Newspaper Clips
November 25-29, 2017

November 29

'Ranking not quality indicator'
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/cuttack/ranking-not-quality-indicator/articleshow/61844700.cms

CUTTACK: Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Virander Singh Chauhan on Monday said world ranking of educational institutions is not the only indicator of quality of education.

Speaking at the convocation ceremony of Ravenshaw University here on Tuesday, Chauhan said, "The business of world ranking of educational institutes is just 14 to 15 years old."

Chauhan said quality education is good in Indian universities and they have produced many luminaries in different fields. "I am very proud of what my university taught me," said Chauhan.

He cited that measuring the quality of education with parameters like how many students get jobs after completing their course is not proper.

Research for futuristic technology development
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/research-for-futuristic-technology-development/articleshow/61820333.cms

A research by IIT Kharagpur faculty in collaboration with the University of Rochester and ICTS, Bengaluru have paved way for futuristic technology development.

Calling it a path breaking research, an IIT Kharagpur statement today said it has opened up possibilities for the development of quantum devices.

Prof Sajal Dhara who joined the Department of Physics at IITKGP in 2016, has discovered along with his collaborators negative mass particles of polaritons which are composed of half-light and half-matter.

Mass of such polaritons thus created is lighter than the mass of an electron by a factor of 0.00001, the statement said.

Prof Dhara and his collaborators at University of Rochester and ICTS (International Centre for Theoretical Sciences) have discovered new insights on the mass of such particles which will lead to a giant leap towards futuristic technology development, the statement said.

The research has been featured in the esteemed Nature Physics journal in their October 2017 issue.

The collaborators involved in this work are Dr C Chakraborty, Dr K M Goodfellow, Dr L Qiu, Dr T A O Loughlin, Prof G W Wicks, Prof A N Vamivakas, all from University of Rochester and Prof Subhro Bhattacharjee from ICTS which is a centre of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). Elaborating on the research, the statement said, scientists can artificially create a combined particle state that is made of half-light and half-matter, known as polaritons.

Light is an electromagnetic wave but it also shows particle properties with zero mass. On the other hand, matters are made of atoms with certain mass, the statement said.

"The area of research is itself a promising field for the development of a future generation of technologies at room temperature," he said.

The aim is to look for a particle other than electron to build advanced devices. This will witness a giant leap from smart electronic to smart polaritonic devices promising to increase manifold the speed and storage capacity at which tomorrow's devices like laptops and smartphones work.

Polaritonics is an intermediate regime between photonics and sub-microwave electronics.

Dhara has received substantial funding from MHRD, ISIRD (International Society of Invertebrate Reproduction and Development and the SERB (Science & Engineering Research Board) Ramanujan Fellowship research grant for developing his lab facilities at IIT Kharagpur.

One of the long-term goals of his 'Nanoscale Optoelectronics lab (set up for understanding the optical, electronic, and quantum properties of novel solid state nano-structures by nanoscale device design) would be to investigate the light-matter interaction for the development of futuristic technologies and basic science.

JNU to offer digital courses

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/jnu-to-offer-digital-courses/article21041621.ece

Executive Council gives nod for setting up a Special Centre for E-Learning

In an effort to make education more accessible to all, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) will be launching a Special Centre for E-Learning (SCEL) with the aim of developing online version of courses currently being taught at the university.

The university administration said on Tuesday that the executive council had recently approved the establishment of the special centre.

Ivory towers

"Universities should not remain as ivory towers. They should reach out to society. One way of doing this is to make high quality education more inclusive through time and space independent learning," said JNU vice-chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar.

He added that the initiative would help students from the remotest parts of the country get access to JNU's vast intellectual resources.

"JNU has been known not only for its academic excellence but also for its inclusive academic and social character. Thousands of aspirants apply each year to come and study in JNU, but only a handful [2%] make it to the university due to the limited number of students who can be admitted in its academic programmes," said Rana Pratap Singh, Rector-III.

He added that the online centre would help JNU share its academic excellence with those who do not get a seat as well as those who cannot afford to study at JNU.

The university said that the faculty was actively working to get the material ready so that they could participate in the UGC's Massive Open Online Courses offered at its SWAYAM platform.

SWAYAM is a programme launched by the Centre to make the best teaching resources available for all. Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost, however, students wanting certifications will have to register.

ANALYSIS-Delhi can learn from other megacities to clear its toxic smog

https://in.reuters.com/article/india-pollution-smog/analysis-delhi-can-learn-from-other-megacities-to-clear-its-toxic-smog-idINL3N1NY3B7

Delhi must adopt anti-pollution steps taken by other megacities like Beijing and Mexico City if the Indian metropolis is to get serious about tackling its annual smog crisis, experts say.

A toxic cloud covered India's capital, New Delhi, and surrounding areas this month, causing respiratory problems among residents and leading to school closures, flight cancellations and the declaration of a public health emergency.

The causes of the problem include the poor quality of diesel used to generate electricity and to power the vehicles clogging the streets, dust and smoke thrown out by a thriving construction industry, and biomass and kerosene used by the poor for heating and cooking.

Stubble-burning on farmland around the city, described by local officials this month as a "gas chamber", is also cited by experts as a major cause.

"At the moment, Delhi is the most polluted city in the world in terms of air quality," Sarah Colenbrander, a researcher at the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Similar to other megacities, poorer residents are often worst-hit by air pollution, as they are most likely to live along busy highways or near power plants.

They also tend to take jobs that are done outside, like street vending or labouring, providing little relief from the toxic fumes.

MAKING A START

Delhi residents breathe in three times as many fine particles that cause the greatest risk to health than the people of Beijing, another city notorious for high pollution levels that has begun to make strides in tackling its air problems.

The Chinese capital - which is home to about 22 million people compared to Delhi's 18 million - still suffers from chronic pollution and congestion.

But Beijing officials have created an air pollution action plan ushering in strict traffic curbs and regulations on the city's construction industry from November until March.

By limiting building work across and around Greater Beijing, dust levels have fallen, said Mukesh Khare, professor of environmental engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

Delhi officials also took action to stop construction when pollution levels rose this month, but they acted after the smog arrived not before, as Beijing now does.

"The structure of Beijing city, though much larger than Delhi, is similar," said Khare, an expert in urban air pollution. "Beijing has very successfully tackled this issue. It is do-able for India as well."

Beijing leaders and city administrators are, however, free to take action against pollution spikes without having to worry about political consequences or possible court action, he noted.

For every $1 spent on improving air quality in cities, $30 is returned to an economy, said Khare.

Despite this, Indian authorities have failed to get the message across to the poor about the health risks and causes of air pollution, he said.

STOP THE GRIDLOCK

Lists of the world's most polluted cities are usually dominated by Indian and Chinese cities. But 25 years ago, Mexico City would always rank near the top.

Over the past decade, the high-altitude city - which still suffers from pollution and congestion - has tried different and unique ways to improve life for the 21 million people in its metropolitan region.

Efforts to boost mobility in Mexico City really took off after the roll-out of a plan to connect the airport with the city centre - a journey of about 4 miles (6.5 km) that used to take more than three hours - by expanding its bus rapid transit system, said Jemilah Magnusson of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy in New York.

Fixing that problem showed people the relative ease and potential benefits of enlarging the city's limited public transport network, she said.

Mexico City has also created more bicycle lanes alongside a popular bike-sharing scheme.

And it has introduced groundbreaking parking reforms, including restricting the amount of parking buildings can provide, whereas before they were required to offer a minimum.

This measure aims to discourage the use of cars and free up more space for housing, making it cheaper.

"THINGS WILL GET WORSE"

As Delhi's air quality deteriorated this month, authorities tried using fire trucks to spray water to keep dust and other air particles down, halting construction work, increasing car parking charges, and implementing an emergency odd-even licence plate policy to limit the use of private vehicles.

The effect was limited, but experts say there are other short-term measures that could be taken by Delhi officials to stop the smog in future.

As in most Indian cities, the vast majority of residents do not drive cars, so improving the bus and pedestrian infrastructure would help, alongside implementing a bike-sharing scheme, introducing a permanent odd-even system, parking reforms and basic street redesign, experts said.

Connecting low-income households to the electricity grid would also ease pollution problems, coupled with providing cleaner energy alternatives like solar lamps.

Longer term, a national environment agency should be established with the power to make quick decisions on pollution control and to punish states for inaction, said IIT's Khare.

Delhi would also benefit from large-scale investment in a mass transit system and the creation of an air pollution action plan using forecasts provided by the Indian meteorological department to prevent smog, experts said.

Meanwhile, the central government should enforce existing anti-pollution regulations and standards, and push for a shift to more energy-efficient and cleaner vehicles, they said.

"If we don't have a good action plan, things will get worse because Delhi is increasingly a growing city (and) our economy is getting better and better," said Khare.

IIT-Ropar set to get first foreign faculty through VAJRA Faculty Scheme
http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/nov/29/iit-ropar-set-to-get-first-foreign-faculty-through-vajra-faculty-scheme-1713461.html

NEW DELHI: IIT-Ropar is set to get the first visiting faculty from abroad under a special scheme launched by the Centre to appoint globally renowned teachers at institutes of higher learning to raise research standards and improve their global rankings.
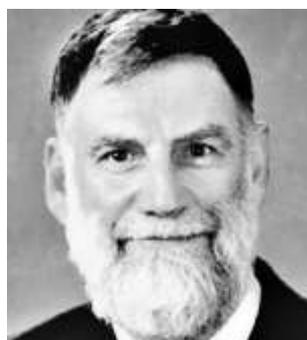
Christopher Berndt

Scientist Christopher Berndt of Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia—well known in the area of Surface Science and Interface Engineering—is set to join IIT Ropar for a period of three months aiming to create a 'Joint Institute on Advanced Surface Engineering'.

The Ministry of Human Resources Development, in conjunction with the Department of Science and Technology, had recently launched Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme that aimed to tap top scientific minds to mentor IIT students.

Overall the government received 260 applications from scientists from other countries with proposals on renewable energy, water, surface transport and other subjects in which India lacks expertise.

"Of them, 70 names had been shortlisted. The final names are now being notified for various IITs," the official added. "These scientists will guide post-doctoral students at these institutions and exchange ideas with other faculties."

In 2015, the government had relaxed rules allowing faculties from foreign universities at ranks other than professors to join Indian universities, but it was only with the launch of VAJRA that special emphasis was given on inviting foreign scientists to work as adjunct faculty in Indian institutions.

Last year, the HRD ministry had launched project Viswajeet to improve the global ranking of Indian institutes. Only five institutes—Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and IITs at Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Kanpur—figure in top 200 universities in the world listings.

Placement season: More recruiters at IIT-H this year

http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2017/nov/29/placement-season-more-recruiters-at-iit-h-this-year-1713449.html

HYDERABAD: IIT-Hyderabad is all set for its first phase of campus placements in which 85 companies, including several international and multinational firms are expected to participate. From last year's 70 firms that visited in the first phase, the number this year has shot up indicating recruiters' interest in employing the 424 students from IIT-H.This shows a marked increase in the recruiters preferring IIT Hyderabad, compared to previous years.The first phase of campus placement will commence December 3 and will conclude on December 22. The second phase begins from the first week of January 2018.

Some of the prominent companies to be present in the placement season include Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), international companies such as Yahoo Japan, SMS DataTech, Microsoft Corporation, Goldman Sachs, telecommunications equipment firm Qualcomm, and global investment management firm DE Shaw & Co. Each company has registered around three job profiles. Around four startups have also registered for placements.

Last year (2016-17), phase I had about 70 companies visiting the campus, while the total companies in all phases were close to 130. The recruiters are seeking students for diverse sectors ranging from Core (technical), Research and Development, Information Technology / Computer science, IT-Enabled Services, e-Commerce, Automotive/ Ancillaries and Hospitals / HealthCare, Design, Finance, and Consulting.

Speaking of this year's placement season, Dr Pradeep Kumar Yemula, faculty-in-charge for Placements, IIT-H, said, "A team of dynamic student placement coordinators has been working since April 2017, preparing for placements which will culminate in the final hiring process beginning on 3rd of December 2017. This year we look forward to breaking our own previous records and building a stronger brand for the Institute among the recruiters."

On the pre-placement front, the institute has already witnessed a remarkable increase in Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs) this academic year. A total of 47 PPOs were offered to IIT-H students this year compared to 18 in the last year. Among the firms that issued PPOs include Amazon, Qualcomm, Samsung (Delhi), Boston Scientific and WorksApp.

New India cannot be achieved without scientists' contribution: Kovind

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/new-india-cannot-be-achieved-without-scientists-contribution-kovind/articleshow/61839049.cms

Lauding scientists as "true nation builders", President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said they have a major responsibility for the realisation of New India - an India that will achieve certain developmental milestones by 2022.

Appreciating the commitment of scientists to the nation, Kovind said it was important to harness the scientific talent pool in Bengal, for the good of the state as also the country.

"New India cannot be achieved without New Bengal. And neither New India nor New Bengal can be achieved without the scientific community here contributing in strong measure," Kovind said at "Vigyan Chintan-Scientific Ecosystem in Kolkata", organised at the Raj Bhavan, where he interacted with scientists from various reputed science and technology institutes of the city.

He said Bengal has produced a galaxy of scientists and made a major contribution in promoting the scientific temper in the country.

"To this day, young students from Bengal, young science graduates and scientists, young engineers and technologists, contribute so much to the furthering of science and of knowledge. They do so all over the country and all over the world.

"Kolkata contributed many illustrious names to our galaxy of scientists and technologists. J.C. Bose and S.N. Bose and Meghnad Saha are household names across India. C.V. Raman worked here and won the Nobel Prize," he said.

The President laid stress on converting Kolkata yet again into the tech hub of India, that it was "a century ago, or even 50 years ago".

Averring that there was "truly something special about Bengala, he pointed out that IISc, Bengaluru, was started after Swami Vivekananda requested Jamsetji Tata to set up a world-class science research institution in the country.

"On this soil, even a Swami devoted to spiritualism can have a sensitive appreciation for - and a fascination for - modern science," he said.

November 28

कानपुर आईआईटी में देश का पहला परमाणु सुरक्षा शोध केंद्र बनेगा

https://www.livehindustan.com/uttar-pradesh/story-kanpur-will-be-the-countries-first-nuclear-research-centre-1668367.html

वैश्विक स्तर पर परमाणु खतरों से बचाने के प्रयास तेज हो गए हैं। परमाणु ऊर्जा पर तो तेजी से काम हुआ लेकिन आपात स्थिति में परमाणु खतरों निपटने के उपाय नहीं खोजे गए। रेडियोएक्टिव तरंगों की तबाही से बचाने के लिए आईआईटी कानपुर ने भाभा एटामिक रिसर्च सेंटर (बीएआरसी) के साथ मिलकर काम शुरू कर दिया है। आईआईटी में परमाणु खतरों से बचाने के उपाय के लिए शोध केंद्र का भवन तैयार हो गया है। प्रस्तावित केंद्र जून 2018 से काम करने लगेगा। यह देश का पहला ऐसा केंद्र होगा जहां-जहां परमाणु दुर्घटना को रोकने और उससे होने वाले खतरे को कम करने पर शोध होगा।

आईआईटी, बीएआरसी के विशेषज्ञ और शोध छात्रों ने काम भी शुरू कर दिया है। बीएआरसी के मुख्य कैलोबेटर डॉ. बीके सप्रा ने बताया कि केंद्र में शोध के लिए आवश्यक उपकरण लगा दिए गए हैं। डॉ. सप्रा के मुताबिक परमाणु ऊर्जा का दायरा बढ़ रहा है तो रिएक्टर की सुरक्षा और संभावित खतरों से निपटने की तैयारी जरूरी है। परियोजना के मुख्य अनुसंधानकर्ता व आईआईटी के प्रो. एसएन त्रिपाठी ने बताया कि इस शोध का नाम नेशनल एरोसोल फैकल्टी रखा गया है। इसमें बोर्ड ऑफ न्यूक्लियर साइंस रिसर्च के विशेषज्ञ भी कार्य करेंगे।

रेडियोएक्टिव किरणों को बाहर निकलने से रोकेंगे
डॉ. सप्रा ने बताया कि परमाणु रिएक्टर दुर्घटना में सबसे बड़ा खतरा निकलने वाली रेडियोएक्टिव किरणों से होता है। ये किरणें काफी दूर और लंबे समय तक वातावरण, मानव जीवन समेत सभी पशु-पक्षी को नुकसान पहुंचा सकती हैं। इस बात पर शोध किया जाएगा कि यदि कभी आपात स्थिति

बनी तो रिएक्टर से ही रेडियोएक्टिव किरणें न निकलने दी जाएं। इसकी व्यवस्था डिजाइन के समय ही रिएक्टर में करनी होगी।

सरकारों की देखरेख में चल रहे केंद्र

आईआईटी में देश का पहला परमाणु सुरक्षा शोध केंद्र तैयार हो गया है। एशिया में ऐसा सुरक्षा केंद्र दक्षिणी कोरिया, जापान और चीन में काम कर रहे हैं। ये सभी केंद्र सरकारों की देखरेख में चल रहे हैं। आईआईटी में बनने वाला केंद्र शैक्षिक संस्थान में पहला होगा।

QS Ranking lists three IIMs among the top 50 in world

http://www.dnaindia.com/education/report-qs-ranking-lists-three-iims-among-the-top-50-in-world-2562991

In Global MBA ranking category IIM Ahmedabad ranks seventh, IIM Bangalore stands at 9th spot

Three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have secured a place each in the top 50 ranking of the recently released QS Rankings for management institutions. IIM Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Calcutta have ranked bagged 22, 23 and 46 spot respectively for their Masters in management programme category.

QS, for the first time has released rankings for management institutions, ranking them under various heads — Global MBA, Masters in Finance, Masters in Management and Masters in Business Analytics. In the Global MBA rankings, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore and Indian School of Business are among the 100 best institutes in the world.

Harvard Business School is named the world's best provider for MBA while two French institutions, INSEAD and HEC Paris, were ranked and third position respectively.

A separate comparison for Asian institutes has also been compiled where IIM Ahmedabad tops the chart, ranking at number 7, IIM Bangalore and Indian School of Business are at number 9 and 12 respectively.

"It is a great news for Indians that three of their IIMs have been ranked among the best 50 in the world for their Masters in Management Programme. We have used some unique indicators for this particular exercise. Our focus has been on finding out what is making students more employable. We received more than 40,000 responses asking for which employers recruit for masters and which recruit for MBAs and on the basis of their response we have been able to come up with different rankings," Simona Bizzozero Director of Communications for QS told DNA over phone from London.

"We also tracked alumni of some of the best institutions to access the kind of position they are in. We tracked more than 49,000 alumni as a part of our exercise. The other factor that we looked at while deciding on the rankings was how long does it take for a student to pay back his investment. When it comes to MBAs, it takes almost 51 months to have real return on investment considering the time spent on work," she added.

After releasing University rankings under a single umbrella, QS is now focusing on special disciplines, to start with they have released rankings for management institutions. "When students look at a university's rankings, they want to know about programme, which is why we are now focusing on

discipline specific rankings. In future we will take it to STEM subjects also, but to start with we have released management rankings," she added.

November 27

JEE Advanced to be conducted by NTA from 2019? HRD seeks reply from IITs by Dec. 15

http://www.timesnownews.com/education/article/mhrd-sends-proposal-to-bring-jee-advanced-under-nta-iit-to-answer-by-dec-15/133995

New Delhi: In a letter sent by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, MHRD the consortium of regional IITs or Indian Institute of Technology to suggest the possibility of bringing the JEE Advanced under the ambit of the National Testing Agency. A similar letter has also been sent to IIMs to check the feasibility of including CAT as well, as reported by HT. The report also confirms that the HRD ministry has asked the IITs to consider the proposal and reply by December 15, 2017

On November 10, 2017, the Union Cabinet had cleared the proposal for setting up National Testing Agency. The main purpose of the agency or NTA as called would be to conduct the competitive examinations conducted at present by CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education.) The central board at present conducts Joint Engineering Entrance (JEE) Main, NEET, UGC's National Eligibility Test (twice a year), Central Teacher Eligibility Test (twice a year) as well as the entrance test for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. The proposal was to create a central agency which would be charged with conducting the examination, giving CBSE time and resources to focus on improving the quality of education.

Furthering the role of NTA, the HRD proposes to include JEE Advanced – the entrance test for admissions to IITs conducted at present by the consortium of regional IITs. The letter has reassured the IITs that the NTA would ensure that the test "will be online, duly scrutinised and standardised. The test design will be done scientifically and as per user requirements."

Adding, the letter mentioned that, "Although the cabinet has decided that initially, the NTA will conduct the exams currently being conducted by CBSE, it may be decided whether the IIT system would like to entrust the conduct of JEE-Advanced exams to NTA with a condition that the setting of the question papers and the proctoring would continue to vest with the IIT system."

HT reports that the agency would be registered as a society under the appropriate Societies Registration Act, 1860. All the IITs, IIMs, IISERs and centrally funded universities would be joining owners of the agency. The intention was to bring all testing under the ambit of one central agency and the standardisation of all entrance examination.

As per reports, IITs are not too excited about the proposal. The primary concern is the fact that NTA is still very young and has not had any operational experience as yet. The officials, however, did not comment and have added that all the IITs would meet and consider the proposal. The IITs have been given till December 15 to assess and revert.

आईआईटी मद्रास में प्लेसमेंट के लिए पहली बार आ रही एप्पल

https://www.livehindustan.com/career/story-apple-is-coming-to-iit-madras-for-campus-placement-1666893.html

इस साल आईआईटी मद्रास के प्लेसमेंट ड्राइव में ऐपल और यूनीक आइडेंटिफिकेशन अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (यूआईडीएआई) जैसी कंपनी पहली बार भाग लेने के लिए कैंपस आ रही है। आईआईटी मद्रास में प्लेसमेंट की प्रक्रिया 1 दिसंबर से शुरू होगी। आईआईटी-मद्रास में प्लेसमेंट ड्राइव के लिए जितनी कंपनियां रजिस्टर्ड हैं, उनमें से करीब 15 फीसदी कंपनियां पहली बार इसमें हिस्सा लेंगी।

पहली बार प्लेसमेंट ड्राइव में भाग लेने वाली कंपनियों में यूबीएस एजी, नैसडैक स्टॉक मार्केट, अल्वारेज ऐंड मारसल इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, कंट्री गार्डन, हैलमा इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, रुबरिक ऐंड सेकीसुई केमिकल शामिल हैं। प्लेसमेंट में परंपरागत रूप से हिस्सा लेने वाली कंपनियां जैसे माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, सैमसंग आर ऐंड डी, गोल्डमन सैचिस, ईटन, शलमबरजे, महिंद्रा, इंटेल, बजाज, ईएक्सएल, सिटी, लार्सन ऐंड टूब्रो भी भर्ती अभियान में शामिल होंगी।

270 कंपनियां अब तक रजिस्टर्ड

इस साल कैंपस प्लेसमेंट के लिए इंस्टिट्यूट में आने वाली कंपनियों की संख्या में बड़ी उछाल आई है। पिछले साल 400 जॉब प्रोफाइल के लिए 250 कंपनियों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाया था जबकि इस साल कुल 270 कंपनियां अब तक रजिस्टर्ड हैं। इन कंपनियों में से करीब 43 फीसदी कोर इंजिनियरिंग/आर ऐंड डी सेक्टर, 25 फीसदी फाइनैंस/ऐनालिटिक्स/कंसल्टिंग सेक्टर्स और 32 फीसदी

आईटी सेक्टर से है। इस साल 50 से ज्यादा स्टार्टअप्स भी हिस्सा लेंगी। इस साल संस्थान में ज्यादा से ज्यादा जॉब ऑफर मिलने की उम्मीद है।

56 फीसदी बढ़ी प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर्स

साथ ही इस बार प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर्स में भी 56 फीसदी बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई है। इस साल अब तक आईआईटी मद्रास के छात्रों को 114 प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर्स मिल चुके हैं जबकि पिछले साल 73 पीपीओ ही मिले थे। आईआईटी मद्रास में ट्रेनिंग और प्लेसमेंट के सलाहकार मनु संतानम ने बताया, छात्रों और स्टाफ की हमारी टीम ने कैंपस तक रिक्रूटर्स को बड़ी संख्या में आकर्षित करने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत की है और इस प्लेसमेंट सीजन से काफी उम्मीदें हैं। हमारे यहां पीपीओ में बड़ी उछाल आई है और इसे देखते हुए हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि यह सफलता प्लेसमेंट में भी परिवर्तित होगी। इधर, आईआईटी मद्रास में स्टार्ट अप का क्रेज बढ़ता जा रहा है। अब तक यहां से 140 स्टार्ट अप निकल चुके हैं।

अब तक 1100 विद्यार्थियों ने प्लेसमेंट के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन कराए

मद्रास आईआईटी में इस साल अब तक 1100 विद्यार्थियों ने प्लेसमेंट के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन करा लिया है। संस्थान को भरोसा है कि इस संख्या में अभी और वृद्धि होगी क्योंकि रिसर्च के कई ऐसे छात्र हैं जिन्होंने अपना शोध पूरा कर लिया है। ये छात्र शोध में अपनी उपलब्धि हासिल कर अब रोजगार के लिए तैयार हो रहे हैं। संस्थान के मुताबिक 35 विद्यार्थियों ने प्लेसमेंट में अपना रजिस्ट्रेशन नहीं कराने का फैसला लिया है। ये विद्यार्थी या तो स्टार्ट अप की शुरुआत करेंगे या आगे उच्च शिक्षा के लिए आवेदन करेंगे।

IIT-Kharagpur research promises a quantum leap in futuristic tech

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/iit-kharagpur-research-promises-a-quantum-leap-in-futuristic-tech/articleshow/61812320.cms

KOLKATA: A research led by an IIT Kharagpur faculty member, which finds mention in acclaimed science journal 'Nature Physics', promises to increase manifold the speed and the storage capacity at which tomorrow's devices — your laptops and your smartphones — work. The toolbox of the future will be infinitely faster, smaller and much more efficient.

Sajal Dhara and his team have proved that next-generation devices like quantum computers can be designed even without the use of electrons. Since the artificially created new particle is lighter than the mass of an electron by 0.0001 times, for a layman this will translate into simple solutions to the most intricate problems and lightning fast applications.

"Just imagine a caricature version of tiny fireflies being laws of physics but different from our classical world," Dhara explained. "We have discovered new insights on the mass of these intriguing particles. The new understanding is expected to inspire a giant leap towards futuristic technology development. Quantum computation is just one application, there are limitless possibilities," he added.

The October issue of 'Nature Physics' gives a lowdown on Sajal Dhara's discovery, which is a collaborative work with the University of Rochester and the International Centre of Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bangalore. The other collaborators with Dhara are, C Chakraborty, KM Goodfellow, L Qiu, TA O'Loughlin, GW Wicks and AN Vamivakas, all from University of Rochester and Subhro Bhattacharjee from ICTS, TIFR.

A physics graduate from Presidency College, who did his masters from IIT Kharagpur, PhD from TIFR and post-doctoral from Pennsylvania and Rochester universities, Dhara joined as a faculty at IIT Kharagpur in October 2016. Too excited at being able to reach "somewhere" in his "quest for light", Dhara says he will spend the next few years perfecting the polariton for quantum devices.

"Light is an electromagnetic wave but it also shows particle properties with zero mass. Matter on the other hand are made of atoms that have a certain mass. We have artificially created a combined particle state that is made of half-light and half-matter, or polaritons," Dhara said.

Shuruaat bus flagged off from MANUU

http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/271117/shuruaat-bus-flagged-off-from-manuu.html

The bus is set to travel across the country and empower citizens to become entrepreneurs and job creators.

Hyderabad: Shuruaat Bus was flagged off from Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), the bus's first pit stop in Telangana state. The bus was launched as a lead up to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017.

The bus is set to travel across the country and empower citizens to become entrepreneurs and job creators. Experts travelling in the bus will also address economic issues faced by India. Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, state minister K.T. Rama Rao, and Ms Anna Roy, advisor to NITI Aayog, flagged off the bus from MANUU.

More than 15 business ideas were pitched by aspiring entrepreneurs as part of the Shuruaat Bus's 100 second pitch challenge. The bus will be stationed at T-Hub team at their T-Day at Hitex, and will then be parked at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad from November 28-30.

The Shuruaat Bus was launched at IIT Delhi on November 14, 2017, and is an initiative of The Global Education and Leadership Foundation (TGELF) in partnership with NITI Aayog on the Road to GES.

November 26

Soon, National Testing Agency may conduct JEE Advanced exam besides JEE Main, NEET

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/soon-national-testing-agency-may-conduct-jee-advanced-exam-besides-jee-main-neet/story-WMseEQxh9KZBw3902TJs1H.html

A letter has been sent to the IIMs to check if the CAT can also be conducted by NTA.

Apart from JEE Main and NEET, the National Testing Agency (NTA) may soon conduct the JEE Advanced exam that is conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at present.

The human resource development ministry has written to all IITs regarding this but they are yet to take a decision in this regard. A letter has also been sent to the IIMs to check if the CAT can also be conducted by NTA.

"Although the cabinet has decided that initially the NTA will conduct the exams currently being conducted by CBSE, it may be decided whether the IIT system would like to entrust the conduct of JEE-Advanced exams to NTA with a condition that the setting of the question papers and the proctoring would continue to vest with the IIT system," reads the letter sent by the ministry. In the past, IITs have refused to allow other agencies to conduct its examinations.

All the IITs have been asked to discuss the matter and convey their decision to the ministry by December 15. "The NTA is yet to become completely operational and we are not very sure about handing over the charge to them. We have been given time and we will decide by then," an IIT director said.

The letter further said the NTA was being registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, with IITs, IIMs, IISERs and centrally funded universities as joint owners of the organisation. The ministry will provide the necessary support and steps have already been taken by the ministry for putting in place necessary infrastructure for NTA to be operational soon.

"The tests to be conducted by NTA will be online, duly scrutinised and standardised. The test design will be done scientifically and as per user requirements," it read.

On November 10, the Union cabinet had cleared a proposal for the creation of a National Testing Agency that will conduct all entrance tests which are at present being handled by the Central Board of Secondary Education.

Once bitten, cos hiring at IITs fight shy of startup tag

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/once-bitten-cos-hiring-at-iits-fight-shy-of-startup-tag/articleshow/61812379.cms

Mumbai: Startups are facing an identity crisis. A year after the IITs blacklisted 20-odd young businesses and barred them from participating in annual placements, these companies are shying away from the startup tag.

Placement officers across the IITs are stating that even freshly founded companies are clarifying to the institutes that they can at best be termed as "senior startups". Every company desirous of participating in the placement process has to fill a job notification form and declare whether it is a startup or not.

"Many of them are just not declaring the fact that they are startups. A few startups even tried convincing us that they are not startups," said Kaustubh Mohanty, convener, all-IIT placement committee.

At some of the IITs, the firms are reworking the initial offer made for a better slot. "After we give them a slot, the date and time to come, many up their offer in terms of remuneration for a better slot," said a placement team member from IIT Kanpur.

While the number of startups coming to the IITs has reduced, students are excited about Cohesity, which will participate for the first time. As annual compensation, the firm is offering Rs 25 lakh. Annual compensation has gone up by 10-15%, in a way signaling to the best brains of India and to the IIT authorities that there is more stability in the startup world.

"We have not asked companies this year if they are startups or not. Frankly, we do not get a yes even from the ones that are new companies," said a placement officer from IIT Delhi. Every campus has 30-35% fewer startups this year as compared to 2015, when there was a rush of new companies flush with funds that wanted to pick engineering talent from the IITs.

Later, in the 2016 edition of placements, the IIT blacklisted 20 firms that had in the previous year given offer letters to students, but deferred joining dates or withdrew them, leaving several students anxious. While the ban has been lifted, these companies have not been given good slots in the upcoming placement process.

"Many of the companies don't exist anymore. The ones that are still around and have come back to the campus for placements, we have not given them enticing slots. Also, students have been forewarned about their placement history," said a placement officer.

While the smaller IITs have not invited many of the startups that applied, the older institutes with large student strengths have more young companies on their placement list. The largest number of

startups is probably going to be at IIT Bombay, but again the firms are shy of the tag. "Students gauge the companies before putting down their preference. While some feel that one gets ownership of work in a startup, others want to join a stable company," said a placement team member at the Powai campus.

November 25

Majority of pre-placement offers are from IT firm at IIT Bombay

https://www.brainbuxa.com/education-news/majority-of-pre-placement-offers-are-from-it-firm-at-iit-bombay-7557

Students of IIT-B have received the most pre-placement offers from the companies from IT sector.

Of the 137 offers made by the companies to students at the end of the internships, 37 are from IT sector. 32 offers were made from the organizations from engineering and technology sector.

Students also received 29 offers from the finance companies and with the demand for the data analytics increasing 10 offers were made in the field of data analytics and eight in consulting.

"There has been a rise in the number of PPO offers received. This year, a total of 137 offers have been received as against 119 offers last year," said Tom Mathew, professor in-charge of placements at the institute.

This year there has been slight increase in the number of pre-placement offers and seeing the trend till now, the institute is hopeful for a good placement season. In the last year's placement season, sectors like IT, engineering and technology; and finance and analytics were the top recruiters of the IIT-B institute.

"The demand in the IT sector has evolved from coders to expertise in more specific fields such as artificial intelligence and data analytics… Offers in strategic roles might be fewer this year," said one of the placement coordinators.