

Newspaper Clips

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P-10

President for increasing enrolment in higher education Presents LakshmiPat Singhania-IIM awards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Pranab Mukherjee said the country should aim at achieving a gross enrolment ratio of 25 per cent in higher education by the end of the 12th Five-year Plan period from 18 per cent at present.

"The gross enrolment ratio in higher education must be targeted to increase from nearly 18 per cent at present to about 25 per cent by 2016-17, the terminal year of the 12th Plan," the President said at the LakshmiPat Singhania-IIM Lucknow National Leadership Awards function here.

Underlining the importance of providing quality education, he said the 12th Five-year Plan approach paper accordingly focusses on teacher training and evaluation and measures to enforce accountability.

It also stressed the need to build capacity in secondary schools to absorb the passouts from primary enrolments.

Mukherjee conferred the awards to Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Limited; Vineet Nayar, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of HCL Technologies Ltd., Professor Man



President Pranab Mukherjee with awardees of the LakshmiPat Singhania - IIM, Lucknow Nation Leadership Awards 2011 in New Delhi on Friday

Mohan Sharma, Former Director, Institute of Chemical Technology, University of Bombay, Mumbai; Dr Gajendra Pal Singh Raghava, Head of the Bioinformatics Centre, Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh; Smt. Amla Ruia, Chairperson, Aakar Charitable Trust, Mumbai; Leela Kumari, Founder, Mahila Vikas Samity, Bihar.

JK Organisation Director, Bharat Hari Singhania said, These awards set a platform for India's young leaders to work towards the betterment of society and lead the economies with their talent."

The jury for the awards included personalities like Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Chairman, C Rangarajan, Competition Commission of India Chairperson, Ashok Chawla, Hari Shankar Singhania, President, J.K Organisation Shri Bharat Hari Singhania, Director, JK Organisation; Dr. Raghupati Singhania, , Director, JK Organisation; Dr. JJ Irani, Chairman, Board of Governors & Dr. Devi Singh, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow.

Times of India Ahmedabad 30-11-2012 P-4

Now, college students can intern with IIT and IIM profs

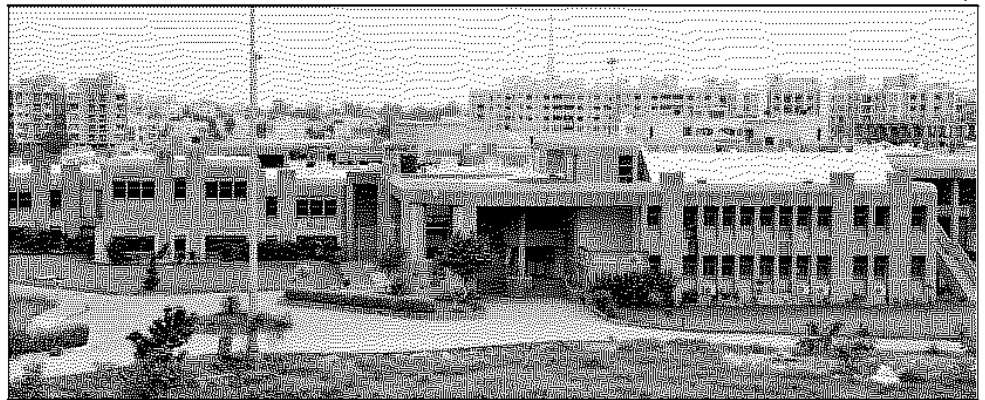
Initiative by IIT-Gn, IIM-A Will Benefit Grads, Undergrads From Across India

Chitra Unnithan | TNN

Ahmedabad: If you thought that only a chosen few had the privilege of learning from distinguished professors at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) or Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), there is good news. Two premier institutes based in Gujarat—IIT Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) and IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A) are now giving students across the country an opportunity to work with their faculty members, who are reputed for their exceptional calibre in research.

IIT-Gn has begun offering a summer internship research programme, where about 35 students from other colleges will get to work with an IIT-Gn faculty during the course of their internship.

Narain Pindoriya, faculty-in-charge for the programme, said, "We used to send our students abroad and to the industry for internships. So, we thought of offering a good opportunity to students interested in research to explore the excellent laboratory



ENLIGHTENING MORE MINDS

at IIT-Gn along with the expertise of the faculty. In future, if we have a good collaboration with the industry, these students can also benefit from campus and industry internship."

The programme strives to bring together engineering and non-engineering students from prominent institutions across the country on the IIT-Gn campus. It will allow the interns to participate in on-going research projects and undergo mentorship by IIT faculty.

Like most internships, students will be offered a stipend and accommodation on campus. Summer Research Internships for the summer of 2013 will be announced in January or February 2013, when interested students will be expected to identify and contact an IIT-Gn faculty, whose research interests them.

Similarly, Centre For Innovation, Incubation & entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM-A will conduct a pilot test in offering students from various colleges an opportunity to be mentored by IIM-A faculty for rural projects. Students from good colleges, mainly based in Ahmedabad, will be offered a six month internship, where they will be assigned six rural districts in Gujarat for study. The students will be guided by IIM-A faculty and will also get to meet angel investors and venture capitalists during the project.

Shashank Rastogi, director-operations at CIIE, said, "CIIE has a large base of rural entrepreneurs and we are largely an urban organisation. The internship will be our attempt to create inroads into rural India and create relationships that CIIE and its social entrepreneurs can leverage."

HT Chandigarh

IIT Ropar bags top spot in Infosys Hashers-2012

HT Live Correspondent

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RUPNAGAR: Abhisar Sharma and Abhishek Kumar Arora studying in the fifth semester of computer science department of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, have bagged the first place in the all India level programming contest, 'Infosys Hashers -2012,' held at Bangalore recently.

The competition com-

prised of two rounds. From teams all around the country, 20 students of various institutes were shortlisted from the preliminaries to enter the mains in which IIT Ropar bagged the first place, IIT Madras bagged second place while IIT Bangalore bagged third place.

The IIT Ropar team received a cash prize of Rs one lakh for their feat. IIT Ropar director Dr MK Surappa honoured the students during a ceremony

THE IIT ROPAR TEAM RECEIVED ₹1 LAKH FOR THEIR FEAT; IIT MADRAS STOOD SECOND, WHILE IIT BANGALORE STOOD THIRD

held in the institute campus on Friday. He lauded the achievements of the students.

IIT Faculty member Dr Sudarshan Iyenger, Dr Nitin Auluck, Dr Apurva Mudgal, Dr Sreenivasan and Dr Harinder Khangura were also present on the occasion. The students thanked the faculty for the help extended by them in achieving the feat. "Our achievement was possible only because of the support and guidance of our faculty members. While talking with teams from other IIT's we realised how supportive and encouraging our fac-

ulty members are, who gave us full support to participate in this event", said Abhisar Sharma and Abhishek Kumar Arora.

The students said, "At IIT Ropar we have strong student-faculty interaction limited not only to the course curriculum but also extending to extra-curricular activities. We are lucky to be a part of IIT Ropar fraternity under the visionary guidance of Dr MK Surappa."

HT Mumbai

IIT-BOMBAY PLACEMENTS TO BEGIN TODAY

MUMBAI: Placements will kick off at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) on Saturday. Around 35 companies are expected to visit on day one. Companies will interview candidates in two slots through the day and the total count of offers on day one will be available the following day. Avijit Chatterjee, the professor in charge of placements said that salary packages were set to rise by between 10% and 20% compared to last year.

HTC

Business Line, ND 1/12/2012 p-5

The storm behind DataWind's Aakash tablets

Didn't promise it would be made in India, says manufacturer

IN FOCUS

Rajesh Kurup
Mumbai, Nov. 30

A raging controversy over the provenance of Aakash tablets, rather than their quality or affordability, has taken the country by storm. This is more of a perception issue, experts say, and it is unlikely to derail India's attempt to empower millions of its poor students with low-cost and subsidised tablets.

The furore erupted after a section of the media reported that DataWind, Aakash's manufacturer, had procured the devices off the shelf from China for \$42 a piece.

DataWind denied it, but added that the motherboard and kits for the first 10,000 units of Aakash 2 were manufactured in China "for expediency". The final assembly and programming was done in India.

"I think what people had the impression was that Aakash is an indigenous and low-cost device that is completely made in India, and the whole controversy revolves around this. The issue, according to me, is a mismatch in presentation versus perception," Vikram Dhanwan, director at wealth management firm Equentis Capital, said.

Media reports said DataWind bought the tablets from at least four manufacturers -- Dasen International Electronics, Shenzhen Shitong Zhaoli Technology, Kalong Technology and Trend Grace Ltd -- and had not produced the tablets in the country.

THE INSIDE STORY

- The circuit boards for Aakash 1 and Aakash 2 were made in Hyderabad
- The capacitive touch screen, which is the most expensive element in Aakash 2, is being manufactured in Montreal, Canada.
- Tablet makers across the globe source their components from low-cost destinations such as China and Taiwan

NO COMMITMENTS

However, DataWind denied there were any commitments on its part to manufacture the tablets in the country.

"Although we are big proponents of manufacturing in India, and there are significant efforts to enable numerous manufacturers to be able to produce tablets in India, there was no commitment to make the product in India," DataWind Chief Executive Officer Suneet Singh Tuli said in an e-mail reply to *Business Line*.

The box of the Ubislate series tablets manufactured by DataWind also did not mention that the devices were 'Made in India', he said.

DataWind also said the circuit boards for Aakash 1 and Aakash 2 were built in Hyderabad. The capacitive touch screen, which is the most expensive element in Aakash2, is being manufactured in Montreal, Canada.

Tablet makers across the globe source their components from low-cost destinations such as China and Taiwan, while the operating systems (OS) in most devices are sourced from larger players. According to industry analysts, Android is the most com-

mon OS on most tablets.

This is the second time DataWind is running into a controversy. Earlier the company failed to provide the devices (Aakash 1) to as many as one lakh students across the country, under a government initiative. While the distributor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Jodhpur (Rajasthan), alleged that nearly 7,000 tablets it received in February did not pass specifications, DataWind countered it stating such specifications were never mentioned in the tender.

The Government later gave the distribution responsibility to IIT-Mumbai, putting an end to the controversy, with institution agreeing to supply the second version, Aakash 2.

Earlier this month, Tuli in an interview with *Business Line* said, the company had made many mistakes trying to make a difference and added that "but I have left them behind".

OUTSOURCED COMPONENTS

"At least 50 per cent of components of products with a 'Made in India' tag, especially electrical products, are sourced from China. Many of the large Indian manufacturers also source



components from Chinese, Japanese or Taiwanese markets to contain costs," said Prashanth Tapse, Associate Vice-President (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd.

Aakash, meaning 'sky' in Hindi, was seen as India's marvel in the technological space, and hence the sense of disappointment.

On Wednesday, the tablets also received the United Nation's endorsement that it would help in revolutionising education.

"It was thought of as the Ta-

ta Nano of computers. At a time when tablet prices are high, a device that cost just Rs 3,500 and even lesser for students, was again an engineering marvel like the Nano," Tapse said, adding the tablet is not a professional device, but good for educational activities.

However, the device, priced at \$35 at launch, would give youth the chance to adopt the digital medium for education rather than the more expensive desktops and laptops.

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