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आईआईटी दिल्ली ने जीता जीई एडिसन चैलेंज

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। जीई एडिसन चैलेंज में आईआईटी दिल्ली की टीम ने बाजी मारी है। जीई ग्लोबल रिसर्च बंगलूरु की ओर से आयोजित इस चैलेंज के सातवें संस्करण में आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों ने जीत हासिल की। इसके साथ ही उन्हें पुरस्कार के तौर पर 10 लाख रुपये प्रदान किए गए।

इस चैलेंज के तहत टीमों को भारत में चौबीस घंटे किफायती पावर के आइडिया को सामने लेकर आना था। इसके लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों ने बायोडीजल प्रोडक्शन यूनिट का आइडिया पेश किया। यह आइडिया जूरी को काफी पसंद आया। वहीं, तमिलनाडु के सलेम के नॉलेज इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी की टीम रनर अप रही।

IIT-B breaches 1,000-job record in 1st phase itself

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Mumbai: The first phase of placements at IIT-Bombay this year ended on a high note on Friday with a record 1,000-plus students being offered jobs, significant jump from 898 last year.

The scene at other IITs is equally encouraging.

At IIT-Madras, 880 students have already got job offers and 850 at IIT-Kanpur. At IIT-Kanpur, the first phase is still to end. All IITs, including IIT-B, have witnessed a growth of 10-15% in offers made in the first phase of campus placements this year. The second phase at most IITs will begin in the first week of January.

By Thursday evening, 997 students at IIT-B had already got job offers. On Friday, a few more companies visited the campus and made around 10 offers. The final confirmation to these offers will come in only by Monday.

"We have managed to get 100 more offers as startups and firms in the e-commerce and manufacturing sectors have increased their hiring this year," said Mohak Mehta, placement manager at IIT-B. Though fewer companies have visited the campus so far this year—around 240 compared with 260—the number of offers made is higher.

Companies such as Olacabs and Dar Al have hired around 40 students each



All IITs have witnessed a growth of 10-15% in offers made in the first phase of campus placements this year

from the campus. By now, pre-placement offers received have exceeded 100, said Mehta. Though, only 50 have been accepted. Around 1,600 students have registered for campus placements, but only around 1,300 students would actually opt for placements. "We have already managed to place around 75% of the batch," Mehta said.

At IIT-Kanpur, after 18 days of the placement drive, more than 850 students were placed with top companies.

At IIT-Madras, close to 65% of the 1,400 candidates got jobs in the first phase; 16% of them are women. As many as 295 companies have visited IIT-Madras this year between December 1 and 19. Last year, the campus hosted 263 companies from December 1 to April 30 when the placement season officially ends.

(Inputs from M Ramya, Abhinav Malhotra, Kangkan Kalita, Rajeev Dikshit)

रोजाना ढाई लाख लीटर ईंधन ट्रैफिक जाम में हो रहा बर्बाद

नई दिल्ली | निर्मल यादव

राजधानी की सड़कों पर ट्रैफिक जाम की समस्या से न सिर्फ समय और ईंधन की बर्बादी में लगातार इजाफा हो रहा है, बल्कि वायु प्रदूषण भी बढ़ रहा है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के शोध में खुलासा हुआ है कि ट्रैफिक जाम में फंसने के कारण वाहनों का लगभग 2.5 लाख डीजल और पेट्रोल हर दिन बर्बाद हो जाता है।

आईआईटी के ट्रांसपोर्टेशन रिसर्च एंड इंजरी प्रिवेंशन प्रोग्राम (ट्रिप) के तहत किए गए शोध में यह बात सामने आई है। विज्ञान, तकनीकी और चिकित्सा से जुड़े जर्नल एल्लेवियर में प्रकाशित शोध में सामने आया है कि जाम के कारण वाहन अपने कुल यात्रा

समय का 24 प्रतिशत समय सिर्फ 4 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे की गति से ही चल पाते हैं। यह भी पाया गया कि राजधानी की सड़कों पर हर समय लगभग दस लाख वाहन दौड़ रहे होते हैं। इनमें बस और कार के अलावा दोपहिया और तीन पहिया वाहन शामिल हैं। ज्ञात हो कि दिल्ली में कुल पंजीकृत वाहनों की संख्या 80 लाख से अधिक हो गई है।

अध्ययन में सात लाख ऐसे वाहनों को शामिल किया गया था, जो वर्ष 2010 से प्रदूषण नियंत्रण की नियमित जांच कर इसका प्रमाणपत्र हासिल कर रहे थे, जिससे ट्रैफिक जाम के सटीक असर का पता लगाया जा सके। अध्ययन में पाया गया कि दिल्ली की सड़कों पर 4.4 से 4.7 साल तक की औसत उम्र वाली कार और बाइक चल

रही हैं, जबकि 17 प्रतिशत ट्रक और 15 प्रतिशत टैपों 10-15 वर्ष पुराने हैं।

ट्रिप के प्रोजेक्ट वैज्ञानिक सरत कुट्टीकुंडा का कहना है कि वाहनों के प्रदूषण नियंत्रण युक्त होने पर निगरानी रखना इस समस्या का तात्कालिक उपाय है। जबकि सड़कों में सुधार और यातायात व्यवस्था को रेडलाइट मुक्त करना ट्रैफिक जाम की समस्या का दीर्घकालिक उपाय है।

इस समस्या का एकमात्र स्थायी समाधान सार्वजनिक परिवहन को दुरुस्त कर लोकप्रिय बनाना है। इसके लिए एकीकृत बस रूट बनाने, हर इलाके को जोड़ते हुए रूट और बसों की संख्या बढ़ाने और छोटे आकार वाली वातानुकूलित बसों की फ्रीक्वेंसी बढ़ाना जरूरी है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के शोध में खुलासा



15 लाख की चपत रोजाना डीटीसी बसों के ब्रेकडाउन से दूसरे वाहनों को लगे रहने के 400 बसों के रोजाना ब्रेकडाउन का मतलब 10-15 हजार लीटर पेट्रोल और करीब पांच हजार लीटर डीजल की बर्बादी

- आईआईटी दिल्ली ने किया दिल्ली के वाहनों पर अध्ययन
- अधिकांश वाहन कुल यात्रा समय का 24 प्रतिशत धीमी गति से चलते हैं
- यह गति सीमा 4 किमी प्रति घंटे तक होती है
- जाम में रोजाना बर्बाद हो रहा है करीब तीन लाख रुपये का डीजल और 12 लाख का पेट्रोल

15 लाख इतने ईंधन पर खर्च होते हैं रोज, एक वर्ष में यह आंकड़ा 50 करोड़ के पार पहुंचता है

More IITians are showing interest in R&D this year

IIT-Madras records 13 per cent as against last year's 2 per cent

CHENNAI, DHNS: There has been a dramatic increase in the number of IITians who opted for Research and Development (R&D) at the placement campus here this year.

IIT-Madras concluded the

first phase of placement on Friday with 880 students being placed from interviews conducted on campus from December 1. "There was an increase of 13 per cent in the number of students who have opted for R&D compared to

previous year's figure of mere two per cent," Viswanathan, Professor, Mechanical Engineering and Advisor, Training and Placement said.

Stating that this year's trend was towards start-up and e-commerce companies, many of which visited campuses all over the country, he said placements in start-ups have accounted for 13 per cent of the total number

of students placed from IIT-Madras. In 2014, a total of 880 IITians being offered jobs by 295 companies and of the total, who were placed, 16 per cent were girl students. In 2013, a total of 905 students who were placed in 263 companies.

According to the professor, the highest domestic salary was Rs 34-lakh for which two offers were made, and the highest fore-

ign salary is \$1,29,500 for which three offers were made.

"Numbers for this phase have almost matched last year's numbers even though this year's season is only half way through," Viswanathan said.

He said there has been a five to ten per cent increase in the number of companies that have come on campus this year and a ten to 12 per cent increase

in the salaries offered, even in core companies.

Cognizant Technology stood first among the recruiting companies to give 36 offers to the students followed by Ola cabs, which recruited 29 IITians.

MBA students had the highest percentage of placement of 92 per cent compared to previous year's figure of 82 per cent.

धुएं की गैसों को सोखकर बनेगी खाद

तकनीक भोपाल के छात्र को जेनेटिकली मॉडिफाइड बैक्टीरिया डेवलप करने में मिली सफलता

निश्चय बोनिया | भोपाल

प्रकृति में पाया जाने वाला ई-कोलाई बैक्टीरिया अब पर्यावरण को वायु प्रदूषण से बचाएगा। यह वही बैक्टीरिया है, जो आमतौर पर प्रदूषित भोजन के जरिए मनुष्य की आंत में पहुंचकर फूड पॉइजनिंग का कारण बनता है। शहर के एक छात्र मयंक साहू ने इस ई-कोलाई बैक्टीरिया के जींस में बदलाव कर उसमें ऐसी क्षमता विकसित करने में कामयाबी हासिल की है, जो उद्योगों की चिमनियों और वाहनों से निकलने वाले धुएं में मौजूद हानिकारक गैसों को अवशोषित

(एब्सॉर्ब) कर सकेगा। यह बैक्टीरिया इन तत्वों को अवशोषित कर इन्हें खाद में बदल देगा। यह खेतों की मिट्टी को उर्वरक बनाने में सहायक होगा।

इस मॉडिफाइड बैक्टीरिया को उद्योगों की चिमनियों में एक डिवाइस के जरिए लगाया जाएगा। पिछले महीने अमेरिका में हुए इंटरनेशनल जेनेटिकली इंजीनियर्ड मशीन कॉन्ग्रेस में इस प्रोजेक्ट को कांस्य पदक मिला है। भोपाल के कैम्पियन स्कूल से पासआउट मयंक इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) दिल्ली में बायोटेक्नोलॉजी की पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं।



मयंक (ऊपर से बीच में) व उसके साथी अवाई के साथ।

हानिकारक गैसों की मात्रा हो जाएगी 50 फीसदी कम

इस डिवाइस से उद्योगों और वाहनों से निकलने वाले धुएं में मौजूद हानिकारक गैसों की मात्रा घटकर केवल 50 फीसदी ही रह जाएगी। मयंक और उसकी टीम के इस प्रयोग को अमेरिका के प्रतिष्ठित मैसाचुसेट्स इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एमआईटी) ने भी सराहा है।

ऐसे काम करेगा डिवाइस

मयंक के अनुसार ई-कोलाई बैक्टीरिया के जींस को इस तरह विकसित किया है, जिससे यह सल्फर-डाय-ऑक्साइड और नाइट्रोजन-डाय-ऑक्साइड को अवशोषित कर सके। डिवाइस में मौजूद बैक्टीरिया, सल्फर-डाय-ऑक्साइड को सल्फर और नाइट्रोजन-डाय-ऑक्साइड को अमोनिया में बदल देते हैं। तय समय में काम करने के बाद यह बैक्टीरिया मर जाते हैं। इन मरे हुए बैक्टीरिया को डिवाइस से बाहर निकालकर इनसे सल्फर और नाइट्रोजन को अलग कर लिया जाता है। डिवाइस से निकली सल्फर और नाइट्रोजन मिट्टी की उर्वरकता को बढ़ाने में सहायक होती है।

Olacabs picks talent from IIT-M

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, December 19

Olacabs, a car rental company, has picked up 29 students across various disciplines from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, through campus recruitment, according to the Institute's advisor in training and placement Babu Viswanathan.

The Mumbai-based company recruited students with annual offers in the ₹10-20 lakh band. This was the first time that the company had visited the Institute, he told newspapers. This year's campus recruitment saw many students' choosing to work for start-ups and e-commerce companies such as Flipkart, Olacabs and Snapdeal.

In the first session, 65 start-ups visited the campus accounting for 13 per cent of the total number of students placed, he said. Though stu-

Top recruiters

	No. of offers
Cognizant Technology	36
Ola Cabs	29
Flipkart	19
Robert Bosch	16
Citicorp Services India	15
EXL	15
TVS Group	15
Goldman Sachs	14
Urban Ladder	13

dents were told about the risk of choosing start-ups, they went ahead due to the challenging work environment and quick career growth when compared to older companies, he said.

The Institute has concluded the first session of placement that commenced on December 1.

A total of 1,260 students registered for interviews of which 880 got placed. This

year, 295 companies came for recruitment, he said.

The highest annual salary offered for a student to work in India was ₹34 lakh for which two offers (in mechanical engineering and aerospace) were made.

The highest annual salary to work abroad was \$129,500 for which three offers were made. The first session almost matched last year's numbers, he said without disclosing company names.

According to Viswanathan, an encouraging trend this year was the increase in hiring by 'core' companies such as TVS Group, GE and Honeywell.

Other prominent companies that visited the campus include Cognizant Technology, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, he said.

The second session will commence on January 18, he said.

Only 5% of IIT-Madras PhD candidates land jobs

[Ramya Manoharan](#), TNN | Dec 20, 2014, 02.50 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Only-5-of-IIT-Madras-PhD-candidates-land-jobs/articleshow/45580994.cms>

CHENNAI: Only around 5% of PhD candidates at IIT-Madras have been placed in companies at the end of the first session of this year's placement season. Two of the 40 PhD candidates registered for placements had found [jobs](#) till Friday.

The track record is different this year because a different system was used for slotting companies visiting campus, said IIT-M students placement coordinator Vishranth Suresh. Core and non-core engineering companies were slotted first and the universities, where PhD candidates usually get placed, later.

"Last time there was a problem when the universities were slotted from December 10. MS and MTech candidates also sat for the sessions, and many got multiple offers. This time we wanted to ensure that candidates don't feel the compulsion to sit for all the sessions, which happens early in the placement season, so only those interested in teaching and academics would consider the options," he said.

The first university visited the campus on Thursday, and the others have been slotted in January and February. "We expect 20-30 PhD candidates to get placed this year," Suresh said.

MBA students have the highest percentage of placement, with 92% of candidates getting placed in the first session. Dual degree (84%) candidates have the second highest placement rate, followed by BTech (76%), MS (60%), MTech (52%), MA (38%). The placement record of MSc candidates is on a par with that of the research scholars, at 5%.

"PhD scholars get [jobs](#) and projects through personal referrals, from faculty and through their own efforts of getting in touch with people working on similar projects in other universities or industry. They don't depend on the generic campus placement process," said IIT-M placement advisor Babu Viswanathan.

By the end of last year's placement season, 22% of PhD candidates who registered got [jobs](#). In 2012-13, the rate was 17%, and close to 44% in 2011-12.

The first session of this season saw around 65% of the 1,360 candidates at IIT-M getting [jobs](#). Two students were offered the highest domestic salary of 34 lakh and three students were offered \$1,29,500, the highest foreign salary. As many as 295 companies made 955 offers. Babu Viswanathan said this year there was a positive trend of core companies picking up quite a few students. The rate of placements was the same in the core sectors and in IT (27%), followed by sectors and in IT (27%), followed by analytics / consulting / finance (16%). There is an increase in the number of candidates opting for R&D [jobs](#) (13%) compared to last year's rate of 2%.

The next round begins on January 18 and the placement season will officially end on April 30.

Deccan Herald ND 20/12/2014

P-12

Nasa's Kepler spacecraft discovers super-earth 180 light years away

WASHINGTON DC: A year and a half after an equipment failure threatened to derail its epochal search for worlds beyond our solar system, Nasa's Kepler spacecraft has bagged another planet, astronomers announced on Thursday.

The new planet is 20,000 miles in diameter, about 2 1/2 times the size of earth, and 12 times as massive, putting it into a category of planets called super-earths that do not exist in our solar system.

It is unlivable, circling a star slightly smaller than the sun about 180 light-years from here in the constellation

Pisces, at the roasting distance of only 8.4 million miles, less than a tenth of the distance between us and our star.

Initial hurdles

Kepler was originally designed to stare at a patch of stars for four years and watch for blinks caused by planets passing in front of them.

Early in 2013, however, one of the reaction wheels that keep the telescope pointed broke down. Engineers figured out a way to compensate using the pressure of sunlight on Kepler's solar panels to stabilize the spacecraft for smaller pe-

riods of time.

During a nine-day test run in February with the telescope, a team led by Andrew Vanderburg of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics detected a planet passing in front of a star known as HIP 116454.

Follow-up observations with ground-based telescopes and the Canadian MOST satellite confirmed the presence of a planet, which astronomers said was probably a water world or a "mini-Neptune," with a small core and a billowing gaseous atmosphere.

The New York Times

NASA's Kepler mission discovers 'super-Earth'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

NASA's planet-hunting Kepler spacecraft which is carrying out a new mission has made its first exoplanet discovery — a 'super-Earth' located 180 light-years from Earth.

Lead researcher Andrew Vanderburg, a graduate student at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, studied publicly available data collected by the spacecraft during a test of the new K2 mission in February 2014.

This led to the discovery of a planet, HIP 116454b, which is 2.5 times the diameter of Earth and follows a close, nine-



day orbit around a star that is smaller and cooler than our Sun, making the planet too hot for life as we know it.

HIP 116454b and its star are 180 light-years from Earth, toward the constellation Pisces.

The discovery was confirmed with measurements taken by the HARPS-North spectrograph of the Telescopio Nazionale Galileo in the Canary Islands, which captured the wobble of the star

caused by the planet's gravitational tug as it orbits.

HARPS-N showed that the planet weighs almost 12 times as much as Earth. This makes HIP 116454b a super-Earth, a class of planets that does not exist in our solar system.

The exoplanet discovery was made after astronomers and engineers repurposed Kepler for its new mission.

"Last summer, the possibility of a scientifically productive mission for Kepler after its reaction wheel failure in its extended mission was not part of the conversation," said Paul Hertz, NASA's astrophysics division director at the agency's headquarters in Washington.

Govt needs to learn good governance

The Ministry for Human Resources Development under the Modi government surely needs a lesson in good governance, going by the unseemly mess and needless confusion it has created on the issue of "Good Governance" to be observed on Christmas Day. In a move that was shocking as it smacked of insensitivity and the lack of a secular spirit, a HRD ministry missive directed CBSE schools to hold a slew of activities on December 25 as Good Governance Day to mark the birthday of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and educationist Madan Mohan Malaviya. To take part in the activities students would have had to go to school on Christmas, which effectively meant they would have to forego a holiday, the most important for the Christian community in a calendar year. The resulting howls of dismay and display of anger across the nation forced the government to back down, and the HRD ministry eventually whittled the activity down to an online essay competition which students can take part from their homes if they feel up to it.

Now, what is shocking is that such a diktat was at all issued in the first place. December 25 has been a holiday for Christmas for years and is also the season when most schools shut down for an extended vacation. Why did the mandarins have to unnecessarily meddle with something that has been working fine for all these years? Secondly, what do school students have to do with good governance? Doesn't that fall under the ambit of government officials and elected representatives?



"The missive smacked of the lack of a secular spirit."

The entire exercise smacks of a more sinister motive, which is to dilute the importance of Christmas Day and make schools work on the pretext of good governance. This is consistent with several other communally-tinged developments in the country since the Modi government assumed power. Delhi is seeing a rise in communal tension between the Muslim and the Hindu communities leading to violence in some areas, the controversial "ghar vapsi" (return home), or religious conversion programme organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Uttar Pradesh, the incendiary communal speeches of some central ministers and moves to saffronise education are indicators that the Christmas fiasco is not a one-off instance. For the electorate, which voted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to power believing in his development agenda, these are deviations that are bound to dent his credibility. If Vajpayee had been in good health and active, he would have been the first one to shoot down the proposal to mix up Christmas Day with good governance and his birthday.

Smriti Irani to oversee HRD ministry's answers

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/448531/smriti-irani-oversee-hrd-ministrys.html>

Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani will personally oversee answers to questions from Parliament to her ministry.

Also, replies sent to Parliament in the name of her two junior ministers Upendra Kushwaha and Ram Shankar Katheria will now be sent in Irani's name. The two ministers of state(MoSs) will however be shown replies concerning the departments under their responsibilities before they are dispatched to Parliament with Irani's approval.

The HRD minister allocated work to Kushwaha and Katheria in November soon after they joined the ministry.

According to an office order issued on November 18, Katheria was put in charge of the department of higher education's schemes meant for students belonging to the minority community and north eastern region as well as schemes meant for students belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.