

Newspaper Clips

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IIT syndrome: Big bucks cause depression

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: Big salaries offered by companies descending on IIT campuses are worrying counsellors. 'Dream offers', faculty members say, are stressing out those offered relatively lower salaries. Offers for IITians range from annual salaries of ₹82 lakh to ₹12 lakh.

Dr Alok Bajpai, consultant psychiatrist at IIT-Kanpur, said only 5% of the students got big offers, but it still created "pressure on the peer group".

Some IIT-Madras students have sought the help of Mitr, the institute's guidance and coun-



selling unit. "But many don't come to us, because they fear the first question we will ask is why they want to compare salaries," said Mitr head Sivaku-

mar M Srinivasan. Counsellors say parental expectations and comparisons with those who receive multiple offers is one reason why some students feel this way. Failure to meet their own aspirations also puts pressure on some.

Dr Bajpai said this affected the way school students thought about higher education. "They want to get into IITs, without the slightest idea of what's different about these institutions. The only consideration is the fat salaries they are likely to get once they join here," he said. And parents choose specialisations that will

yield maximum returns after four years, he added.

To help students plan their career, rather than get jobs, IIT-Madras is planning a series of workshops from next year. "We want to prepare students for what they will face rather than firefight. To identify those who might face difficulties in coming to terms with such situations, Mitr has trained student volunteers to spot and provide some help to these students," said Sivakumar Srinivasan.

Counsellors said the focus should be on whether the recruit will be happy doing the job, said an IIT-M faculty member:

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आईआईटी के गगनदीप व अनुष्मिता को गोल्ड मेडल

पटना। रविवार को होने वाले आईआईटी के पहले कॉन्वोकेशन में पहले बैच के छात्र गगनदीप सिंह को प्रेसिडेंट ऑफ इंडिया गोल्ड मेडल से सम्मानित किया जाएगा। रायबरेली के रहने वाले गगन को यह सम्मान पहले बैच में सर्वश्रेष्ठ एकेडमिक स्कोर के लिए दिया जा रहा है। ऑलराउंड सबसे बेहतर प्रदर्शन के लिए अनुष्मिता कौशिक को डायरेक्टर गोल्ड मेडल मिलेगा।

सम्मान पाने वाले छात्रों की जारी सूची में बिहार के अंकित लत को सिल्वर मेडल मिलेगा। जमुई के रहने वाले और इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र अंकित

आईआईटीपी के नौ टॉपर

- प्रिंसिपल ऑफ इंडिया गोल्ड - गगनदीप
- डायरेक्टर गोल्ड - अनुष्मिता
- इस्टीमेट प्रोफेसर प्रो. मोहित, अब्दुल रऊफ, अंकित भारद्वाज व सुरबथुनी पल्लव



गगनदीप

अनुष्मिता

को अपने डिपार्टमेंट में टॉप स्कोर के यह सम्मान मिलेगा। कंप्यूटर साइंस के छात्र रहे गगनदीप ने पढ़ाई के दौरान यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ हाउस्टन, टेक्सास में बतौर रिसर्च असिस्टेंट भी काम किया था। फिलहाल गगन स्वीटजरलैंड में आगे की पढ़ाई कर

रहे हैं। उन्होंने ज्यूरिख से बात करते हुए कहा कि वहां एग्जाम की वजह से वह कॉन्वोकेशन में हिस्सा नहीं ले पा रहा है। जबकि हरियाणा की अनुष्मिता ने बीटेक के बाद आईआईटी बंगलुरु से मैनेजमेंट की पढ़ाई करने का फैसला किया।

मोहित, अब्दुल, ए भारद्वाज व सुरबथुनी पल्लव को बीटेक के दौरान बेस्ट प्रोजेक्ट तैयार करने के लिए पांच-पांच हजार रुपए पुरस्कार स्वरूप मिलेगा।

प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में डायरेक्टर प्रो. अनिक के भोमिक ने बताया कि इस मौके पर आईआईटी खगड़पुर के पूर्व डायरेक्टर प्रो. के एल चोपड़ा और जाने-माने न्यूक्लियर साइंटिस्ट अनिल काकोदकर को डिस्टिंग्शिएड एकेडमियन अवार्ड दिया जाएगा। सूत्रों के मुताबिक कॉन्वोकेशन में 89 छात्रों को डिग्री देने के लिए बुलाया गया है लेकिन इनमें से करीब 75 ने ही आने की सहमति दी है।

HT Chandigarh

PTU defies CS orders, favours Delhi firm

Jasdeep Singh Malhotra

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JALANDHAR: Even as the Punjab chief secretary and then Punjab Technical University (PTU) board of governors (BoG) chairman Rakesh Singh had ordered removal of New Delhi-based NetIIT, a consultant, over three months ago, the university authorities had not only "defied" his orders with impunity but had also allegedly amended the terms of agreement signed with the firm to later transfer Rs 4 crore in its bank account.

Instead of cancelling the pact, the university authorities allegedly amended certain payment terms in favour of the firm, sources said, alleging that the university paid a sum of Rs 36 lakh to the firm headed by Delhi-based Parveen Kumar on September 11, a day after receiving the chief secretary's orders about its removal. Subsequently,

What's the case

A Jalandhar-based NGO had challenged the alleged irregularities in appointing staffers and selection of the then chief secretary SC Agrawal as the board chairman. The high court, on November 14, 2011, had

restrained the PTU and its BoG from making any appointments without its permission.

The petitioner filed a contempt petition after the BoG approved hiring of consultants.

Rs 3.64 crore was transferred to the firm on October 12.

"Nearly Rs 5 crore had been paid to the said firm within 10 months since January despite the fact that the Punjab and Haryana high court is still scrutinising the appointment of consultants under a contempt of court petition," sources said.

Parveen Kumar and PTU vice-chancellor Rajneesh Arora were friends since they were pursuing engineering at Indian

Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. The V-C had allegedly appointed Kumar's firm as consultant without following the due procedure. The posts of the consultants were never advertised in the papers and no applications were invited from the public.

Though the CS had ordered "immediate" removal of the consultants, including Parveen's firm, on September 10, Arora had allegedly taken a completely opposite stand for obvious

reasons. The newly appointed chairman SK Munjal is also silent on implementation of his predecessor's orders even as Hindustan Times has posed an RTI query through his Delhi-based office several days ago.

Earlier Rakesh Singh, in an affidavit submitted to the high court in a contempt of court case, had said: "The hiring of consultants by the university was approved through an inadvertent mistake. An order has been issued to the vice-chancellor for withdrawing appointment of the consultants immediately. I tender an unconditional apology for this unintentional mistake," Singh had said.

A day before the court hearing, the technical education director, on the BoG chairman's behalf, issued a letter to the V-C, saying: "The appointment of the consultants shall be cancelled immediately so that the reply of

the CS may be filed in the court. You are directed that the order should be issued immediately to cancel these appointments, which were approved during the BoG meeting," the director said.

Technical education minister Anil Joshi, who was in the city, feigned ignorance about the issue.

"You have brought the issue into my notice. Now, I will check with the officials concerned," he said, adding certain quarters were out to even level baseless allegations of corruption against him and the university authorities.

Earlier, during a visit to Bholath recently, chief minister Parkash Singh Badal said he had read the news items about non-implementation of the CS orders by the PTU officials and would look into the matter.

Kumar and Arora were not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

December 24

HT Mumbai

Mood-I ends with a bang, more than 80,000 attend festival

Mugdha Variyar

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MUMBAI: Mood Indigo, one of the biggest college festivals in the country, drew its curtains on Sunday at IIT Bombay's Powai campus, after four days of literary, musical events and a social campaign.

Even as the nation is protesting the increasing cases of rape and violence against women, the festival hosted an anti-rape campaign organised by Citizens Against Rapists, Molesters and Atrocities (CARMA), a social initiative. "We wanted to reach out to the large number of college students at the festival to create awareness," said Ashvin Mishra, 25, who had started the initiative on Facebook last month. "We took a survey of measures from students on the issue and even recorded testimonials," he said.

This year, the festival entered the national records (Limca Book of Records) for having the



■ A boy performs B-boy dancing, a form of hip-hop dance from New York, on the final day of the Mood Indigo festival. PRAFUL GANGURDE

maximum number of foreign artistes at a college festival. Several International bands such as Simple Plan from Canada, and Ganga Vibes from Morocco performed here.

Music composer duo Salim and Sulaiman Merchant ended the festival on Sunday night after performing their Bollywood songs. "Ever since I first attended a musical concert at Mood Indigo when I was 14, it has been my dream to perform here," said Salim

Merchant.

The festival saw several firsts this year. This was the first time that school students could participate in the spelling bee competition where IIT Chennai walked away with the top prize on Sunday. The national quizzing competition, Nihilanth, was conducted for the first time, and the team from IIM Ahmedabad emerged as the winners. The footfall for the 2012 edition of Mood Indigo crossed 80,000.

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Kalam asks IIT-Patna students to become partners in development



Former prez Abdul Kalam honouring gold medalist Anshumita Kaushik during first convocation of IIT in Patna. — PTI

PBD BUREAU/PTI

PATNA, DEC 23

SOCIO-ECONOMIC problems have hindered Bihar's economic development over the years, former President A P J Abdul Kalam today said and called upon students to become partners in the state's development.

"I am optimistic that the IIT-Patna students can play a vital role to further economic development in Bihar by becoming a partner to the ongoing sustainable development process," Kalam said at the first convocation of IIT-Patna.

As Bihar is an agricultural hub, Kalam said

that the IITians here can showcase their innovations and technical knowledge to strategise and develop markets for variety of agricultural produce to enable the farmers to maximise their return.

Kalam emphasised that IITians here have a major role to play in developing smart waterways to prevent floods and water shortages in the state and putting to good use its abundant water resources for development of irrigation infrastructure by connecting the network of rivers.

The networking of rivers through smart waterways will mitigate flooding in major parts of

the state and channelise water to the drought-affected regions, he said.

Sustained rural development was the need of the hour Kalam said, adding that IIT-Patna students have a responsibility to devise ways and means to improve the lives of rural people.

The state, he said, required innovation and greater use of technology to improve learning techniques for millions of students, in which IIT-Patna students could become research partner and suggest imparting scientific education and vocational training.

Kalam urged IIT graduates not to get carried away by material success

after getting lucrative jobs but also serve the society by becoming entrepreneurs and employment generators instead of becoming only employees.

The former president asked the IIT-Patna graduates to live up to obligations to the alma mater and social responsibility towards Bihar by making this state become a laboratory of sustained development.

Kalam also drew students attention towards other state issues like need for quality drinking water, electricity and corruption-free governance.

He also contributed a bundle of books to IIT-Patna.

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आईआईटी छात्र कृषि विकास में सहयोग करें : कलाम

पटना (ब्यूरो)। पूर्व राष्ट्रपति ए पी जे अब्दुल कलाम ने छात्रों को उनकी भूमिकाओं और कर्तव्यों के प्रति सचेत किया है। आईआईटी पटना के पहले दीक्षांत समारोह में कलाम ने कहा कि छात्र बिहार के विकास में अपनी भूमिका तय कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि आईआईटी पटना के छात्र बिहार में सतत विकास प्रक्रिया में भागीदार बनेंगे। कलाम ने बिहार में कृषि क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए स्वयं पालीगंज में किसानों को प्रोत्साहित कर अपना प्रोजेक्ट चलाया है। उन्होंने आईआईटी छात्रों से भी कृषि विकास में सहयोग का आह्वान किया है।

कलाम ने कहा कि बिहार कृषि विकास के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त इलाका है। बिहार के किसानों को उनके कृषि उत्पादों का अधिक से अधिक मूल्य मिल सके इसके लिए आईआईटी छात्र अपनी तकनीकी जानकारी और खोज के जरिए रणनीति तैयार करें। आईआईटी छात्र कृषि उत्पादों के लिए बाजार विकसित करने में भी अपनी तकनीकी जानकारी का उपयोग कर सकते हैं। कलाम ने कहा कि लंबे समय से बाढ़ और सूखा की विभीषिका झेल रहे बिहार में आवश्यकता से अधिक जल का उचित उपयोग और उसके उचित प्रबंधन के लिए नदियों को जोड़कर सिंचाई की आधारभूत संरचना को विकसित करने में आईआईटी छात्र में अपना योगदान दें। इस योगदान से प्रदेश में जल संचरण के साथ बाढ़ की समस्या से भी छुटकारा मिल सकेगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि बाढ़ प्रभावित इलाकों को उससे छुटकारा दिलाने और सूखे इलाकों तक पानी पहुंचाने के लिए नहरों के माध्यम से नदियों को जोड़ा जा सकता है। कलाम शनिवार की रात पटना पहुंचे थे।