Newspaper Clips
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January 31

IIM-B to increase seats in incubator programme

The centre is planning to raise the number of seats from current 82 to 125

http://www.business-standard.com/article/management/iim-b-to-increase-seats-in-incubator-programme-116013000305_1.html

With rising interest among the youth to pursue entrepreneurship, Nadathur S Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), the incubation centre for start-ups of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B), is increasing seats for its incubator programme. The centre is planning to increase number of seats from current 82 to 125, said NSRCEL's chairperson G Sabarinathan.

"Every season, the demand is far in excess of the number of seats we have. Often, we start with 60-70 applications out of which about six go through the screening process," said Sabarinathan, who is also a faculty in Finance and Control at IIM-B.

IIMB's incubation programme is for a 12-month period where an early stage startup can get up to 12 seats to build and develop its business. The basic selection involves the 3 'I' criteria – the business idea should be innovative, implementable and impact-making.

The spike in demand among companies to get incubated at IIM-B also led the latter to introduce a Launchpad programme for early stage startups. The institute has reserved 10 seats for eight companies with maximum of two seats per company for a maximum duration of three months. IIM-B also has plans to increase this to 18 seats.

NSRCEL is an open centre and is not exclusive for IIMB students. A few startups incubated at NSRCEL include habit forming and tracking app Zoojoo. Be, cloud-based TV ad network platform Amagi and e-waste disposal BinBag.

The faculty at the centre offer courses at the graduate as well as doctoral level and shorter modules on entrepreneurial thinking in a number of executive education programmes. In addition, NSRCEL also runs two programmes for entrepreneurs. The first, management programme for entrepreneurs and family businesses, targets first-generation entrepreneurs as well as family businesses. It is an eight-month programme which imparts contemporary knowledge in various functional areas. The second, management programme for women entrepreneurs, helps early-stage enterprises started by women who feel the need for capacity-building.

The cell also conducts mentoring sessions regularly. In 2015, there has been close to 380 mentoring sessions. "We have a fixed mentoring calendar – two sessions a month. We also work with a fixed panel of mentors," said Sabarinathan. "This also helps our mentors to align with what we stand for as a centre."

Smart helmet designed by grads wins IIT-B business contest

Yogita Rao | TNN | Feb 1, 2016, 01.47 AM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Smart-helmet-designed-by-grads-wins-IIT-B-business-contest/articleshow/50798253.cms

MUMBAI: A smart helmet designed by a bunch of engineering graduates that would remind you of 'Jarvis' from movie 'Iron Man' bagged the first prize at the 'Eureka' finals on Sunday.

Like Jarvis, the helmet will take voice commands from riders, have night-safety features, allow communication between riders. Eureka is part of the annual entrepreneurship summit of E-cell from IIT-Bombay, which concluded on Sunday.

The winning team from Chennai, RevSmart, has already designed the smart helmet, which is right now programmed to accept only one command. Currently, the system opens up as the user says "hello Jarvis". Sunder Jagannathan, an automobile engineer, and his team of six members began work about six months ago and have completed a minimum-viable prototype. The first product will be launched by the end of the year. "In India, most riders do not prefer wearing a helmet as it is difficult to navigate, they do not see the utility and they also feel uncomfortable largely due to sweat. Our product will not only be user-friendly but also will give bikers a trendy and smart helmet," said Sunder. The riders can instruct the system on the visor to play music, show directions, and can also customize the helmet according to their needs using a mobile app. During the '10-minute million' challenge, another event from the E-summit, where the start-ups pitching their business ideas get on-the-spot investments from angel investors, four ideas got investment worth Rs 15 lakh each from investors. The highlight of the event this year was 'Soundsurround', a 3-D concert experience in a room, which was promised Rs 85 lakh by investors. However, the amount was scaled down to Rs 15 lakh. Soundsurround is a wearable speaker designed by four students from IIT-B.

"The product will give users the best audio experience when they are watching a movie or during a concert, or even on the dance floor. Users will have to return the device when they leave the auditorium," said Ashray Malhotra, an electrical engineering student from IIT-B.

JNU V-C's new open-door policy

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/jnu-vcs-new-opendoor-policy/article8176824.ece

M.J. Kumar will meet students, without prior appointments, on the first Monday of every month.photo: special arrangement

: Sticking to his commitment of giving priority to students, the new Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has told students that he will be available to meet them on the first Monday of each month without prior appointment.

The newly appointed V-C, M Jagadesh Kumar, on January 29 sent out a communication to students: "The V-C will be available to meet students of the university, without any prior appointment, on first Monday of every month between 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. in his office to discuss their problems or hear their views, if any, related to any academic matter."

"However, this day and time slot is liable to change if the situation/circumstances so demand," it added.

Mr. Kumar, who took over as the V-C of JNU on January 27 in his earlier interviews mentioned that students and their issues will be his top priority along with academics.

The former IIT professor, who joined the varsity in the midst of a controversy of a dalit scholar threatening to commit suicide if his research grant is not extended, solved the student's issue on a priority basis. The scholar's research grant was extended two days ago.

JNU VC appointment: Pranab Mukherjee rejects Smriti Irani's choice

http://www.asianage.com/india/jnu-vc-appointment-pranab-mukherjee-rejects-smriti-iranis-choice-800

The President, however, appointed IIT-Delhi professor Kumar to the post of VC of JNU, ignoring Irani's recommendation.

New Delhi: IIT professor Jagdeesh Kumar was appointed as JNU vice-chancellor by President Pranab Mukherjee after he was selected from a panel of four names that also included scientist V S Chauhan, who was reported to be HRD Minister Smriti Irani's preferred choice to lead the prestigious institute. According to sources, the HRD Ministry had sent four names to the President and Irani had conveyed her preference for Chauhan, a scientist working in the fields of genetic engineering and biotechnology and known for his contributions to the development of a vaccine for malaria.

He is also a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and has been given Padma Shri by the erstwhile UPA government. The President, however, appointed IIT-Delhi professor Kumar to the post of VC of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), ignoring Irani's recommendation.

The sources said there is no obligation on part of the President to go by the preference indicated by the ministry, but in most cases, this norm is followed. The panel of four also included academicians R N K Bamezai and Ramakrishna Ramaswamy. "All the four candidates had strong backgrounds," one of the sources said. When contacted, official spokespersons of the President's office as well as the HRD Ministry declined to comment on the matter.

Saint-Gobain opens hi-tech research centre at IIT-Madras

http://www.autocarpro.in/news-national/saint-gobain-hi-tech-research-centre-iit-madras-10292

On January 29, Saint-Gobain inaugurated its all-new Research Centre at IIT-Madras, Chennai. The company has invested Rs 200 crore in the world-class R&D facility which is spread across 120,000 square feet. According to the company, the facility will focus on developing innovative and sustainable solutions for Saint-Gobain's existing businesses (the major product lines include: abrasives, glass for architecture, glass for automotive, gypsum plasterboard and plasters, high performance ceramics and plastics etc) and will enable the Group to accelerate its growth in the region.

Saint-Gobain Research India's (SGRI) new, cross-functional Research Centre was inaugurated by the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalithaa, in the presence of Pierre-André de Chalendar, chairman and CEO of the Saint-Gobain Group.

In line with Saint-Gobain's strategic focus on sustainability, in general, and sustainable habitat, in particular, SGRI is committed to finding innovative solutions to the challenges of energy efficiency, environmental protection and enhanced comfort for daily living.

Speaking on the occasion, Pierre-André De Chalendar, said, "India is an important market and investment destination for Saint-Gobain. Over the past 20 years, we have made significant investments in developing new sites and new markets, in building world-class plants, in technology and in people. All these investments have enabled the Group to establish its presence across India and to grow rapidly. In line with the government of India's 'Make in India' initiative, today, more than 95 precent of our local sales are of products manufactured in India. SGRI represents a key step towards further strengthening our global R&D network and towards serving our customers in the region by developing innovative and sustainable products and solutions to meet their needs. I am impressed with our outstanding team of scientists and engineers and with this truly world-class Research Centre."

Anand Mahajan, general delegate, Saint-Gobain - India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, said, "Since its inception three years ago, SGRI has led the way in developing products and solutions that have exceeded the expectations of our customers. The inauguration of our permanent home is a milestone event for Saint-Gobain as it steps into its 351st year. We are confident that SGRI's growing pool of carefully chosen scientific and engineering talent will contribute a great deal to the development of the Saint-Gobain Group in India and worldwide in terms of new products and processes, of advancement in science and technology and of intellectual property. Today, SGRI has about 100 scientists and engineers who have come from various parts of India and the world and have brought with them expertise and experience in different areas. Eventually, this Research Centre will be home to more than 250 scientists and engineers."

Anand Tanikella, director, Saint-Gobain Research India, said, "The brightest Indian minds from across the world (with PhDs from reputed institutes such as MIT, USA; Ecole Polytechnique, France; University of Tokyo, Japan, in addition to top class institutes in India) are currently working at SGRI. We will continue to strengthen what is already a diverse talent pool. We aspire to develop cost-competitive solutions for our customers through co-development and 'Innovate in India' to develop solutions beyond India. In doing all this, we will continue to partner with IIT-Madras and other premier academic institutions."

- See more at: http://www.autocarpro.in/news-national/saint-gobain-hi-tech-research-centre-iit-madras-10292#sthash.hBJXqteU.dpuf

February 1

Indian Express ND 01/02/2016
P-09

CURIOUS AT IIT

PROF M JAGADESH Kumar's appointment as the new vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University has created a lot of chatter in his parent institution — IIT-Delhi. His stint in an administrative role at the institute a little over a decade ago wasn't exactly successful. During his time as the warden of Nilgiri hostel, the hostelers were said to be unhappy since he would often lock them out of their rooms on some pretext or the other. So much so, hostelers started boycotting the mess in protest, forcing the institute director to intervene. Apparently, this was the only time residents of Nilgiri hostel had ever boycotted the mess. Everyone on IIT-Delhi campus is apparently curious how Kumar will fare in his new assignment at JNU given his history in an administrative role there.

New system proposed for admission to IITs, JEE (mains) may go

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

KANPUR: The proposed system for admission to IITs and other prestigious technical institutes is expected to relieve the aspirants of a lot of tension as they have to clear Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) advance only.

Presently, aspirants have to clear JEE mains and advance to get into an IIT.

The joint admission board (JAB) for IITs has proposed to abolish the JEE mains examination and the proposal regarding the same has been send to the MHRD, chairman JEE IIT Kanpur region Professor SN Singh said adding that the JAB would examine the proposal at its meeting due on February 20 in Hyderabad.

The JAB would also prepare new guidelines for the entrance test which would be applicable from the academic session 201718.

All chair men of the JEE advance and directors of the IITs of the country would participate in the meeting and would decide the procedure for admission to engineering and technological institutes.

It was also proposed to hold National Eligibility Test (NET) twice a year from 2017-18 to select the candidates for JEE advance. The NET would test the knowledge of candidates in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and English and about 4 lakh students securing good percentage would be allowed to appear at the JEE advance test.

However, the new system would not be enforced from the next academic session (2016-17).

RDCIS, IIT-B sign MoU on research projects

Hindustan Times (Ranchi)

RANCHI: Research and Development Centre for Iron & Steel (RDCIS) and IIT-Bombay have signed an MoU for carrying out collaborative research projects. Under the MoU, two research projects have been initiated. Two project agreements have also been signed between RDCIS, SAIL and IIT-Bombay.

Budding entrepreneurs pitch ideas at IIT-B

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: Being young and full of ideas is one thing but to sell your ideas to a team of experts and raise money is different.

This is what happened over the weekend at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) campus with potential entrepreneurs from across the country coming together and pitching their ideas at the 11th E-Summit.

Organised by the entrepreneurship cell at IIT-B, the summit this year brought in applications from seven different countries. "Most of the ideas were tech oriented this year and it was good to see a mixed bunch of ideas flowing throughout the summit," said a member from the E-Cell (IIT-B).

Panel discussions, workshops, competitions as well as networking sessions were held during the two-day event. The speakers included Rana Kapoor (CEO of Yes Bank), Raheel Khursheed (Twitter India Head), Sachin Bansal (founder, Flipkart).

"It was interesting to be able to understand the struggles of start-ups and how to get over their problems. The convocation hall, which has a seating arrangement of 3,500, saw at least 6,000-odd participants," said a participant.

The final round of Eureka — a platform to sell business models to investors — attracted a number of people. The prize money of Rs50 lakh was shared between three participants - Smart Helmets by RevSmart, Made in India-Hand Crafted Products by Lal10.com and Kibo from IIT-B with their Country's first crowd funding latform'.

In its second year, the TenMinute Million challenge was a huge hit with the crowd. IIT-B students Ashray Malhotra, 21, and Pritam Baral, 21, managed to attract investors for their project — SoundSurround. "Our project is to distribute a sound band to each and everyone in the audience so that everybody gets the best sound quality during a concert," said Malhotra.

Financial Express ND
01/02/2016   P-12

Thales, IIT Bombay sign MoU for a joint IIT Bombay-CNRS fellowship scheme

Thales and IIT Bombay have signed an MoU for a joint IIT Bombay-CNRS PhD fellowship scheme starting July 2016. Through the scheme, Thales and IIT Bombay will seek to fortify Indo-French scientific collaboration including cross-cooperation between laboratories and R&D. Patrice Caine, chairman & CEO, Thales, said, "Promoting R&D as a way of fostering economic development is of mutual interest to both Thales and IIT Bombay. Our strategy of collaborating with Indian academic institutions and grooming talent is in line with Skill India vision." The students selected will have a PhD supervisor in India and a co-supervisor in France (from one of the identified CNRS laboratories). The programme will provide students an opportunity to conduct part of their research in both countries in advanced electronics and electromagnetics or complex system engineering.

Business Standard ND 01/02/2016   P-04

Over 80 per cent of engineers remain unemployable

The employability outcome of Indian engineers sees no massive progress as over 80 per cent continue to be unemployable, reveals Aspiring Minds' latest National Employability Report. The first large-scale study on employability was done in 2011, but there has been no significant improvement since. The report is based on a study of more than 150,000 engineering students from 650-plus colleges who have graduated in 2015. Delhi records the highest employability, followed by Bengaluru and Mumbai-Pune in the study on employability across metro cities. The southern cities continue to have the lowest employability figures. The variation in employability is very high within the same industry. The IT product employability in Delhi is as high as 11 per cent and as low as 0.94 per cent in Chennai. The study of employability by gender reveals a healthy trend of almost equal figures among males and females. This makes each role devoid of any gender-bias. Roles like sales engineer, non-IT, associate ITeS/BPO and content developer report slightly higher employability of females.

Economic Times Hindi
ND 01.02.2016 P-08

बिजनेस स्कूलों में शानदार रहा प्लेसमेंट सीजन

[पीटीआई | नई दिल्ली]

बिजनेस स्कूलों में इस वर्ष का प्लेसमेंट सीजन अच्छा रहा है। डोमेस्टिक कंपनियों के साथ एमएनसी की ओर से भी जमकर ऑफर्स दिए गए और एवरेज सैलरी में डबल डिजिट ग्रोथ दर्ज की गई। इससे बिजनेस सेंटिमेंट में सुधार के संकेत मिल रहे हैं। लगभग सभी सेक्टर्स की कंपनियों ने इस वर्ष प्लेसमेंट सीजन में काफी दिलचस्पी ली है। इसके साथ ही बहुत सी कंपनियों ने ऑफर्स की संख्या के साथ ही ऑफर की गई एवरेज सैलरी भी बढ़ाई है।

आईआईएम बैंगलोर, आईआईएम कोझिकोड और आईएमआई-दिल्ली जैसे देश के कुछ प्रमुख बिजनेस स्कूलों में प्लेसमेंट सीजन शानदार रहा। आईआईएम कोझिकोड में 119 कंपनियों ने 370 ऑफर दिए। स्टूडेंट्स को 17.1 लाख रुपये सालाना की एवरेज सैलरी ऑफर की गई, जो पिछले वर्ष से 12 पर्सेंट अधिक है। देश में ऑफर किया गया सबसे ऊंचा पैकेज 37 लाख रुपये का रहा।

आईआईएम-दिल्ली में विशेषतौर पर बीएफएसआई और एफएमसीजी, आईटी और मैन्युफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर से जुड़ी कंपनियों ने काफी हायरिंग की। इसके साथ ही एनालिटिक्स और कंसल्टिंग डोमेन से जुड़े ऑफर्स भी बढ़े हैं। इंस्टीट्यूट में मार्केटिंग की प्रोफेसर और डीन (प्लेसमेंट्स एंड कॉरपोरेट रिलेशंस) मानस्विनी आचार्य ने बताया, 'रिक्रूटर्स ने सैलरी पैकेज भी बढ़ाया है और एवरेज पैकेज बढ़कर 14.9 लाख रुपये सालाना का रहा। आईआईएम-दिल्ली में इस वर्ष सबसे ऊंचा पैकेज 29 लाख रुपये सालाना का है।'

> **IIM कोझिकोड** में स्टूडेंट्स को 17.1 लाख रुपये सालाना की एवरेज सैलरी ऑफर की गई, जो पिछले वर्ष से 12% अधिक है

आईआईएम बैंगलोर ने भी एक्सेलरेटेड समर-प्लेसमेंट को सफलता के साथ पूरा किया है। इस साल इंस्टीट्यूट के 410 छात्रों और 150 से अधिक कंपनियों ने समर प्लेसमेंट के लिए स्टूडेंट्स को कंसल्टिंग, इनवेस्टमेंट बैंकिंग, सेल्स एंड मार्केटिंग और प्रॉडक्ट मैनेजमेंट जैसे रोल्स के लिए हायर किया।

आईआईएम बैंगलोर के प्लेसमेंट रिप्रेजेंटेटिव अंकुर अग्रवाल ने बताया, 'कंसल्टिंग फर्मों ने इंस्टीट्यूट के स्टूडेंट्स को लेकर अपनी पसंद जारी रखी है और कुछ कंपनियों ने बड़ी संख्या में ऑफर्स दिए हैं। पहली बार प्राइवेट इक्विटी और वेंचर कैपिटल फर्मों ने भी इंस्टीट्यूट से हायरिंग की है।' पूरे बैच के लगभग 30 पर्सेंट स्टूडेंट्स को कंसल्टिंग सेक्टर से ऑफर्स मिले हैं। ये ऑफर्स देने वाली फर्मों में बेन एंड कंपनी, एटी किअर्नी और रोलैंड बर्जर शामिल हैं। एक्सेंचर ने इस वर्ष 16 और मैकिन्जी एंड कंपनी ने 12 ऑफर्स दिए। समर इंटर्नशिप 2016 के लिए रिक्रूटमेंट साइकल की समाप्ति पर बोस्टन कंसल्टिंग ग्रुप ने आईआईएम अहमदाबाद, आईआईएम बैंगलोर, आईआईएम कोलकाता और आईआईएम लखनऊ में कुल 71 ऑफर्स दिए। ई-कॉमर्स कंपनियों की ओर से भी हायरिंग में तेजी देखी गई। समर रिक्रूटमेंट प्रोसेस में एमेजॉन, फ्लिपकार्ट, स्नैपडील, हॉपस्कॉच, उबर, मिंट्रा, ओला कैब्स, क्विकर, इंफोएज, लिंकमायस्पोर्ट और चैनलप्ले ने हिस्सा लिया।

Microsoft hosts student data science hackathon event at IISc Bengaluru

http://www.ibtimes.co.in/microsoft-hosts-student-data-science-hackathon-event-iisc-bengaluru-665123

US technology major Microsoft, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), had organised the first ever Data Science Student Challenge (DSSC) hackathon in Bengaluru.

The event was part of IISc's annual college festival Pravega 2016, which witnessed close to 200 college students' participation from across the country.

It kicked off on 29 January and concluded on 30 January. This 24-hour hackathon gave students access to open government data and derived insights from that dataset, using the power of data analytics.

The students, with the help of a team of senior Microsoft mentors, reportedly succeeded in generating over 50 ideas that could help build digital solutions to address the socio-economic issues in the country and accelerate the pace of the government's Digital India programme.

"The demand for data scientists is making it one of the most promising career options for students today. There is a critical need to address the talent gap, both in data science research and its practice. As the premier institute of research and higher learning in India, we at IISc are working towards this in multiple ways. The recent creation of the Department of Computational and Data Sciences, the Big Data public lecture series, and new data science and analytics courses are some of these efforts. This spirit is embodied by our students as well, and I am pleased that IISc's Pravega technical fest has partnered with Microsoft to host its first global Data Science Students Challenge in India at our campus," said Professor Yogesh Simmhan, Assistant Professor, Department of Computational and Data Sciences (CDS) at IISc.

It is believed the demand for analytics skill is going up steadily, but there is a huge skill deficit both globally and in India. A McKinsey Global Institute study says the US will face a shortage of about 190,000 data scientists and 1.5 million managers and analysts who can understand and make decisions using Big Data by 2018.

"The Hackathon is an example of the deep partnerships we are forging with academia and students around data science and machine learning. At Microsoft, we are deeply committed to research and development efforts behind Azure and Cortana Analytics Suite. Data science exists across Microsoft products and services including Azure, Bing, HoloLens, Xbox and Skype. Using data science, we can make high-value predictions that can guide better decisions and smart actions in real time without human intervention. This is one of the reasons why companies like Microsoft are investing heavily in Big Data and machine learning," said Sundar Srinivasan, Partner Group Programme Manager, Microsoft India Development Centre.

"The Data Science Student Challenge at IISc aims to reiterate the significance of machine learning amongst the aspiring technical professionals by offering them a platform to experience the power of data science in addition to mentorship from senior professionals from Microsoft. We are delighted to see some interesting solutions being built by students within a span of 24 hours. Machine learning coupled with Big Data analytics will be the next big frontier for the computing industry," he added.

Winners of the hackathon:

Amog Mannekote, Tanmay Chinchore and Abhilash K from MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru won the challenge for prediction analysis on diabetes in Indian women.

G Arun Kumar & Aravind Sundaresan from People's Education Society Institute of Technology Bengaluru, South Campus, won the second prize for prediction analysis of heart diseases, and Amleshwar Kumar, Indranil Bhattacharya, Raghuram D Bharadwaj, Shreyas S and Swapnil Dhama from IISc won the third prize for predicting mortality rates of patients in ICU.

The winning teams were rewarded with a cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 15,000, respectively.

IIT-B e-summit: 4 start-ups attract investments worth Rs 15L

With an aim of helping start-ups raise funds, IIT-Bombay's enterprenurship cell had launched '10-Minute Million', an on-the-spot funding initiative, last year.

http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/iit-b-e-summit-4-start-ups-attract-investments-worth-rs-15l/

From reinventing how sound is experienced in concerts to creating personalised content for businesses at the right time suiting customers' demands, start-up teams on Sunday did not leave a single stone unturned to impress a panel of 12 investors to walk away with investments worth Rs 15 lakh on the spot. Eight teams of young entrepreneurs presented their business strategies in 10 minutes each at the IIT-Bombay e-summit. In the end, four among them split the prized investment money.

With an aim of helping start-ups raise funds, IIT-Bombay's enterprenurship cell had launched '10-Minute Million', an on-the-spot funding initiative, last year. Start-ups get 10 minutes each to pitch their ideas to a panel of 'angel investors' for raising Rs 15 lakh. According to organisers the money need not necessarily come from a single investor. Multiple investors can pool in to invest the amount. The initiative comes at a time when IITs are increasing their commitment to support entrepreneurship on their campuses.

This year's panel of angel investors included heavyweights such as Ajeet Khurana – CEO, SINE IIT Bombay; Kunal Shah, founder and CEO, Freecharge; Anupam Mittal – founder and CEO, People group; Sanjay Mehta – director, Core media group; V C Karthic- founder of Buzzworks Business Services; Taha Nabee — Vice President, Sales and Distribution, Aromatan Cosmetics; Suketu Shah – JMD Mukand Ltd, Samir Shah – founder director, Sattva Asia opportunities funding; Bharat Banka of Sterlite technologies Ltd; Devesh Chawla founder and CEO of Chatur ideas; Srinivasan Swamy, CFO, Bridge; Anand Ladsariya – founder, Everest Flavour; Suneel Bandhu – COO, Tata Teleservices; Vikram Chachra – founding partner of Eight Innovate; Manish Gandhi of Asian Business exhibitions and conferences ltd and Miten Mehta of social impact ventures.

Out of over hundreds of entries and registrations, eight start-ups were shortlisted. The start-ups that won seed funding were Bangalore-based Strike, a mobile-first email productivity platform for Gmail; Chennai-based Maaxmarket, which creates personalised contents for businesses thus claiming to increase their sales; and Gurgaon-based Gamooz, which claims to be amongst India's very few start-ups that deal with augmented reality. They specialise in building augmented reality applications for mobile phones, desktop, screens and kiosks. The other winner was Mumbai-based Soundsurround that claims to have re-invented concert music by building a system that connects up to thousands of wearable speakers to give a highly immersive experience.

Lenin Srinivasan, founder of Maaxmarket, said, "The idea behind participating is not just to grab the investment but also get recognition. The overwhelming response that we got from investors was itself very encouraging." Maaxmarket received the maximum commitment of Rs 1.8 crore, breaking last year's record when one of the teams managed to impress the investors and get a commitment of Rs 65 lakh.

"Raising money is difficult for most start-ups. Administrative formalities and non-standardised documents make it particularly irksome for first-timers. The initiative has revolutionised fund-raising," said Shreya Gupta, media manager of the e-Summit of the Entrepreneurship Cell of IIT-B.

Ajeet Khurana of SINE IIT Bombay and organiser of the event said that the 10-Minute Million is a great place to locate fresh talent for investment opportunities and evaluate seed funding deals. "At an early stage, even small bits of assistance that we, as angel investors, can provide to the companies can cause a significant turn for these young entrepreneurs," he said.

In association with the Society For Innovation And Entrepreneurship (SINE), and IIT Bombay as the Corporate Partner, the initiative was part of a two-day event on January 30 and January 31 called The Entrepreneurship Summit (E-Summit)-2016, an annual business plan completion of IIT Bombay.

IIT-Madras finds new device for differently-abled to board trains

Chennai: Feb 1, 2016, DHNS

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/526311/iit-madras-finds-device-differently.html

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has come out with a device, a ramp that provides instant easy access between a train and the platform, for differently-abled to help them easily board and get off the train.

The cost-effective invention will not only serve differently-abled persons, but also help senor citizens who are unable to climb the steps. "Our aim is to design a low cost device integrated with a standard train which will make it easier for differently abled persons and old persons to get off and board the train," Prasanna Dharmadhikari told Deccan Herald on Sunday.

According to him, several additional constraints like cost of the device, bulkiness and most importantly ergonomics for an old as well as differently-abled person have been analysed and treated with special care. Explaining about the mechanism, he said "the problem statement was inherently a complex one. Several things needed to be taken into consideration.