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IIT-Kharagpur links up with industry for therapeutic food

Five ready-to-eat therapeutic food items have been developed using peanut, potato and Bengal gram as core ingredients

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, February 17

Indian scientists have designed ready-to-eat therapeutic food (RUTF) products and handed over associated scientific findings and technology to an industry partner, a step that could benefit millions of children afflicted with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the most dangerous level of malnutrition.

SAM is globally responsible for the death of 2.6 million children under the age of five each year.

The research undertaken by scientists of the Agricultural and Food Engineering Department at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, led to creation of five varieties of RUTFs which, in paste form, can be administered to the children until they have gained adequate weight.

According to WHO, severe acute malnutrition is when children suffer severe wasting that may or may not be

accompanied by swelling of the body from fluid retention. The afflicted have been tagged as the most vulnerable people in the world.

Out of the 20 million children worldwide afflicted with SAM (mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia), India is home to 8.1 million SAM children.

"SAM is diagnosed when the circumference of the upper arm is less than 115 mm or when the weight for the height of a child is severely reduced. They are very thin as most of their fat and muscle has been used by their bodies to stay alive," HN Mishra, professor of food technology and principal investigator of the project, Agricultural and Food Engineering department at IIT-Kgp, told IANS over phone.

"As per WHO guidelines, the SAM children who do not require hospitalisation can be administered specially formulated nutrient-rich foods at home for treatment... The proportions of essential

nutrients required have also been designated," he elaborated.

Mishra's team came up with five RUTFs using peanut, potato and Bengal gram as the core ingredients, as part of a project sponsored by department of biotechnology and a Delhi-based industry partner, Gattapu Chemicals Pvt Ltd.

"The raw materials are easily sourced, cheap and stable at room temperature. Since they are in a paste form, they can be consumed easily by the children," said Mishra, adding that the food technology used is a secret.

Following the technology transfer process on February 10, Mishra said they would be distributed in square-shaped, screw-capped pouches of various quantities by the industry arm.

"Until it is distributed by the industry, we have set up a pilot scale unit in our lab where we can produce the RUTF," said Mishra.

However, Vandana Prasad, a social activist advocating child nutrition and health, stressed the need to apply the formulations in a community-based approach.

IIM-Bangalore completes final job placements

Unhappy with IIM-C, IIM-A on breaching pact on process

BS REPORTER

Bangalore, 17 February

The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB), on Monday, accused IIM-Calcutta and IIM-Ahmedabad of not sticking to an informal agreement between the three on the order in which they would conduct the job placement process for graduating students.

Sankarshan Basu, chairman of career development services, IIM-B, told reporters this breach by the other two had been on for two years. "For the last two years, due to various pressures, they have not been able to keep to that order of conducting placements and IIM-B has always gone last," he said.

However, he clarified, this had not affected the number of offers made by recruiters or the pay. "Companies don't mind making multiple recruitments for a post because a hire today is cheaper than one made tomorrow," he said.

IIM-B announced on Monday the final placement for the (MBA) postgraduate programme class of 2012-14. This had concluded within eight sessions over four days. A little over 150 companies participated and made 425 offers across a little over 200 profiles. In all, 117 students got pre-placement offers, before the start of final placements, about a fifth higher than last year.

The lateral placement season for candidates with over 22 months of experience saw 127 offers from companies in



strategy, leadership, product management, consulting and general management; 41 were offered international placements from various firms for global locations.

Nine chose to join social ventures in the final placements. Of these, six opted for Narayana Healthcare. "The hospital chain's rapid expansion needed people in the operations to run the new hospitals that would come online," said a source. "They probably wanted to free up doctors from operations."

A notable recruiter this time was LinkedIn, which participated for the first time.

The Blackstone Group (London), a private equity major, and German incubator Rocket Internet are said to have hired exclusively from IIM-B, offering international roles.

The average salary was ₹19.5 lakh (yearly), with the median salary being ₹17.3 lakh. This compares with ₹17.2 lakh and ₹16.5 lakh, respectively, last year.

OFFER LETTERS

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PLACEMENT OFFERS

Financial services, consulting firms top recruiters at IIMs

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA,
ANIRBAN SEN &
MANISH BASU

NEW DELHI/BANGALORE/KOLKATA

The recruitment sentiment of employers in this year's placement season at the premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) has improved, with financial services and consulting firms remaining the top recruiters.

IIM-Bangalore (IIM-B) said on Monday that it completed the placement process in four days, quicker than last year when the business school finished the process in six days. Global software services and consulting company **Accenture Plc** made 13 offers, the highest by any company, followed closely by **McKinsey and Co.**, **Boston Consulting Group**, **Amazon.com Inc** and **Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd**, which made 11 offers each.

"The financial services sector has again recruited in large numbers, which is a reflection of how the financial markets are reacting," said Sankarshan Basu, chairperson, career development at IIM-B. "I would tend to say that the job scenario is much better than last year."

A total of 428 offers were made from companies like **Goldman Sachs Group Inc**, **HSBC Holdings Plc** and **LinkedIn** to a batch of 388 graduates at IIM-B. Two students opted out of placement this year. In 2013, IIM-B received 415 offers from 150 companies to 367 students.

At IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), where the placement process is underway, the trend of consulting and financial firms hiring in larger numbers was visible with **Accenture** making 18 offers, the maximum so far. Among others, **A.T. Kearney Ltd**, **Bain and Co.**, **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**, **Citigroup Inc**, **Deutsche Bank AG**, **Goldman Sachs**, **McKinsey and Co.** and **Oliver Wyman** were leaders in job offers, IIM-A said in a statement. Other than consulting and finance companies, **Reliance Industries Ltd** was one of the top recruiters with eight offers.

IIM-A seeks to place more than 300 graduates this year.

"The IIMs are important sources of top talent of our growing business in India. We made 44 offers across IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta and Lucknow, and were happy to note that we continue to be the top preference for most students wishing to pursue a career in a global consulting firm," Sachin Nandgaonkar, partner and director of BCG India, said in an email.

Although **Krishanu Rakshit**, professor-in-charge of placement at IIM-Calcutta, declined to comment on the placement progress, a placement officer at the institute had said last week that finance companies used to be their best recruiters followed by consultancies until last year, "when the trend started shifting towards consultancy due to the slump in investment banking sector. This trend was expected to

continue this year." This person declined to be named.

Narayanan Ramaswamy, partner and head of education practice at consulting company **KPMG**, said that his organisation will hire some 200 graduate.

IIM-Lucknow (IIM-L), which successfully placed the 436-strong batch in 207 companies, said that despite the economic slowdown, it managed to become the first IIM to complete the process. At IIM-L, online retailer **Flipkart** was the top recruiter with over 20 offers.

Like IIM-A, IIM-L didn't divulge salary details. But, IIM-B said that average salary for students this year stood at ₹19.5 lakh a year, up from ₹17.28 lakh in 2013.

"This year the economy definitely looks to be in better shape than last year and companies also seem to be in a better hiring mood than last year," said **Tamoghna Sadhu** of IIM-B, who got a job offer at online retailer **Amazon**.

To guard against any problem in campus recruitment, IIM-L and IIM-Raipur said that they have broad-based their reach to companies and called more recruiters this year.

"The slowdown in the global economy that started 4-5 years ago reflected on IIMs' placements only since the last two years. This year too, the placement mood is expected to be less robust than two years ago," said **Rakshit**, chairperson, career development and placements, IIM-C.

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Social enterprises make debut at IIM-Bangalore placement

Highest pay packet stood at ₹19.5 lakh; average at ₹17.30 lakh

OUR BUREAU

Bangalore, February 17

Social enterprises, including Akshya Patra, are the newest entities that have picked up graduates at the final placement of IIM-Bangalore (IIM-B).

PGP class of 2012-14, which went in for final placement last week, saw nine social enterprises along with Dr Devi Shetty's Narayana Hrudalaya and Rural Shore (BPO) offering big salaries to woo management graduates for skill sets in business development, operations and fund raising.

According to Prof Sankarshan Basu, Chairperson, Career Development Services at IIM Bangalore, this year's highest salary stood at ₹19.5 lakh and average was ₹17.30 lakh. Last year's highest was ₹17.2 lakh and average stood at ₹16.5 lakh. Among the domestic companies, highest salary offered was ₹17.4 lakh and average stood at ₹16.8 lakh.



Pouring offers Over 150 companies took part and made more than 425 offers to 200 student profiles. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ankit Rustagi, IIM-B placement committee member, said, "Most active on the campus was consulting firms who picked up 27 per cent of students, followed by financial services 19 per cent, IT/Technology companies 17 per cent and general management 14 per cent."

Quick process

This year's placement process got over in record time of four days

compared with a whole week exercise all these years.

Basu said, "This year the placement process witnessed the participation of 388 eligible students. Two students opted out of the process - one for pursuing research in management, and the other for pursuing opportunities with his previous employer."

Over 150 companies took part and made more than 425 offers to 200 student profiles. The Pre-Place-

ment Offers poured in aplenty with 117 students receiving offers before the start of the Final Placements, which is 20 per cent higher than the last year.

The Lateral Placement season for candidates with more than 22 months of work experience broke all records with 127 offers been made by firms in varied domains like strategy, leadership, product management, consulting and general management.

About 41 (last year 21) students were offered international placements from various firms for global locations.

At the final placement most bulge-bracket international banks such as the Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JP Morgan, Nomura, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Royal Bank of Scotland, Deutsche Bank, Citibank, and Standard Chartered were present on the first day.

The process also saw Avendus Capital and American Express along with private equity firms - the Blackstone Group (London) and Germany-based Incubator Rocket Internet hired exclusively at IIM-B offering international roles.

Restructuring of Indian universities

AT THE recent Central Universities Vice Chancellors' Conference invited by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan on February 6 and 7, the main agenda veered around three themes, viz.: academic-industry interaction; technology for quality, access, and equity; and, improving global rankings. Ironically, these were broadly the discussion points at another Central Vice Chancellors Conference we organised almost a decade ago at our institute. In effect, not much has changed since then and the policy concerns remained more or less the same. However, the context from then and at present has changed dramatically.

Chinese universities have arisen and disruptive technologies are all over us that carry transformational possibilities. We are in a position to bridge the huge literacy and digital divides in our country through use of low-cost and open-source technologies. Remarkably, during my presentation on 'technology accelerators in higher education', it appeared that the chasm between enthusiastic and reluctant vice chancellors on using modern technology for major productivity improvements was huge.

Most of our universities suffer from the paradox of success — almost unlimited demand from a burgeoning population (reflected in astronomical cut-offs for admission in many universities and colleges), low level of academic and performance accountability at almost levels of employees, and non-demanding customers. The resultant has

Arun Kumar Jain



MIRROR IMAGE: The twin challenges of managing academic excellence, and increasing gross enrolment ratio requires that our universities must function on the principle of 'growth factories'

been structural and cultural inertia and a strong unwillingness to change.

This situation can be remedied only through a major restructuring effort. The twin challenges of managing academic excellence, and increasing gross enrolment ratio requires that our universities must function on the principle of 'growth factories'. Effectively, the challenge is to bring in the creativity of Einstein and Edison, and simultaneously the mass assembly line system pioneered by Henry Ford into the universities! In other words, the universities should be geared to manage continuity (maintenance engineering), and yet be able to create and manage chaos to proactively ride the next curve of technological discontinuities. But this is not possible in the existing set-up. The university colleges and departments must act as autonomous and heavyweight (empowered) entities entrusted with measurable metrics on performance including breakthrough re-

search, attracting funding, developing cutting-edge courses and disciplines.

One of the ways is to release the existing load on the vice chancellors by separating certain administrative, academic and research responsibilities from his or her shoulders. This kind of re-allocation is happening all over the world. For instance, LSU Health Sciences Centre in Louisiana (US) has created a post of vice chancellor for research (VC-R) for providing executive leadership for research administration and planning, and devises programmes with other board members to strengthen campus research enterprise for promoting innovative and multi-disciplinary research programme across north Louisiana. The VC-R leads the university in all aspects of research and represents it while dealing with federal agencies, developing joint collaborations with other institutions and local stakeholders.

The VC-R would be responsible for maintaining

the expected standards of research across various colleges in the university including the PhD programmes. This kind of restructuring can transform our universities where teaching excellence can co-exist with research excellence leading to superior (employable) students and better industry-academic relationships. The VC-R can be expected (or trained) on important dimensions such as intellectual property, technology transfer and commercialisation within the university settings. This is just one example of combining the super-specialty with the general administration.

Our experience of research evaluation at university level, much of the so-called scientific PhD work is mostly explorative and the results are non-reproducible. Even basic mistakes at the level of research design are made, such as basing the findings on 'high significance levels' achieved from small-size samples. Most of the primary data is

non-transparent even in published manuscripts.

On the other hand, as the President remarked, our universities are losing good scholars to foreign institutions due to lack of facilities and absence of a supportive ecosystem. To start with, our universities can create something like an online forum called PubMed Commons launched by the National Institute of Health in the US for open discourse on published articles. Authors and scholars can join, rate or contribute comments.

The job of the VC combines leadership in governance and execution. Generally, a vice chancellor is a gentleman who has spent life in a small office with never seeing either a court of law or a police station. One VC mentioned in confidence that he had never expected to deal with so many legal, police, and regulatory (including MHRD, UGC, minorities commission, parliamentary committees, CVC, CAG) agencies. It was indeed a shock and a sharp learning curve for the newly-appointed VC! Thus, training of vice chancellors on governance, strategic direction, collaborative mindsets, managing interdisciplinary breakthrough research teams, and managing multiple stakeholders is crucial.

The job of the new-age VC is to create a certain amount of turbulence so that the administrative and academic community wakes up from the Kumbhkarans-style slumber. Only then can we hope to reap the demographic dividends.

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Research funding body a growth tonic for pharma cos

TEAM TOI

Research and development (R&D) in innovation and technology-driven sectors is expected to get a boost with the finance minister announcing the setting up of a 'research funding organisation' to fund projects selected through a competitive process.

This could serve as an incentive for pharma companies who have invested in innovative R&D and have projects on new drug development, experts say. Funding in R&D projects is capital-intensive, with domestic companies usually shying away from spending major bucks on it.

Details on the tax breaks and sectors which could benefit from the proposal were not immediately available. Contributions to the organisation will be eligible for tax benefits, the FM said, adding that legislative changes required for this will be introduced at the time of the regular Budget.

Higgs finds Nobel fame 'a bit of a nuisance'

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: Peter Higgs has described his new found fame after receiving the Nobel "a bit of a nuisance". The 84-year-old reclusive physicist has for the first time opened up about his life and revealed that his quest for the God Particle wrecked his marriage in 1970s.

"When my wife and I got married, she thought of me being an easy-going person and I warned her I wasn't. I was easy-going in terms of being adaptable in my social life. But maybe I suffered a personality change in the mid-sixties and became more dedicated to things involving work because it had become successful in some way," he said in an interview to BBC Radio 4. "Nobody else took what I was doing seriously, so nobody would want to work with me. I was thought to be a bit eccentric



“ I suffered a personality change in the mid-sixties and became more dedicated to things involving work because it had become successful in some way. Nobody else took what I was doing seriously, so nobody would want to work with me. I was thought to be a bit eccentric and maybe cranky

PETER HIGGS
Nobel-Winning Physicist

and maybe cranky," he said. The professor retired in 1996 and became emeritus professor of physics at Edinburgh University.

"If I go to something where there are lots of students, they all want use their mobile phones to take pictures of me," Higgs said. "The discovery of the Higgs boson has led to a disturbance of my life-

style." Youngsters have shown great interest in Higgs' work lately. A free online study course to be personally taught by Higgs led to 10,000 registrations.

Higgs is very elusive. In November 2013, when he won the Nobel, the prize committee couldn't reach Higgs. The committee said: "We haven't been able to reach

professor Higgs. Of all the numbers we tried, he didn't answer any." Higgs said he was informed about having won the Nobel by a former neighbour, the widow of a judge, who got out of her car in Edinburgh as he was returning from lunch and introduced herself. "She congratulated me on the news and I said 'oh, what news?'"

Higgs said he was happy and "relieved" to have received the Nobel Prize as "It's been a long time coming". Scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (Cern) recently confirmed the existence of the particle, which was first postulated by Higgs in 1964 when he was a young lecturer at Edinburgh. The Higgs boson enables other fundamental particles to acquire their mass.

Its discovery represents a major step in our understanding of the physical universe.

Pallam Raju launches logo, web portal of Copyright Office

NetIndian News Network

New Delhi, February 17, 2014

Union Human Resources Development Minister M M Pallam Raju unveiled the logo of the Copyright Office and launched the web portal with e-filing facility for copyright registration here today.

The website of the Ministry of Human Resources Development's IPR Chairs was also launched on the occasion.

Mr Raju said that a separate Copyright Office and a permanent Copyright Board is being set up to provide better services to the authors, performers and creators of various works.

He said the logo would establish a unique identity for the Copyright Office and create a distinct relationship with the public. The interactive copyright web portal having facility of e-filing of applications with payment gateway is going to be the major step in delivering public services in a more efficient and effective manner.

Mr Raju said the Ministry had already initiated the process for 'online search facility' for the users to see the details of works registered since 1958. This will eliminate wasteful expenditure and will save time and energy on travel to come to Copyright Office in Delhi to search the Copyright Register.

Similarly, e-filing facility for registration of ISBN numbers is going to be operational in the current year and will assist the authors and publishers in getting prompt services, he added.

<http://netindian.in/news/2014/02/17/00028093/pallam-raju-launches-logo-web-portal-copyright-office>

New rating system for single college courses

MHRD to bring in professional agencies to grade individual courses

Posted On Monday, February 17, 2014 at 08:20:04 AM

For students and their families who are often conflicted about the quality of courses taught in various colleges, there will soon be an easier way to make a decision. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is developing a system to accredit individual courses offered at different colleges.

Under the Rashtriya Uchchar Shikshan Abhiyan (RUSA), a national higher education mission undertaken to provide funding and accreditation of courses will be made mandatory.

Currently in its nascent stage, this development would mean that while a college will have its National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation, its BA, B Com, B Sc courses will be required to have individual grading.

Interestingly, these individual grading will be done by professional nodal bodies and not the NAAC, which has been looking after ratings of institutes and universities across the country since its inception in 1994. For instance, the Linguistic Society of India may rate the language courses, a sociological society may rate social science courses and so on.

A multi-layered framework is being prepared to bring about this quality assurance in higher education institutes.

Jagannath Patil, deputy advisor, NAAC, said, "NAAC will act as a nodal accreditation agency and individual courses can then be rated by professional agencies.

The presence of industry experts and academicians will provide a perfect blend to rate specific courses. NAAC will provide training to members of these agencies for a complete evaluation of courses."

A senior MHRD official the possibility of bringing in private agencies for the individual course ratings. "The ministry is currently writing to various agencies to discuss their willingness to take up the responsibility," said the official on condition of anonymity.

Academics across the city welcomed the move. Dr. Gautam Bhong, HoDof Economics at Garware College, said, "The presence of professional agencies will make courses more practical. Moreover, the competition will encourage colleges to improve their courses."

Dr D D Dhawale, HOD of Chemistry at UoP, said, "During the 90s, a similar initiative was taken up by the then Vice Chancellor (VC) where different departments at the varsity were assessed. The current VC is working towards bringing back the system, and with NAAC recommending it as well, the move will be greatly encouraged."

<http://www.punemirror.in/article/2/2014021720140217102058734fe5da2b5/New-rating-system-for-single-college-courses.html>

Raise bar for quality of education, say experts

TNN | Feb 18, 2014, 04:37 AM IST

KOLHAPUR: All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) chairman S S Mantha said on Monday that the number of students dropping out of school after Class X across the country is a matter of concern. He was speaking at the second convocation ceremony of the D Y Patil University in the city, where he was conferred the doctorate of science (DSc) degree.

Mantha added that these students need to be brought to the mainstream through skill development programmes and various courses in industrial training institutes (ITI).

He also raised concerns over the quality of education and the growth of educational institutes in the country.

Mantha said, "India has a large youth force, whose talent should not be wasted. The young students can be trained through skill development programmes and provided with employment opportunities. The number of ITIs too needs to be increased for this purpose."

On the current status of education, Mantha said, "The country has seen a rapid expansion of educational institutes in recent times. However, the quality of education has always remained a major concern. The institutes must strive for better education and focus more on research."

Eminent nuclear scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Anil Kakodkar also stressed on local research for the benefit of society.

"It is possible to make such solutions not only world class but also more appropriate to our needs based on the quality of our research," added Kakodkar.

Kakodkar, who is the former director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), said, "We currently produce 5,000 MW electric power through nuclear means in a commercially profitable manner. The power generation capacity would reach 10,000 MW in about three years with completion of projects that are already underway."

Sighting benefits of the non-power applications of atomic energy, Kakodkar, said, "The non-power applications cover domains like agriculture, processing of agro-products, health and safety, environment and waste management and industry, along with others."

Governor of Bihar D Y Patil appealed to students to contribute to the society. He added that Kakodkar should be conferred with the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, for his contribution in the development of nuclear technology.

Minister of state for home Satej Patil and president of the D Y Patil University trust Sanjay Patil, along with president of the non-governmental organization (NGO) 'Helpers of the Handicapped' Naseema Hurzuk, were also present at the event.

Hurzuk was conferred with a DLitt degree for her contribution to the society through her NGO. The NGO organizes various social activities for the physically disabled in western Maharashtra.

The convocation ceremony saw a total of 221 degrees being conferred.