले जिन सुरक्षा कंपनियों की ट्रेनिंग भी बेहतर जरूरी हो चुकी है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस नहीं है कि अस्ट्रेलिया हमेरा से ही प्रशिक्षित सुरक्षाकर्मियों से लौट था। वहाँ भी यह समस्या सालों तक रही थी, लेकिन इस दिसंबर में बड़े स्तर पर प्रयास किए गए और अब ऐसे ही प्रयास भारत में भी होने चाहिए। आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर जिनी शाही ने भी इस मौके पर इंडिया में इस्तेमाल होने वाले हाइटेक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सुरक्षा उपकरणों पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि नगरातार सुरक्षा के मोड़ों पर नए-नए उपकरण तो आ रहे हैं, लेकिन इसके बेहतर इस्तेमाल से ही इसका फायदा मिल सकता है।

इसके लिए व्यापक सर नेटवर्क इस सिस्टम को समझना होगा और सुरक्षा उपकरणों को तैयार करने समय हर उस समाधान को ध्यान देने की जरूरत है जो इस सिस्टम को पैलेट कर सकता है।

करीब दो घंटे तक चले इस लेखन में आईआईटी शिखरों-छायों के साथ-साथ सुरक्षी व निजी सुरक्षा एजेंसियों से सुदृढ़ पुत्रविभागिताओं के भी हिस्सा लिया। एप्सा-इंडिया के अध्यक्ष अनिल धवन ने बताया कि चर्चा बेहतर उपयोगी और ज्ञानवर्धक थी और यदि सर को बताये तो आज भारत में सुरक्षा के मोड़ों पर जरूरी हो चुका है कि नई तकनीक के साथ-साथ इसका हाइटेक सुरक्षा उपकरण पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया।
Former IIT professor takes sanyas to save Ganga

C. K. Chandramohan

DEHRA DUN: Former IIT professor G. D. Agarwal, a crusader for saving the Ganga, has taken “sanyas” and will henceforth be known as Swami Gyan Swaroop.

Talking to newsmen in Haridwar, the “newborn” Swami announced that he would undertake a fast unto death to save the Ganga and Alaknanda from destruction by big dams from Makar Sankranti falling on January 14, 2012.

Swami Swaroop extended support to his associate Swami Shivanand, founder of Matri Sadan, who has been on fast since November 26 seeking an end to quarrying on the Ganga riverbed in Kumbh area.

‘Quarrying necessary’

Uttarakhand Revenue Minister Dewakar Bhatt at a separate press conference, however, urged Swami Shivanand to give up his fast as quarrying or trenching on the riverbed was necessary to keep it low and save adjoining areas from flash floods.

A 36-year-old seer of Matri Sadan, Swami Nigmanand, died on June 13 this year after fasting for 104 days seeking a ban on quarrying in the Kumbh area.

The Matri Sadan had then accused the Haridwar District Hospital staff of having poisoned him.

The parents of Nigmanand, hailimg from Darbhangga in Bihar, in a separate statement accused Swami Shivanand of having allegedly drugged him (Nigmanand) and forced him to undertake long fasts despite his deteriorating health. His father Prakash Jha wanted a CBI probe alleging that vested interests were out to save Shivanand and the hospital staff.
Aakash Can Turn a Money Spinner for Students, NGOs

A student with the Aakash

MANN MOHAN RAJ & HARISHMAN JULKA
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI

The world’s cheapest tablet is on the way to become a potential money spinner for students and social networking startups. Datawind, the maker of Aakash, a low-cost tablet, has announced a contest for students wherein their best applications will be embedded in the Ubislate — the commercial version of the $35 tablet likely to be launched next year.

“We hope to create an entrepreneurial culture among the student community. Students think unconventionally unlike large corporates or software development firms. If they design an useful application which is selected, it would be pre-burned in millions of tabs to be shipped out by us,” said Sureet Singh Tuili, chief executive of Datawind.

About three lakh pre-sales booking have been received for Ubislate, expected to be priced at Rs 3,500 at retail stores. The Ubislate is expected to be bundled with a Rs 99 data plan for internet access.

Tuili added that while it could be a money-spinner for a student who will get a royalty from the usage of application on the tablet, they would also gain by offering a useful application to their users.

About Rs 1 lakh each will be awarded to five students who come up with a winning application for the world’s cheapest tablet, which runs on Google’s Android operating system, version 2.2.

Social sector organisations also stand to gain from the low-cost tablet. India’s software lobby Nasscom also announced a partnership with Datawind.

The social sector organisations will be able to use the Ubislate in their own initiatives and in turn contribute to the academic and practical training of the students.

Tohood Foundation has partnered with Datawind and announced a contest wherein 10 NGOs will have an opportunity to win 50 tablets each, mainly to improve their operations and programme implementation.

To win these tablets, the social organisations will have to showcase how best they can leverage Aakash tablet for promoting education, health and livelihood.

CNR Rao ‘fires off’ Vijyoshi Camp

BANGALORE: Indian Institute of Science director P Balaram jovially remarked that leading scientist “CNR Rao is quite a dangerous person when it comes to demonstrating live experiments”.

He was not farther from the truth as Rao’s hydrogen combustion demonstration on stage literally fired off the three-day Vijyoshi Camp 2011 organised by Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) on Saturday.

Rao’s lecture on chemistry and its importance was the first of a series of talks that are part of the camp which have brought together 12 scientists, mathematicians, chemists and physicians from India and abroad on one stage.

The Tata Auditorium at the IISc was packed, with only a few seats vacant at the media end, as more than 500 students from prestigious Indian institutes listened with rapt attention to the country’s leading chemist. The 90-minute talk took the audience through the history of chemistry and connected the past with the present with emphasis on ‘individual intuitive scientific thinking’.

Rao promoted the idea of scientific research saying, “Science and research allow one to lead a self-less life with no time for gossip. I want many more youngsters to approach science in a much more positive way and not just as a career.”

“Chemistry is life and environment and energy. India needs a minimum of 400,000 MW in the next 20 years. To ensure this demand is to take chemistry seriously,” he said.

Rao said he was currently studying carbon nanotubes and graphene.

Towards the end of the lecture, Rao gave some distracted a piece of his mind. “Shut up and look here when I am speaking. If I were in my class, I would throw chalks at you.”

The participants included students and a few faculty members from KVPY, IISER, IITs, University of Hyderabad and INSPIRE. The programme is funded by the Department of Science and Technology, KVPY, IISc and INSPIRE.

DH News Service
IIITs OKAY SINGLE ENTRANCE EXAM

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) have given their approval to the proposed single national-level entrance test for admission to undergraduate programme for science and engineering.

At a meeting of the directors of these premier institutes here on Monday, chaired by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, a proposal to have a council for the IIITs was also accepted.

The proposal to hold a pan-India common entrance test, recommended by the T Ramasami Committee report, has already been accepted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

The report recommends a mix of school and national level test performance for entry to undergraduate courses, thereby reducing multiplicity of entrance tests.

The Central Advisory Board of Education will take a final call before the single entrance test is put in place by 2013-14 academic session.
Annual placements of top business schools like a cattle fair, opines Tata executive

Boost careers, choices and quality

At an IIM Ahmedabad event recently Satish Pradhan, human resources head at Tata Sons, likened annual placements at business schools to the cattle fair held every year in Pushkar, Rajasthan. At some rarefied level all markets resemble each other. But beyond that Pradhan’s remarks make little sense, and IIM-A director Samir Barua is right to take strong exception.

Annual placement by academic institutions, which offers both students and employers the best employment choices, is a popular recruitment tool all over the world. Its comparison to a cattle fair where animals are sold to the highest bidder is insulting. That holds even if the idea is to reduce competition and beat down salaries in a rapidly weakening market, and therefore the sort of ploy an HR honcho might come up with. Students choose employers according to their priorities, be it maximum salaries, industry location or the brand name they fancy. That’s only natural, including taking earnings as a fair, if crude, indicator of professional success. After all, if companies can look to maximise their profits, why can’t business students who will be working for those companies?

Apart from the apparent benefits that campus recruitments provide to both students and employers, they also serve broader societal goals. For instance, success in annual placements is taken as a proxy of the quality of the institution. This is important in a country like India where education standards are highly skewed and the few quality rankings available are often biased. Similarly, placement drives provide academic institutions important feedback from employers on different courses and the changing needs of industry, which helps fine-tune education. Annual placements, therefore, are a good market mechanism that helps boost careers, employment choices and the quality of education.

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Satish Pradhan might have raised hackles at IIM Ahmedabad—and elicited strong reactions from other IIMs as well. But stating the bitter truth always does. Read any report about a B-school placement event and what comes across most clearly is the mercenary approach with numbers doing all the talking. Pradhan is not the only one to point this out. Earlier this year, HRD minister Kapil Sibal stressed the importance of management education moving away from being placement-centric to focusing on inculcating the development skills required for addressing the many problems facing this country.

From beginning to end, the entire system revolves around the financial packages students manage to score during placement. The irony is that last year, IIM-A’s chairperson of placements wrote that the media’s focus on high salary offers during placement created a skewed perspective. He pointed out that there were many factors to be considered while accepting a job offer—the challenging opportunities for growth and development of leadership skills, etc—and that distilling all of that to a number was a highly reductionist approach. It was an eloquent and very necessary point of view. But it ignored the inconvenient truth that it is B-schools themselves that originally created that money-oriented atmosphere via hype focussing on salary packages.

That approach worked well in the boom years before 2008. Now with the global economy suffering, it can no longer be as effective. And that’s a good thing: it creates an opportunity for B-school managements and prospective employers to restructure the system and shift focus. A holistic approach looking at possible career paths in their entirety will serve new entrants to the job market far better.
Probiotics save you from side effects of antibiotics

They protect the good bacteria in your gut and can save you the lozies that a course of antibiotics tends to induce in many people.

Dr Hemant Thacker

From the daish of home remedies to the Yakult of OTC range, probiotics (PBs) have come a long way. Defined as microorganisms P Bs, when administered orally in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host.

Let us understand normal physiology. The human gastrointestinal tract is home to more than 400 diverse species of bacteria and organisms that colonize the gut, soon after our birth, and thereafter live there in harmony with man. These bugs are useful, producing essential vitamins and nutrients mandatory for normal life. In fact, the entire kitchen of activity emanating from the large intestine equals the functioning of the liver. The most apparent reason why PBs have come to occupy central stage is their ability to reduce the incidence and severity of "gastro" disturbances associated with antibiotic (AB) therapy.

Today, patients demand and physicians prescribe ABs far too loosely than before. Patients don’t want to wait on the mild sore throat and are worried about losing man hours, so the hurry to “get well.” Doctors, by the same token, want to be seen fixing the illness double-quick and so Robbie.

When AB enters the system, it starts destroying all living microorganisms. The drug cannot decipher the “good” (useful ones living in the colon) from the “bad” (those bacteria causing infections), and often the result is “ugly.” The primary infection improves but diarrhoea sets in.

Not all patients have florid loose motions — some have “gas,” others have frequency and still others just complain of “tummy upset.” This often is like robbing Peter to pay Paul, whereby the gut flora population perishes in the AB onslaught. Had these very patients been pre-emptively co-treated with PBs (Lactobacillus, bifidobacter, saccharomyces boulardii) etc., the problem could have been prevented.

This may seem as a time-bound episodic consequence, but frequent and long courses of ABs can result in vitamin and nutritional deficiencies, blunted immunological responses and even hormonal dysfunction. In fact, the helpful bacteria are known to metabolize indigestible products, protect from opportunistic infections and some even produce antibacterial compounds.

Most doctors treating infective diarrhoea, especially paediatricians, always include a healthy dose of PBs and some only give PBs, which help to shorten the duration of therapy. Even when dealing with gastric infections like the stubborn HPylori, PBs have a positive role to play.

Research has shown how PBs down-regulate over-expressed immune responses in susceptible patients (inflammatory bowel disease, IBS, asthma, allergic rhinitis and dermatitis) and help enhance immunity. Its role as an immune modulator may give an edge in providing tools for vaccination, especially in vulnerable patients (elderly, children etc) and in the immunocompromised.

There are so many “pros” emerging for PBs (anti-cancer, anti-lipid, etc) that fermented milk, yogurt or medicinally manufactured PBs are becoming a way of life. Every time you are given an AB, ask for a PB and reap the benefit of Ayurveda saun saath hai treatment. There are abundant commercially available preparations providing a healthy dose of bug strains.

In reality, we need to optimize this symbiotic relationship, by utilizing pharma and nutritional intervention at the intestinal level to pack a punch from the PB. So, when you consume the next AB, have your guts full of “Tin Tin,” “Jack and Jill,” “Desi Boys” and all other Rockstar friends lest you burst your “Dain 999” times.

(Pro Dr Hemant Thacker is a Consultant Physician & Cardiometabolic Specialist in Mumbai)

WHAT ARE PROBIOTICS

Probiotics are rapidly becoming popular for preserving natural health. However, the concept of probiotics is not a new one. Fermented milk products, which contain probiotics, have been used for centuries. Why?

1. Some bacteria play a vital role in human health, while others have a negative impact on health

2. Probiotic organisms are like microscopic defenders which protect your body from invading organisms

3. Antibiotics are often cause diarrhoea. This is because antibiotics kill both good and bad bacteria. Probiotics, taken with antibiotics can prevent lozies

4. Probiotics have other functions as well. Breaking down food for digestion, producing lactase enzyme (which helps digest milk sugars), producing vitamins in intestine, and changing acidic environment for harmful bacteria

SHOULD YOU BE POPPING BACTERIA PILLS?

- **CURD RICE**
  Relieves stomach disorders in many cases if not all cases. Used in India for minor stomach ailments

- **KIMCHI**
  It is created by mixing cabbage with pepper, radish, carrot, fish sauce, etc, and left aside to ferment

- **PICKLES**
  Believe it or not, the common green pickle is an excellent food source of probiotics. Try making your own pickles in the sun

- **MISO SOUP**
  Made from rice, beans, rice or barley and adding a spoon of miso to hot water makes a quick, probiotic-rich soup