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IIT-Delhi takes unprecedented step, makes summer internships optional

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/iit-delhi-takes-unprecedented-step-makes-summer-internships-optional/articleshow/48703643.cms>

NEW DELHI: IIT Delhi has taken an unprecedented step this year, encouraged by the ever-increasing success stories of startups. For the first time in its nearly five-and-half decade history, the institute has made summer internships optional for its students.


From this year, other than summer internship, third-year students can opt for live projects in subjects like robotics and design-based learning, or pick up any other hobby project after consulting the department. Until last year, it was mandatory for everyone to go for a 10-week internship, which often helped students secure job offers.

What made one of the oldest IITs in the country to think differently were the stories of youngsters making it big in the world of business with their disruptive ideas, and the government's thrust to promote entrepreneurship. An increasing number of students are pursuing entrepreneurial ambitions now while they are still in college.

"Aspirations and interests of the students are changing. Not all students now want to go to the industry for training. Many want to try their hands on entrepreneurship. In addition, a few want to pursue higher studies," said IIT Delhi dean — academics Anurag Sharma.

Tweaks and Turns

<p>IIT Delhi has renamed internships as 'Design and Practical Experience'</p>	<p>Students have the option of trying out live projects in subjects like robotics and design-based learning, or pick up any other hobby project after consulting the department</p>	<p>IITs in Kanpur and Roorkee prefer that their students go in for summer internships but due to paucity of good companies around their locations, have made the process optional</p>
<p>IIT Bombay also allows students to choose other engagements</p>	<p>IIT Madras and IIT Kharagpur continue to stick to internship</p>	



While some IITs still insist on summer internships, a few like IIT Bombay already allow students to choose other engagements as well.

IIT Madras and IIT Kharagpur continue to stick to internship. "It is compulsory here as we believe that this gives the student experience while being on the job," said a faculty at IIT Madras.

IITs in Kanpur and Roorkee prefer that their students go for summer internship but due to paucity of good companies around their locations, they have made it optional. According to a faculty member at IIT Kanpur, almost every year there is a debate to make internship compulsory.

For companies, offering internship gives a chance to identify and evaluate fresh talent and tap into. For instance, Raj Raghavan, director-human resources, at Amazon India, says it is "a key source for identifying talent, grooming the same and later hiring the into the Amazon fold".

Though more and more students from top institutes are choosing to work on their own products and businesses, companies don't seem to be concerned about any shortage of talent as the number of engineering and technical institutes is growing as well in the country. "If a few IITs decide that they will not encourage internships, we will go to non-IIT institutes," a leading oncampus recruiter said.

Boston Consulting Group is one of the companies that heavily rely on internship for identifying new talent. "During the summer internship programme, we are able to evaluate the candidate better based on their ability to learn, develop

their skills, build relations and make an impact," said Suresh Subudhi, partner and head of recruitment at BCG India.

IIT Delhi, meanwhile, has renamed its summer internship programme 'Design and Practical Experience'. The design and practical experience will now fetch five non-graded points for the students in their third year.

To get their degree, students have to earn 15 non-graded points in all. Two points can be earned through projects such as on robotics, designing, car-race designing and other hobby projects. Starting from this year, IIT Delhi will give non-graded points to language learning, communication skills, ethics and social responsibility.

At IIT Kharagpur, an eight-week summer internship is mandatory. "Both at the undergraduate level and the master's level for integrated degree, summer internship is compulsory," said chairman of Career Development Centre SK Barai. This is the route to get the pre-placement offers and hence will not be done away with, he added.

IIT Roorkee wants its students joining internship in their third year but it sees a problem. "Not all companies are really keen on teaching or training our students. They just take interns for the sake of it and this exercise becomes useless for our students," said director Pradipta Banerji. IIT Roorkee encourages its students to join academic research institutes abroad.

Nevertheless, Roorkee has intensified its engagement with industry to give a platform to the students for practical training. "We are in the process of signing more MoUs for research and development and this will help our students in getting access to live training," Banerji said.

Start-up makes Safer pendant to protect women

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New Delhi: Gift your sister a 'Safer' pendant this Rakhi. The smart pendant, developed by a start-up Leaf comprising five Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and Delhi Technological University (DTU) students, will be on sale via a crowd-funding campaign on Raksha Bandhan on Saturday.



The students developed the pendant using the prize money they had won at various business plan competitions, including ₹10L received at a competition at IIT-Mumbai in 2014

If a woman feels threatened, all she has to do is press the pendant twice. This will immediately send alerts to pre-selected people called "guardians", who will then be able to track her movement in real-time on maps. It works with the Safer app on the wearer's mobile phone.

The pendant has been designed and created by Paras Batra of IIT-D and Chiraag Kapil, Manik Mehta, Avinash Bansal and Ayush Banka, all from DTU. The students claimed that they, "want to change the world by first making it a safe place for women to

live, learn and work".

"Raksha Bandhan is the perfect occasion to launch our crowd-funding campaign. On this day, when all brothers renew their pledge to protect their sisters, this is the ultimate gift that realizes this promise," said Mehta, director of finance and strategy at Leaf.

Other features of the pendant include SaferWalk, where the woman can choose the beginning and end points of her commute, and select a guardian who will then be able to SaferWalk with her in real-time on maps till she reaches her destination.

The students developed the pendant using the prize money they had won at various business plan competitions, including Rs 10 lakh received at a competition at IIT-Mumbai in 2014. In fact, Kapil was named as the most Promising Young Entrepreneur at a business competition in Singapore who led the team of five at the 8th Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition organized by the Singapore Management University and received a prize of \$5,000 earlier this month.

In September, Leaf will be at Silicon Valley as one of the Top 10 Innovators of India, an initiative sponsored by Department of Science and Technology-Lockheed Martin's India Innovation Growth Programme.

"We've been perfecting Safer over the past six months, and are now ready to deliver it. But we need a commitment of 500 pieces to place an order with our suppliers," said Bansal, director of operations.

"Our aim is to put a Safer in every woman's hands, so she is empowered to live freely, fully, and, of course, safely," said Batra.

Hindustan Times ND 28/08/2015 P-20

M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates IIT Roorkee - NBCC Research and Development Centre

M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Urban Development, inaugurated IIT Roorkee-NBCC Research & Development Centre on Sustainable Civil Infrastructure at IIT Roorkee's Greater Noida Extension Centre. The function was attended by Dr. Anoop Kumar Mittal, CMD, NBCC and Prof. Pradipta Banerjee, Dir, IIT Roorkee, among others.

Congratulating the initiative of NBCC and IIT Roorkee, Naidu stressed upon the need for research and development in to-



day's environment and said that the innovation through constant research can only bring faster infrastructure development of the nation. The joint research

and development centre shall have initial validity of five years where NBCC would sponsor research project worth Rs 5 crore to IIT Roorkee.

आईआईटी रुड़की में 46 सीटें खाली

अंकित कुमार गर्ग

रुड़की। आईआईटी जैसे नामीगिरामी संस्थानों में भी सीटें खाली रह जा रही हैं। इस बार 46 छात्रों ने आईआईटी रुड़की को तरजीह नहीं दी। इन रिक्त सीटों में से जेईई-2015 के तहत रुड़की को 1030 सीटों के सापेक्ष 21 कम सीटें अलॉट की गई थी। इसके बाद अलॉट छात्रों में से भी 25 छात्र दाखिला लेने नहीं पहुंचे। अब प्रीपैरेटरी कोर्स के तहत रजिस्टर्ड तीन छात्रों को मिलाकर प्रवेश लेने वाले छात्रों की संख्या 987 हो गई है।

आईआईटी रुड़की के सत्र 2015-16 में 46 सीटें रिक्त रह गईं। इन रिक्त 46 सीटों में 16 सामान्य जाति, 7 अन्य पिछड़ा

- सीट आवंटन के बाद भी 25 छात्रों ने नहीं लिया प्रवेश
- सिविल जैसी महत्वपूर्ण ब्रांच में भी तीन सीटें खाली



वर्ग, 4 अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग और 19 एसटी वर्ग की सीटें हैं। चौकाने वाली बात यह है कि देशभर में धाक जमा चुकी आईआईटी की सिविल ब्रांच में भी दो सामान्य और एक अनुसूचित जाति वर्ग की सीटें रिक्त हैं। संस्थान की ओर से प्रथम वर्ष में



रिक्त सीटों का कारण मनपसंद ब्रांच नहीं मिलना है।

काउंसिलिंग के दौरान आईआईटी में सीट आवंटित होने के बाद कई छात्र एनआईटी जैसे संस्थानों में बेहतर या मनपसंद ब्रांच मिलने के बाद आईआईटी में प्रवेश नहीं लेते। - प्रो. डीके नौडियाल, डीन आफ स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर, आईआईटी, रुड़की

रिक्त सीटों की संख्या

बायोटेक में 6, केमिकल में 3, सिविल में 3, कंप्यूटर साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग में 1, इलेक्ट्रिकल में 2, मेकेनिकल में 1, मेटैलर्जिकल एंड मैटीरियल इंजीनियरिंग में 6, पालीमर साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग में 10, प्रोडक्शन एंड इंडस्ट्रियल इंजीनियरिंग में 2, आर्किटेक्चर 5, इंटीग्रेटेड एमटेक जियोफिजिकल टेक्नोलॉजी में 2, इंटीग्रेटेड एमटेक जियोफिजिकल टेक्नोलॉजी में 2, आईएमएस-एपीएम में 3, सीटें रिक्त हैं।

प्रवेश के लिए कुल 1030 सीटें निर्धारित की गई थीं। काउंसिलिंग के दौरान जेईई-2015 के तहत संस्थान को इनमें से 1009 सीटें ही मिल पाई थीं। इसके बाद जिन 1009 छात्रों को आईआईटी रुड़की के लिए सीट अलॉट हुई। उनमें से भी प्रवेश

के दौरान 984 छात्र ही पहुंच सके। इस तरह संस्थान की 46 सीटें रिक्त रह गईं।

पिछले साल भी रिक्त रही थीं 73 सीटें : आईआईटी में पिछले साल निर्धारित 1065 सीटों में से 992 छात्र ही मिल पाए थे।

Centre paves way for entry of foreign faculty in colleges

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/higherstudies/centre-paves-way-for-entry-of-foreign-faculty-in-colleges/article1-1384875.aspx>

The Centre has given its green light to a new plan – the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) – in higher education that would facilitate tapping eminent scientists and entrepreneurs from abroad for tieups with institutes in the country. The coordinating institute for this programme would be IIT Kharagpur.

IIT Kharagpur would be group leader for IITs, NITs, IIITs, IEST. IISc would be the group leader for IISc and IISER and JNU would represent central universities and law schools while IIM Bangalore would represent business schools. Moreover, IIT Kharagpur would be the national coordinator and the website for this programme would be (gian@iitkgp.ac.in).

“The programme would be implemented by GIAN implementation committee chaired by Vinay Sheel Oberoi, secretary, department of higher education, ministry of human resource development. Now, IIT Kharagpur will lead the GIAN programme to bring international faculty to India. Visits for 500 courses have been planned in 2015-16. An amount of Rs 35 crore has been set aside for this,” said prof PP Chakrabarti, director, IIT Kharagpur.

GIAN is an evolving scheme which will initially include participation of foreign faculty for delivering short or semester-long courses. For earning one credit during a course, one would need to cover 10 to 14 hours over a period of at least one week covering five working days.

The courses offered by the host institute would be thrown open to others also. At least 50% of the participants need to be from other institutes. The host institution will allow transfer of credits if required by the participating institutions.

Besides foreign faculty, faculty members from all IITs, NITs, IISc, IISERs, IEST, National Law Schools, IIMs, central universities and state universities who have received A category ranking under NAAC can submit proposals to offer a subject.

Foreign faculty/experts from academic institutions, research organisations and industries can also submit course proposals or send their expressions of interest to take part as international faculty. The GIAN programme is aimed at augmenting the country’s existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms and elevate India’s scientific and technological capacity as per global standards.

According to IIT-KGP, the proposed GIAN will help increase footfalls of reputed international faculty in Indian academic institutes, provide opportunity to Indian faculty to learn and share knowledge and develop teaching skills in new areas.

It also provides an opportunity to the country’s students to seek knowledge and experience from reputed international faculty.

Times of India ND 28/08/2015 P-15

India exorcises cryogenic ghost with successful GSLV-D6 lift-off

Arun Ram & Janani Sampath | TNN

Sriharikota: On January 5, 2014, when Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) launched GSAT-14 using its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-D5), the score card of its success using an indigenous cryogenic engine read: 1-1.

Isro broke the tie in style on Thursday, clearing all doubts on its cryogenic capabilities by successfully firing GSLV-D6 carrying GSAT-6 into orbit. The first launch using an indigenous cryogenic engine, on April 15, 2010, was a failure.

GSLV-D6 lifted off from the Sriharikota spaceport at 4.52pm. About 17 minutes later, the rocket injected the 2,117kg satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit. "This shows that our previous success was not a fluke," said Isro chairman A S Kiran Kumar. He wasn't, however, exulting when he added: "We have understood the intricacies of a cryogenic engine. If we don't make errors, GSLV will be a good candidate for commercial launches."

What went unelaborated were the military capabilities of the communication satellite (used also for television, telephone, radio and internet) with S-band and C-band transponders that cover the entire country — and a little beyond its boundaries. Besides the utility of GSAT, scientists were happy about the second consecutive success of the indigenous cryogenic engine. After India used up six of the seven engines bought from Russia, Isro's big missions now rest on the success of its cryogenic capabilities.

All eyes were on the "ador-

ROCKET SCIENCE CRYO ENGINE

India on Thursday launched its latest communication satellite, **GSAT-6**, using a **homegrown cryogenic engine**. The first launch using the cryo engine was on January 5, 2014, after Isro grappled with the high-end technology for two decades and triumphed after repeated failures. A look at the the 'elusive' cryogenic technology:

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL?

A cryogenic engine uses liquid oxygen at -253 degrees Celsius and liquid hydrogen at -183 degrees Celsius. This provides the thrust needed in the final stage of the rocket to put satellites, weighing two tonnes or more, into a geosynchronous orbit

Power Provider

The cryogenic engine, used by Isro in its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), is essential for launching heavier satellites. India was earlier using the Polar Satellite launch Vehicle (PSLV) system that doesn't use cryogenic technology and can only put small satellites, weighing just over one tonne, into geosynchronous orbit

Project GSLV

India started the GSLV project in 1990 to become independent in launching geosynchronous satellites. Earlier, the country depended on the US and Europe for launching its INSAT class satellites

able boy" (cryogenic engine) as the rocket's second stage burned out after about five minutes of flight. When the cryogenic engine ignited,

there was a roaring applause. The next 12 minutes, when the engine propelled the satellite into space, were marked by a calm suspense that ended

with the satellite being put into an elliptical geosynchronous transfer orbit.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

NEWSICLE

THE ELITE CLUB

MASTERING THE CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY PUTS INDIA IN THE ELITE CLUB OF JUST SIX MEMBERS. ONLY US, RUSSIA, THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY, CHINA AND JAPAN HAVE DEVELOPED A CRYOGENIC ENGINE



ISRO's communication satellite GSAT-6 in Sriharikota. (Right) GSLV-D5, which was launched in January 2014

EVEN SKY'S NOT THE LIMIT BY REPEATING THE SUCCESS OF JANUARY 5, 2014, WITH THE LAUNCH OF GSAT-6, ISRO HAS A HIGH-END TECHNOLOGY AT HAND THAT MAKES INTERPLANETARY PROBES AND EVEN MANNED MISSIONS TO SPACE A POSSIBILITY



GSLV-D6 carrying GSAT-6 lifts off on Thursday

“On Feb 5, the naughty boy (cryogenic stage) was tamed... now it has been transformed into the most adored boy of Isro

R UMAMAHESWARAN | MISSION DIRECTOR AFTER SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF GSAT-6 ON THURSDAY

IIT-Indore unable to add more seats until it gets own campus

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/indore/iit-indore-unable-to-add-more-seats-until-it-gets-own-campus/article1-1384858.aspx>

The IIT-Indore has suddenly shot in demand after its passouts got handsome packages, but it cannot add more seats till it is shifted to its permanent campus, institute's public relations officer Nirmala Menon said on Wednesday.

At present, the institute is running at three makeshift campuses at IET building, PACL campus and Simrol as its campus project has delayed by over five years.

The IIT was established in 2009 and was to be shifted to its own campus at Simrol, about 30 kilometres away from the city, in 2010. However, due to multiple reasons, the project got delayed and the students have to shuttle between the three campuses.

Menon said the institute, which is scheduled to release its third batch on August 24, 2015, has only 120 seats in B Tech courses because of the paucity of space.

“We are using the IET building at Khandwa road and PACL campus for majority of our courses while the laboratories are at Simrol campus. Therefore, a proposal for more seats will happen only once the institute is shifted to its own campus,” she said.

Despite constraints, the institute is doing well, she said, adding, “An increasing number of students are choosing IIT-Indore due to an increase in the overall placement package. We wish to increase the strength of the batch only after doing a comparative analysis with other leading IITs, like IIT-Bombay.”

She said on an average an IIT has a minimum strength of 150 students in a batch across the country, with an exception of IIT-Khargpur which has the highest number of 1341 seats in the undergraduate B Tech course. However, IIT-Indore has only 120 students, which is below the average and needs to level up at least with Ropar and Mandi IITs having 150 seats each.

IITs, IIMs, NITs can adopt Gram Panchayats for development under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

<http://www.prepsure.com/news/iits-iims-nits-can-adopt-gram-panchayats-for-development-under-unnat-bharat-abhiyan/>

Higher educational institutions such as UGC, AICTE, IITs, IIMs, NITs across the country either funded by government or approved by regulatory bodies can now adopt a cluster of gram panchayats (GP) preferably in backward regions and transform lives in rural India using technology. The mandate before them under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) programme would be to find solutions ranging from village sanitation and drinking water supply to ensuring affordable housing and enhancing educational standards.

The institutes will select the GPs in consultation with the district collectors keeping in mind indicators like MGNREGS households, SC and ST population and agricultural labourers. The task of identifying the GPs should be completed by September 30, said a HRD Ministry circular forwarded to all states and educational bodies.

“Every higher educational institution, which is funded by the Central/State Government, and all institutions which are under approval by regulatory bodies, may adopt a cluster of backward Gram Panchayats (GPs) in their vicinity for the purpose of UBA,” the circular said.

The move in a way signifies broadening the scope and mission of UBA launched in November last year, where IITs and some other centrally funded institutes were engaged in developing villages. The higher educational institutes will consult the village community through the GPs concerned to identify pressing problems faced by the rural communities, and find innovative solutions.

“They are expected to provide intellectual capital for the specific issues faced by the rural communities so that there is a transformational change in the rural lives through technological inputs,” the circular said.

A plan of action has also been proposed to be prepared for each village covering these aspects by end of November and would be sent to the District Collector concerned for dovetailing with the annual action plans of the stakeholder departments.

IIT Delhi, the nodal agency of the UBA programme, will coordinate the efforts of all the institutions and also host an online portal wherein all participating institutions can login and enter the details of the villages selected, action plans prepared and status of their implementation. The HRD will also review to take stock of progress in mid-September.

Benefits of Scientific Research Must Reach Masses: Union Minister Harsh Vardhan

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/benefits-of-scientific-research-must-reach-masses-union-minister-harsh-varadhan-1211632>

Jaipur: Union Minister Harsh Vardhan today asked the state governments to make optimal usage of science to solve problems at all sectors and to take the benefit of scientific research to the masses.

"I noticed some sort of apathy in state governments for having a ministry or department on science. Important research works are happening at different level but its benefit should reach the common people," Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

"I appeal to all the Chief Ministers, science and technology ministers of different states to work on it," he said at the National Conclave of State Science and Technology Councils in Jaipur.

The minister stated that technology innovation, research or getting a patent becomes futile when these things are not connected with people and not applied for their benefit.

"Science has a lot meaning and solution to problems the country is facing in areas like water, agriculture, medicines, energy among others," Dr Vardhan said.

"So much good quality work is going on in laboratories but we are probably not being able to connect it to people," the minister said, adding, "Today, it is not policy for science but science for policy is important. We need to have scientific output for government policies."

The minister said that there is no dearth of talent in the country as many innovations have taken place in recent years

and innovators, ranging from a tribal of a remote village to a sophisticated IIT graduate, received national awards but the problem was of coordination.

"When it comes to convert technology to a useful application, there is a lack of coordination. But the gap can be bridged by paying some extra attention," he said.

Highlighting the government's moves in science and development, Dr Vardhan said, "We are coming up with supercomputing mission, working with other countries to build the world's largest telescope, a significant part of which would be manufactured under Make in India initiative."

India's early warning system of Tsunami was also guiding other nations, which shows the capabilities of the country, the minister said.

"There is so much in offing as the PM is taking visionary steps and introducing schemes and programmes and scientific support is important for the success of these projects," he said.

Secretary of the Central Government's Department of Science and Technology, Ashutosh Sharma who also took part in the programme said, states should promote local, traditional practices which are scientific, like methods of water purification, desalination among others.

Top Singapore firm to build NU library

Hindustan Times (Patna)

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, GEORGE YEO, AND A GROUP OF DONORS SELECTED RSP ARCHITECTS, PLANNERS AND ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED AS THE ARCHITECTS FOR DESIGNING THE LIBRARY

RSP Architects Planners & Engineers, a leading architectural firm in Singapore for over 50 years, will design and construct the central library at the Nalanda University (NU).

Chancellor of the university, George Yeo, and a group of donors selected RSP architects, planners and engineers private limited as the architects for designing the library.

Singapore has pledged Sing\$ 10 million for the library project. A five-member RSP delegation comprising Liu Thai Ker, John Tanny, Lee Chee Li, Peggy Chai Phet Chi and Javier Corral Escribano visited Nalanda to make a presentation for the library before the Vastu Shilpa Consultants, the master planners for the university. Rajeev Kathpalia and his team from Vastu Shilpa were also present.

The delegation also visited the Nalanda ruins, 12 kms from the site of the new NU, and other select buildings in the area and the new Patna museum to have a view of the quality of constructions.

Thai Ker was earlier the master-planner for Singapore and brings with him rich experience in number of global projects. He was also in the jury for the masterplan and architectural design competition of NU.

“On August 24, a tripartite agreement was signed in Rajgir between RSP, VSC and NU. The construction of the library has to conform to the masterplan of the university. RSP will develop the design according to the requirements,” said NU VC Gopa Sabharwal.

She said the work on the campus would also get underway soon. The target is to develop full-fledged campus of the university by 2020.

The Centre had already allotted ` 2,727 crore, which would be spent in building the campus in phases. Bihar government had given 446 acres for the university.

The ancient Nalanda functioned from 413 AD to 1193 AD and had a vast library to cater to around 10,000 students. It was razed by an invading army led by Bakhtiyar Khilji.

It is said that the library kept burning for several months after it was set on fire due to a large number of books in it.