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August 27

IIT-D steps in to make home shift easy for kids

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/iit-d-steps-in-to-make-home-shift-easy-for-kids/articleshow/60238727.cms

New Delhi: Leaving the comfort of home, perhaps for the first time, and being thrust into one of the toughest engineering colleges in India might be an intimidating experience for youngsters. Several suicides and attempts to kill themselves at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, indicate the stress that youngsters find themselves in. The institution has now taken steps to make this transition easier for new students.

The IIT-D Board of Student Welfare (BSW) has packed old wine in new, more ergonomic bottles, so to say. From making round-the-clock, anonymous online counselling available to students to reintroducing interaction sessions, the administration is doing everything to reassure the freshers and create a cushion of familiar people around them.

According to V Ramgopal Rao, director, the humanities and social sciences departments submitted a report last month on why students fall back on academics and recommended steps on how to help them deal with pressure. "The departments found that the first semester was the most critical, and if students manage to get through that, they will do well through their course at IIT-D," Rao said.

In step with the recommendations, the Hindi cell of the institute, till now restricted to translating administrative directives, has been assigned the job of helping first-year students from Hindi-medium schools to cope with academics. Rao himself meets faculty members weekly to sensitise them to student issues. "We tell the teachers to be gentler in their dealings with the students, establish a connection and engage with them on a more personal level," the director explained.

Teaching assistants have also been deployed to sit from 8pm to 10pm at the hostels and help students with their studies.

As soon as the minors — the first tests in the course — are over, three counsellors will visit each hostel and counsel students on what to expect in the future and how to handle the burden. BSW member Divyam Gupta said this exercise used to be done in the first few weeks after the start of a new session, but was rescheduled to after the minors. Gupta explained this was "because after spending some time here, the students can connect to counsellors better and understand the issues that might crop up".

BSW has also reintroduced the Student Teacher Interaction Council (STIC) dinner, considered last year to be 'ineffective and so terminated. While the earlier dinners were formal and departmental, this year the groups are smaller and the students selected on the basis of common teachers. "In an informal setting, the freshers are able to speak to teachers and teaching assistants in a more relaxed atmosphere," said Gupta.

Sperenza, the annual cultural event, is also expected to help. "Most of the time, only those excelling in particular activities take part because the events are competitive," a student pointed out. "This time, we have organised talks and even meetings with alumni that are non-competitive. These will help newcomers to integrate better."

आईआईटी छात्रों के सामने 10वीं के छात्रों ने बनाया रोबोट

http://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/dhanbad/story-10th-students-made-robots-in-front-of-iit-students-10th-student-created-robot-1381527.html



शनिवार को आईआईटी समेत अन्य तकनीकी संस्थानों के छात्र-छात्राओं उस समय हैरत में पड़ गए, जब स्कूली बच्चों ने रोबोट बनाकर उसका प्रदर्शन किया। सररस्वती विद्या मंदिर भूली के 10वीं कक्षा के तीन छात्र जनल हसन, फैजल हसन व अशद हबीबुल्लाह खनन प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद पहुंच गए। तीनों छात्रों ने रोबोटिक्स में भाग लेने का अवसर मांगा।

सोसाइटी फॉर माइनिंग, मेटलर्जी एंड एक्सप्लोरेशन (एसएमई) के सदस्यों ने प्रतियोगिता से अलग हटकर अवसर दिया। तीनों स्कूली छात्रों की टीम राबो मेनिया ने एक रोबोट तैयार कर दिया। रोबोट पांच सौ मीटर तक चलकर काम कर सकता है। अंडर गाउंड माइंस में गैस डिटेक्सन से लेकर अन्य खुबियां दिखाई। तीनों छात्रों को आईआईटी आइएसएम के फैकल्टी एडवाइजर डा. धीरज कुमार ने 10 हजार रुपए व आईआईटी खड़गपुर के फैकल्टी एडवाजइर ने 15 हजार रुपए यानी कुल 25 हजार रुपए स्कॉलरिशप देने की घोषणा की। सबों ने बधाई दी। तीनों छात्रों ने सबों का दिल जीत लिया। एसएमई के आए प्रतिनिधियों ने यह देखकर खुशी जताई।

बताते चलें कि आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद में खनन 2017 के आयोजन का दूसरा दिन था। इससे पूर्व आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद में आयोजित खनन 2017 के दूसरे दिन रोबोटिक्स के तहत छात्रों को रोबोटिक लोडर बनाकर यह दिखाना था कि सात मिनट के अंदर सबसे ज्यादा मैटेरियल कौन ले जाता है। रास्ते में बालू से लेकर कई बाधाएं थी। सबों को दूर कर रोबोट लोडर को यह काम करना था। प्रतियोगिता कई चरण में हुई। कम समय लेने वाले रोबोट लोडर ने अगले चरण के लिए क्वालीफाई किया। एक छात्र को इंटर्नशिप भी ऑफर हुई है। कोल डंप, उपकरण, इनोवेशन समेत अन्य चीजें देखी गई। फैकल्टी एडवाइजर डा. धीरज कुमार ने बताया कि प्लेसमेंट फीवर में एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट, ग्रुप डिस्कशन, क्विज, माइनिंग क्विज, पेपर प्रजेंटेशन, डिजिटल डिजाइन समेत अन्य कार्यक्रम हुआ। छात्रों को एक केस स्टडी दिया गया। केस स्टडी के अनुसार दो कोल सीम के बीच तीन मीटर का पार्टिंग है। इसमें वेंटीलेशन, सेफ्टी से लेकर कार्य कैसे किए जाएंगे? समेत अन्य समाधान निकालना था? छात्रों ने इसका समाधान बताया।

रविवार को फाइनल होगा। इससे पूर्व सोसाइटी फाँर माइनिंग, मेटलर्जी एंड एक्सप्लोरेशन (एसएमई) स्टूडेंट चेप्टर के अध्यक्ष जान जी मनसंती व विशिष्ट अतिथि कार्यकारी निदेशक डेविड एल खांग्ये ने डा. धीरज कुमार के साथ लोदना कोलियरी में माइनिंग का जायजा लिया। ओवर वर्डन पर बने गोकुल पार्क देखने के बाद इसकी सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में कठिनाई में भी माइनिंग का काम सिस्टेमेटिक करने किया जा रहा है। यह अच्छी पहल है।

आईआईटी : वॉलमार्ट में 10 छात्रों को इंटर्नशिप

http://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/dhanbad/story-iit-ism-1381497.html

आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद के 10 छात्रों को वॉलमार्ट ने इंटर्नशिप देने की घोषणा की है। चयनित छात्रों में से आठ छात्र कंप्यूटर साइंस इंजीनियरिंग के तथा दो छात्र मैथ एंड कंप्यूटिंग इंजीनियरिंग के हैं। चयनित छात्रों को बधाई दी है।

August 26

बीएचयू IIT: गूगल ने नवप्रवेशी छात्रों को दिया स्टार्टअप का प्लेटफार्म

http://www.livehindustan.com/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/story-bhu-iit-google-launches-the-startup-platform-for-innovative-students-1379922.html

गूगल के सहयोग से आईआईटी बीएचयू में तीन दिवसीय स्टार्टअप वीकेंड का आयोजन हुआ। इसमें आईआईटी के नवप्रवेशी छात्रों ने विभिन्न मुद्दों पर भविष्य में बिजनेस की सम्भावनाओं पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किये। कार्यक्रम में 123 छात्रों ने अपने विचार रखे जिनमें टॉप 20 नए विचार चयनित हुए हैं। ये छात्र अपने विचार को सफल बनाने के लिए योजना बताएंगे। उनमें से तीन सर्वश्रेष्ठ योजनाओं का विशेषज्ञ चयन करेंगे।

फार्मासिटीकल ट्रेड की प्रथम वर्ष की छात्रा प्रणित त्यागी और रेचल ने महिला सुरक्षा के मद्देनजर ड्रग्स का पता लगाने वाली एक नेल पॉलिश तैयार करने का विचार प्रस्तुत किया। छात्राओं ने बताया कि आधुनिक युग में लड़िक्यों व महिलाओं का पब व डिस्को में जाना आम बात है। यहां पर ड्रग्स देकर उनके साथ कोई भी हादसा हो सकता है। ऐसे में इस नेल पॉलिश पर लगते ही ड्रग का कलर बदल जाएगा और उसका पता चल जाएगा। वहीं कम्प्यूटर साइंस के रिक्षित और ऋत्विक ने लेबर, प्लम्बर, पेटिंग समेत कई चीजों को एक जगह मुहैया कराने वाला एप बनाने का विचार प्रस्तुत किया। इसके अलावा भी कई छात्रों ने अलग-अलग विचार प्रस्तुत किया।

कार्यक्रम संयोजक आईआईटी के ही छात्र मयंक और बेट्री ने बताया कि स्टार्टअप शुरू करने के लिए 123 छात्रों ने अपने विचार रखे थे। इनमें 20 विचारों को चुना गया है। अब ये लोग अपने विचारों के अनुसार योजना बनाकर जज के सामने प्रेजेन्टेशन प्रस्तुत करेंगे। इसके बाद टॉप तीन छात्रों के विचारों को चयन होगा। इनको प्रमाण पत्र व प्रस्कार दिया जाएगा। कार्यक्रम का समापन रिववार को होगा।

IIM-N placement process grinds on, Rs21 lakh highest offer

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/iim-n-placement-process-grinds-on-rs21lakh-highest-offer/articleshow/60233324.cms

Nagpur: Not all students of the maiden batch of Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM-N) could secure jobs even several months into campus recruitment process. In spite of being mentored by country's topmost B-school, IIM-Ahmedabad, only 38 of the 53 students from IIM-N were placed until June 8 this year. The highest pay package being Rs21 lakh per annum.

The premier B-school, being run from VNIT premises, seemed reluctant to make details about rest of the students public as its official placement report talks about only those placed on campus. Mahametro, Vishvaraj, Persistent, Tech Mahindra, L&T, Yes Bank were among the major recruiters for 2015-17 postgraduate programme batch.

IIM-N director LS Murthy told TOI, "Most students are placed and some have opted out of the placement process to explore career options on their own. Only three students are left in the process. IIM-N is committed to facilitate all students in their placement endeavours."

On the highest offer fetched by IIM-N student, Murthy hinted that the number represented cost to company and may not be what the candidate would actually get as salary. "About Rs21.6 lakh was the highest while Rs7.5 lakh per annum was the lowest. These numbers have to be carefully understood in view of various components that go into it," he said.

Nagpur was among the six new IIMs started by the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) in 2015. Asked how IIM-N fared compared to other new IIMs, Murthy declined. "We do not quite well know the ground realities of other places; hence it is not appropriate to compare. It is important to understand the basis for comparison. Having said that, looking back, we would say that IIM-N has done well," he added.

Murthy said like the other five IIMs, IIM-N also had its own challenges - like getting infrastructure, administration etc ready, getting good faculty to teach while not compromising on the standards, and so on. "Yet, looking back, we should say IIM-N fared very well," he said.

The IIM-N director sounded happy with companies participating in the placement drive. "The mix and quality of the recruiters and offers that IIM-N received are very good. We indeed appreciate our recruiters for their support and enthusiasm shown in IIM-N," he said.

August 25

IIT Guwahati qualifies for Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2017 grand finale http://indiatoday.in/education/story/iit-guwahati/1/1033780.html

Out of 35 teams which participated in the Guwahati qualifying final round of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2017, IIT Guwahati emerged as the winner.



Out of 35 teams which participated in the Guwahati qualifying final round of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2017, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) emerged as the winner. The quiz was held at the Cotton University on the occasion of The Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week, which is being celebrated in its eleventh edition, instituted in memory of Swedish innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist Alfred Nobel.

As per an Assam Tribune report, the three-member team comprising Syed Masoom Mumeen, Yash Pote and Angshuman Das did their institution proud by answering the brain-teasers posed by quizmaster Kunal Savarkar and winning the Guwahati finals in which 35 teams participated.

The winners of the Guwahati round will now represent the city at the national finals, which will be held in New Delhi on October 11. The quiz will also be held in Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Indore, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi.

Reward

A statement issued by the organisers read, "The winners of the national quiz will get an all-expense paid trip to Sweden, where they will visit headquarters of the partnering companies, Swedish universities and the Nobel Museum".

The partnering companies for Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2017 are -- Atlas Copco, IKEA, Oriflame, SAAB, Sandvik, Scania, Tetra Pak, Volvo Cars and Volvo Group. Simon Bertilsson, Counsellor (Head of Migration) from the Embassy of Sweden, handed out the prizes at the inter-collegiate quiz competition which saw avid quizzers from across reputed colleges and technical institutes of the city and from nearby areas.

Karnataka wants 25 per cent quota for local students in IIT-Dharwad

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2017/aug/25/karnataka-wants-25-per-cent-quota-for-local-students-in-iit-dharwad-1648007.html

BENGALURU: The state government, which succeeded in getting an IIT for Dharwad after a prolonged struggle, is now gearing up to ensure a 'fair share of seats' for Karnataka students. It is worried that only six students from Karnataka succeeded in getting seats in IIT Dharwad in its inaugural year. Higher Education minister Basavaraj Rayareddi said, "The state government has provided 470 acres of land for the IIT in Dharwad. But only six students from the state got the seats.

We will urge the Union government to allocate 25 per cent of seats for students from Karnataka in the coming years by amending the IIT Act." For the first time in the country, 16 residential first grade (degree) colleges are being established in the state. The proposed colleges will start functioning from the coming academic year itself,

Rayareddi announced. These colleges will offer BA, BCom and BSc courses. It will cost about Rs 25 crore each for the construction of these colleges. Most of these colleges will be opened in the backward districts of Bidar, Yadgir, Koppal and Ballari, the minister said. He further added, "The long pending demand for filling vacant posts of professors in aided private colleges is being fulfilled with the state government recently approving the proposal for recruitment of 1,500 professors. About 3,000 posts of professors are vacant in these colleges. A plan is being drafted for upgrading the infrastructure in government first grade colleges too."

IIM-L students develop artificial intelligence based cameras, to put check on thefts at shops http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/iim-l-students-develop-artificial-intelligence-based-cameras-to-put-check-on-thefts-at-shops/articleshow/60227011.cms



LUCKNOW: Next time there is an unauthorsied entry or theft in your store, you need not panic. An initiative by two students of Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIML) will help identify critical incidents allowing the owner and authorities to take real-time action by informing them through mobile application or internet. This happens when self-adaptive and evolving software -- Artificial Intelligence (AI) -- gets integrated with CCTV surveillance cameras and sensors. The end product is smart AI based' CCTV cameras which automatically tracks critical incidents.

According to Amit Singh and Amit Srivastava, owners of Constems-AI (C-AI), a computer vision based AI and internet of things (IoT) start-up, smart CCTV camera and sensors in-built with such AI system can automatically capture sensitive activities of human and objects/vehicles. This includes vehicular information or movements, capture number plate details, and human face signatures with gender and age, and report to authorities for necessary action. "C-AI has revolutionary application in surveillance, security, retail and transportation areas," said Singh, chief executive officer, C-AI, and a reserach scholar at IIML. Srivastava, chief technology officer at C-AI, finished his executive MBA from IIML in 2016.

Launched recently at joint dealers and system integrators meet at New Delhi, the start-up was incubated at IIML's entrepreneuial cell L-Incubator. In simple terms, Singh said, C-AI is a full stack vertical AI solutions company which have its clients from retail and big brands who are interested in understanding their shopper's behavior in retail. "This would help retailers and brands sell their products more effectively," he said, adding the idea is to integrate AI in daily lives to make living safer, simpler and smarter.

C-AI has joined hands with Bluei as its hardware partner. Bluei is involved in sourcing and assembling innovative electronics

hardware. C-AI, with Bluei, has developed the enterprise series (e-series) AI based Camera, integrated with sensors and GPS systems with AI capabilities to auto-monitor, analyze and act on any pre-defined critical situation in the real-time.

Engineering Student from IIIT Delhi Bags Highest Package of Rs 35 Lakh

http://businessworld.in/article/Engineering-Student-From-IIT-Delhi-Bags-Highest-Package-Of-Rs-35-Lakh/25-08-2017-124819/

The maximum annual salary package offered was Rs 35 lakh, given to a BTech graduate from an ERP system manufacturing company Works Application. The institute has claimed offers of up to RS 26.5 lakh for MTech stream



Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Delhi has concluded its campus placement season for the 2016-17 batch with more than 100 companies making as many as 342 offers to the students. The average salary package received by students this year stood at Rs 12 lakh per annum.

The maximum annual salary package offered was Rs 35 lakh, given to a BTech graduate from an ERP system manufacturing company Works Application. The institute has claimed offers of up to RS 26.5 lakh for MTech stream.

While technology giants like Google, Oracle and IBM came looking for fresh recruits, companies such as Amazon, Qualcomm, Works Application, IBM Research, Sandisk, Directi, and Adobe also offered jobs to students. Major job profiles were offered as software developers, research engineers, data scientist, design engineer, system engineer and business analyst.

The campus hosted all the prominent consulting groups during the first phase. IIIT Delhi hosted 25 companies during its second phase of placement. The maximum annual compensation package was of Rs 16.5 lakh offered by Qualcomm. This was the first time that Qualcomm, an A+ category company visited IIIT-Delhi. The institute also claims that this year emerged as the biggest recruiter of the season making 32 offers.

Pankaj Jalote, Director, IIIT-Delhi commented on the same, "We are delighted. Our students have made us proud by bagging such handsome offers from leading companies. This is a moment of joy and pride. It is an affirmation of IIIT-D's reputation and training."

August 23

Ashok Leyland and IIT Madras Signs MOU for Sponsoring 'Centre of Battery Engineering'

https://www.drivespark.com/four-wheelers/2017/ashok-leyland-iit-madras-mou-centre-of-battery-engineering-023396.html



Ashok Leyland and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), on August 19, 2017, to sponsor the Centre of Battery Engineering (CoBE) at IIT Madras. The CoBE will help the ongoing research by facilitating collaboration between industry and researchers, which is currently lacking, to study various battery characteristics that are not completely understood even among global players. IIT Madras has an excellent track record of working with industry leaders and innovators. Ashok Leyland is also keen on carrying out a fair amount of private consulting research projects with CoBE over the next few years. Apart from that, CoBE will play a major role in coordinating synergy with various industry partners to develop a holistic cooperation model across the entire value chain of EV Batteries. Through this partnership, Ashok Leyland aims to support the EV ecosystem at a national level.

BTech and bust: Why Indians rush to be engineers when there are no jobs

http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/is-the-engineering-dream-over-after-iit-students-now-prefer-mba-and-govt-jobs/story-skQp6FdebWG7o1qSnnDUKO.html

Engineering students are seeing the degree as a path towards a government job as they regard it better in terms of security, starting pay and perks.

Six lakh information technology professionals are expected to lose their jobs over the next two three years, according to a forecast by a leading head hunter. Studies suggest that almost half of those who graduate from the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) take their skills to work in financial markets and consulting.

Has the great engineering dream died?

The answer, experts say, depends on what the 1.5 million engineers graduating every year dream of.

Conversations with students, faculty members and higher education experts suggest students don't always sign up for engineering courses just to become engineers and to start designing new engines for cars, extending the

lifetime of a battery, building the next big software giant or taking part in the "Digital India" programme. Most of them simply want a job — any job, and given a choice, a job with the government.

When the news of IT sector layoffs reached Rohtak, Dharampal Dahiya, 19, didn't care. He has finished his second year in civil engineering and has been preparing for competitive examinations to get a government job. That is all he wants. And so do most of his classmates.

Dahiya travels 30 km everyday from his village Sisana in Sonepat to Matu Ram Institute of Engineering and Management, a private college in Rohtak. His father, a farmer, didn't want him to follow in his footsteps, for agriculture is no longer a profitable occupation. His parents enrolled him in an engineering college, as friends and relatives suggested a BTech will ensure a "stable career".

Sandeep Malik's story is not very different. The 26-year-old from Rohtak finished his BTech in 2013 and became the first engineer in his family. "I couldn't clear the National Defence Academy exam after Class 12. With my BTech background, I can possibly get a technical entry in the defence sector." Like Dahiya, Malik took up engineering primarily to get a government job.

Their aspirations mirror that of India's youth at large: the latest CSDS-KAS Youth Study, released in April 2017, found that 65% of Indian youth would prefer a government job; just 7% wished for a job in the private sector. The lure of a government job is obvious: job security, allowances and better pay at the entry level.

But how valuable is an engineering degree for a government job?

In retrospection, Malik says "not much", as he explains the economics: "Engineering education costs around Rs 60,000 per year; a BA costs Rs 4,000-10,000. So you are spending four years, and around Rs 2.4 lakhs to get a BTech degree. BA is significantly cheaper and saves you a whole year, meaning additional time for preparation."

Dahiya and Malik went to one of the thousands of private colleges that have sprung up in the country to fulfil the demand of engineering education. 3,288 engineering colleges exist under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), more than double from the 1,511 colleges ten years ago.

On the other extreme, lie the IITs, the best that the country has to offer. But apart from the coveted civil services examinations, government jobs hardly figure on the list an IIT undergraduate.

Means to an end

1.5million

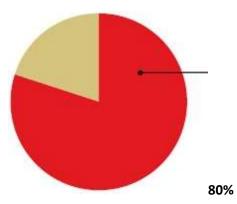
Engineers graduate every year in India as opposed to 95,000 in the United States

40%

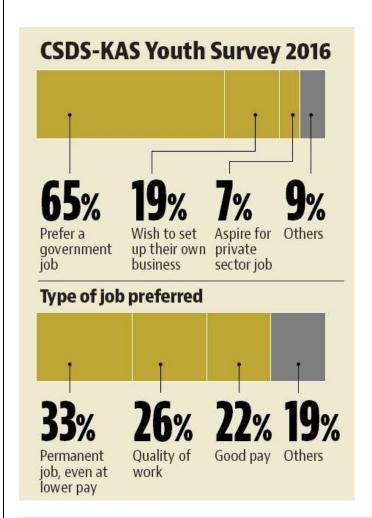
AICTE-enrolled engineering college students get campus placements, which is relatively low

3,288

Engineering colleges come under the AICTE more than double from the 1,511 colleges ten years ago



of the engineers in India are unemployable, says National Employability Report 2016 by Aspiring Minds



The survey was conducted by Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in April-May 2016 in 19 States of India among over 6,000 respondents aged 15-34 years

Where do IIT grads end up?

Using 2013 placement statistics of IIT-Bombay, Milind Sohoni, a computer science professor at the institute, found that 45% of the BTech students took up jobs in finance and consulting, 24% in IT and 8% in FMCG and non-IT. Just 22% took up jobs in engineering and technology, which Sohoni argues is the most relevant sector to IIT-Bombay's mandate and training.

This tells us that neither is working in technology companies a priority for students nor does an engineering degree guarantee a job.

Why the rush for BTech?

One explanation is that a degree serves as a signal.

"Given the returns to and the costs of investing in education, individuals make rational investment choices with respect to education," Michael Spence said in his 2001 Nobel Prize lecture. "Employers have beliefs about the relation between the signal and the individual's underlying productivity," he went on to say.

What this means is that employers use an engineering degree as a "signal" that the graduate is more talented and capable compared to those who don't possess one, regardless of whether college education has any direct relevance or implication for the job being offered.

Economists like Spence say that "signalling" depends on both the institution one went to and the degree they possess.

In the Indian labour market, a professional degree like engineering, which is more focused on empirical ability than arts and humanities, has higher "perceived" economic returns.

But if everyone becomes an engineer, then the signalling function of the Btech degree falls, and employers have no way of distinguishing technically proficient professionals from those who are engineers simply in name.

Colwin Fernandes, chief technology officer of Opcito Technologies, says this has already begun. "Engineering graduates are completely lost. The whole idea is that people seem to be that they think they are entitled to a job. If you are unemployable, you are not competing in the IT job market," he said.

Fernandes warns that the labour market is changing rapidly due to advances in automation technology. New jobs will come up, he said, but Indian engineers may not be able to take them up. "Layoffs will happen. Graduates need to make themselves layoff-proof."