IIM-Rohtak holds conclave on ways to turn India into economic powerhouse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THE Indian Institute of Management-Rohtak held its first management conclave on October 30, bringing together industry captains and students from premier management schools to discuss ways to turn India into an economic superpower.

Professionals from industries as diverse as banking, financial services, media, consumer goods, real estate and telecommunication attended the event. The Financial Express was an associate sponsor.

The inaugural speech was delivered by Director P Rameshan and this was followed by discussions on a host of topics. The first panel discussion on ‘Talent management: An Indian perspective’, chaired by D Bhattacharya, former Director (HR) of IFFCO, analysed key issues related to talent acquisition and retention in the face of aggressive hiring practices and constant threat of brain drain.

The second discussion, ‘The brand called India’, was moderated by Nitin Seth, Country Head of FIL, India. During the talk, experts discussed strategies that India could adopt.

The third discussion, ‘India taking over the world’, was led by Sidharath Kapur, CFO of GMR Airports. It sought to understand the implications of mega-mergers and acquisitions made by Indian firms on foreign soil.

C M Vasudev, Chairman of HDFC Bank and former Director of the World Bank, delivered the keynote address at the conclave. A member of the Narasimhan Committee on financial sector reforms, Vasudev drew upon his experience in governance and policy-making to speak on the obstacles faced by India before the 1991 economic liberalisation.
London: The bigger the social network you have, the larger the size of your brain, says a new study.

The Oxford University study found that monkey brains grew bigger with every cage-mate they acquired, showing that certain parts of the brain linked to processing social information expand in response to more complex social information.

"Interestingly, there are a couple of studies in humans by different research groups that show some correlation between brain size and the size of the social network, and we found some similarities in our studies," study author Jerome Sallet told LiveScience.

"Our study reinforces the idea that the human social network was built on something that was already there in the rhesus macaques."

For their study, published in the journal Science, the researchers studied 23 rhesus macaques living in different size groups in a research facility, having a dominance-based hierarchy (except the one monkey that was caged alone).

One’s rank among male cage-mates is dependent upon social interactions, including the ability to make friends and form coalitions, which grants the monkey access to valued resources.

The researchers scanned the brains of the monkeys using magnetic resonance imaging to gauge the sizes of different brain regions and saw enlargements in gray matter in several areas of the brain associated with social interactions.

On average, the researchers saw more than a five per cent increase in gray matter mass per extra cage-mate.

"Based on what scientists know about these areas, increase in gray matter there could "reflect an increasing need to decode the significance of the facial expressions, gestures and vocalisations of a greater number of individuals and combinations of individuals as network size increased"", the researchers said.

—PTI
Mars mission: Crew ‘back’ on Earth after 520 days

Module Simulated Confinement, Stress Of A Real Flight

Moscow: Pale but smiling, an international crew of researchers on Friday walked out of a set of windowless modules after a grueling 520-day simulation of a flight to Mars. The all-male crew of three Russians, a Frenchman, an Italian-Colombian and a Chinese slowly emerged from the western Moscow facility, which simulated the confinement, stress and fatigue of interplanetary travel — minus the weightlessness.

Dressed in blue track suits emblazoned with the mission emblem, they carefully walked down a metal ladder to a greeting crowd of officials and journalists. “The crew has completed the experiment,” team leader Alexey Sitev said. “The mission is accomplished, the crew is in good health and is ready for new missions.”

Psychologists said long confinement put the team members under stress as they grew increasingly tired of each other’s company. They said that psychological conditions can even be more challenging on a mock mission than a real flight because the crew won’t experience any of the euphoria or dangers of actual space travel. Despite that, the crew showed no sign of stress. “We hope that we can help in designing the future missions to Mars,” Frenchman Romain Charles said. His Italian-Colombian crewmate Diego Urbina said the crew felt proud to achieve the longest-ever imitation of spaceflight.

AS REAL AS IT GETS: Members of the Mars500 crew (in blue uniform) emerge from the isolation facility in Moscow on Friday; (above) a January 27, 2011 photo shows crew members training for ‘Marswalk’ at the simulated Martian terrain.
DU: Pay ₹750 to get answer sheets

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NEW DELHI: Retrieving your answer sheet out of Delhi University’s (DU) vault will now burn a hole in your pocket.

With DU drafting its own policy on disclosure of answer sheets—despite the Supreme Court’s judgment—a student will now have to shell out ₹750 to get a copy of the answer script.

An order by the Central Information Commission (CIC) states that a student can invoke Section 7 of the RTI Act, following which DU will be obliged to provide a copy of the answer script upon payment of ₹2 per page along with ₹10 as RTI application fee.

However, DU has come out with a disclosure statement of its own, which requires the student to pay ₹750 for submission of application for copy of an evaluated answer script.

“This has been done to discourage students from asking for the answer sheets. The examination fee is ₹200 per paper, under which DU conducts exams, gets the answer sheets verified, declares results and provides mark sheets. So, there is no justification for charging ₹750 per paper only for providing a photocopy of the answer sheet,” said Ajay Goel, an RTI activist and a student of DU’s Law Faculty.

The University has also failed to abide by the 30-day deadline for providing a copy of the answer script. “It has been two months since I had filed an RTI seeking a disclosure of my answer script. But there has been no response from the University so far,” added Goel.

DU, however, has defended the fee that it charges, claiming that it will help weed out fake cases from the genuine ones.

“Every year, there are a lot of students who believe that they should get more marks than they have got. So, when you ask for one answer script to be shown, it becomes a very cumbersome process. This will just lead to unnecessary trouble and confusion,” said Gulshan Sawhney, deputy dean of students’ welfare.

Japan builds fastest ever supercomp

A Japanese supercomputer has broken its own record as the world’s fastest machine by performing 10 quadrillion calculations per second, its developers announced.

The “K Computer”, which has more than 88,000 central processing units—the computer’s “brain”—compared with fewer than four in the average desktop, smashed its own record of just over 8 quadrillion calculations during an experiment in October.

A quadrillion is a thousand trillion.

Supercomputers operate roughly 10,000 times faster than ordinary personal computers. Among other things, supercomputers are used by scientists investigating the effects of seismic waves and tsunamis to predict what effect they may have on buildings.

Ryoji Noyori, president of Riken, the company that jointly developed the machine alongside Fujitsu, said it was a landmark achievement in computing. “The K Computer is a key national technology that will help lay the foundation for Japan’s further progress,” he said. AFP
BIT-Mesra student surfs suicide sites, kills himself

Ranchi: In one of the most bizarre applications of cyber information, a final-year engineering student of Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra, hanged himself in a hostel room on Friday, apparently after surfing suicide sites on the internet.

Arnab Mukherjee, a ninth semester student in the department of architecture, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his room in hostel number 4 of BIT in the morning. He is the only son of NN Mukherjee, an executive with a Ranchi-based hotel. Officer in-charge of the BIT police outpost Sunit Kumar said they recovered a suicide note placed on the computer table of Arnab’s room which read, “Today is the best day to commit suicide”. Addressing his parents, the boy wrote, “I cannot do more than this for you.” TNN
MBA student returns from US, kills self

New Delhi: A 27-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the fifth floor of her apartment in Vikaspuri area of west Delhi on Friday morning. The deceased, identified as Sonali Nautiyal, was pursuing MBA in US and had come back to India a few months ago.

Sonali had gone to study in a US university in March this year. But she was not able to adjust there and often faced health problems. She would often call up her parents and tell them that she felt lonely and wanted to come back, police said. According to family members, Sonali used to remain sad and depressed ever since she had come back from America. Her father's illness—who had undergone an angioplasty a few days ago—had added to her worries, police said.

"We received a call around 6.30am about the incident. The girl was taken to a nearby hospital where she was declared brought dead. Her body has later been transferred to Deen Dayal Hospital for postmortem. After talking to the family we have come to know that Sonali was depressed over not completing her course abroad despite her parents spending a huge amount of money. Her father's illness seems to have compounded her guilt which probably made her take such an extreme step," said a senior police officer.

A neighbour, who knew the family closely, said, "She dreamt of a bright future and went abroad to study but returned back within months. We assume that out of guilt of not completing her course, she took the step." Sonali's father was a former director with the social welfare department and her mother is a homemaker.
Prevention, innovation keys to heart care

Cardiovascular diseases are on the rise. Nearly 64 million cases of CVD are likely to be seen in the year 2015, of which nearly 61 million would be of coronary heart disease cases. Definitely, prevention is better than cure, but what is healthcare fraternity doing to deal with this alarming scenario? Pallavi Dhaundiyal Pantry reports

Indians are different and more prone to coronary artery heart diseases, and it's a genetic fact. In fact, 90% of all heart diseases in the world are happening in India. So, we must learn how to save ourselves. According to the dire need, we are planning to build more and more hospitals in the Capital. Pallavi Dhaundiyal, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Employment, Revenue and Tourism Delhi and Blood Bank, said a brick by brick, at least 10% of GDP should be spent on healthcare, besides upgrading of at least 100 more hospitals like AIIMS. Also, medicines should be less expensive, and 50% of our population has mobile phones. Medical devices are being sold at a very high price, and we should start taking medical devices for free or at a very low price, said Dr. Ashok Seth, President, Cardiological Society of India. The epidemic of CVDs is increasing rapidly in India, especially coronary heart disease and stroke resulting in epidemiological health transition in the country. Through CVDs are the world's number one killer, it can be prevented, beginning with the need of the hour. The Times of India organised a conclave in association with Cardiological Society of India, on October 20, in the Capital, to offer platforms to various stakeholders of the healthcare fraternity to deliberate upon effective healthcare policies.

 said Dr. Balkran Bhargava, Sr. Consultant, Department of Cardiology, Cardiovascular Sciences Centre and Executive Director, Sattva India Biotechnology Centre, AIIMS. Ashish Prakash, Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, said, "First thing is affordability which is different for different individuals. So, let's talk about societal affordability. But before anything, it's always prevention. The most important aspect one should focus on is prevention. According to Amit Kumar, Regional Director and General Manager, South East and South Asia, Abbott Healthcare, "India needs to have novel and better technology in the medical field. India has smaller skills to manufacture medical devices. What perhaps is missing is the enabling environment in terms of competent suppliers. As far as intellectual property is concerned, it needs to be assured. We need to scale up in terms of technology and support from government is most important," Digvijay (ND), Special Director General of Health Care, said.
Diabetes solutions for growing concerns of health threats. Titled ‘India Heart Conclave’, the health forum was spread over various sessions, namely ‘Public awareness on preventive measures before life-threatening event strikes’, ‘Prevention: A multi-pronged strategy’, ‘Hard hitting facts on CVIs: Millennium development goals’, ‘Clinical insights: Cutting edge treatments and technologies’, and ‘Making advances care affordable to the many: Where are the roadblocks and the solution’.

In India, communicable diseases have become less burdensome, but noncommunicable ones are more problematic now. Longevity and fast lifestyle have landed us into this challenging situation,” said Dr. Menteck Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt of India, while addressing the audience at the inaugural session. He added, “Besides, we should have more curative centres in the country and follow a systematic approach to prevention. Role of public and private sector together is important and government must help to promote and encourage the partnership.”

The forum started with training session on ‘Public awareness on preventive measures before life-threatening event strikes’ which was followed by discussion on prevention and role of diet, oral health and lifestyle interventions.

In India, CVIs are on the rise due to stressful lifestyle. Poor and lower middle-class can afford private hospital treatment costs. “First three hours are very important for a person being diagnosed with cardiac disease. The only government super specialty hospital to cure CVIs is G. B. Pant Hospital. Un-

care hours a day Yoga is very good for health. Also, 30 minutes of aerobic per day is a must to keep your heart healthy,” said Ghei.

In cardio cases, we need to focus more on availability, accessibility and affordability. We have to get refined oil to make it. Besides, canola oil is also good and not as expensive as olive oil. “Conceiving the debate on ‘Do cooking oils really make a difference?’ Dr. Ashok Seth said: ‘One must be conscious about the oil we use. Everything in excess is bad. Things should be in moderation. Government must get into making legislation. Restaurants should put up at the entrance how much and what oil they use in their various recipes. They must mention they don’t use transfat oil.’

Prevention is always better than cure and prevention of heart disease involves eating healthy and exercising more. You have to be active and must do exercise at least is the catchphrase which we all must get done at regular intervals so that the disease could be diagnosed at the initial stage itself.”

Three hours is the maximum time period to evacuate the patient and perform treatment on the heart patient. The government needs to create more healthcare facilities. In India, we have cheaper treatment procedures as compared to other countries. The problem is we are not focusing on generic drugs. If we produce more of them, quality checks could be conducted in a better way,” added Prakash.

The next session focused on advancements and future applications of medical technology in India. It dwelled on bringing modern health technology to people by encouraging innovations related to diagnostics, treatment methods as well as prevention in terms of vaccines. “Innovations should be encouraged more in the health sector. Innovations in drugs and vaccines can change the paradigm of health sector in India,” said Dr. Narveer Chadha, Chief Cardiologist and Chairman, Medanta – The Medicity.

India does not have good quality regulatory bodies to assess medical procedures and equipments which is why people do not have confidence in products and procedures being made here. “People want to have foreign stamped or world known