

Newspaper Clips

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Times of India ND 4/07/2011

P-11

326 seats still up for grabs in IITs after 2nd round

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: There is yet some hope for those aspiring to get into the top engineering schools of India. After the second round of admissions closed at the Indian Institutes of Technology, there are still 326 seats up for grabs.

They will come up in the third round

of admission, the details of which will be out July 10. Data from the IIT-Kanpur shows that after the second round, 326 students did not book their seats as they were not happy with the courses they were allotted. This year, IITs took one more step to ensure seats do not go abegging — three rounds of admission. “When the issue of vacant seats in IITs,

IIT-BHU and ISM-Dhanbad was discussed, it was noted the primary reason for the vacancies was that students accept admission, deposit the advance amount and then do not join the course. It is hoped that conducting three rounds will reduce vacancies,” IIT-Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande said.

After the first round closed, 299 seats

were vacant, but more students backed out later. When admissions closed in 2009, it was clear there weren't enough qualified candidates to fill up available seats. In 2010, about 100 seats remained unfilled. The Joint Admission Board has advised students to desist from leaving a course once admission has been accepted.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ND 4/07/2011

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World-class education, are we missing the point?

We have smart students, we need smarter teachers

Naveen Chamoli

It is said that there are no bad students but only bad teachers, yet in practice the required maturity and humility departs when some inconvenient questions emerge. Currently, the employability measured—often measured in terms of placement packages and patronage by well-positioned alumni—seems to be a hallmark of academic excellence. Well, it can be a popular measure of the perceived value of a student by an employer. The caveat is that the soaring campus offers and homogeneity of corporate leadership in terms of where they studied also indicate the severe talent crunch and a systematic failure in higher education in addressing the large workforce and talent requirements required for a populous country and a large economy like India trying to emerge as an economic super power. The term world-class, which intends to define the best available in the world, in itself is an oxymoron.

The government in recent times has tried to multiply the IITs and IIMs by renaming some and opening new ones in almost every state, hoping that renaming institutions as IIT or IIM, as the case may be, will automatically help in-

herit a certain level of reputation, respectability and legacy from the established ones and continue to attract the best students.

Yet the obsessive occupation with the reputation of these show pieces of Indian higher education is coming at the cost of systematic improvements and focus required for addressing the challenges of higher education in India. Questions on initiatives to multiply world-class teaching talent, and attract best talent to teaching and research by offering world-class compensation and careers remain largely unanswered. What about improving the environment for self learning, teaching methodology and knowledge inputs, orientation, and skill development in all existing institutions!

Not long ago, our respected environment minister said that the faculty at IITs and IIMs is not “world class”. He has also said that IITs and IIMs are excellent because of the quality of students and not because of the quality of research or faculty. “There is hardly any worthwhile research from our IITs,” he had said. At that time, human resource development minister Kapil Sibal seemed to agree with his Cabinet colleague and said, “He (Jairam Ramesh) is himself an IITian. He



ASIT BAGCHI

might be having inside knowledge. Even otherwise ... do we have world-class institutions? As education minister, I am striving towards achieving world-class standards for our institutions. This is a fact that our institutions don't figure in the top 150 list.”

As expected, the faculty, celebrity alumni, and management of the institutions in question criticised the comments and defended the abilities and

work of the faculty and their immense contribution to the reputation of these institutes. As expected, the response from the ministers to the criticisms was a diplomatic climb down to the extent of subsequent praise of the faculty and the need to engage the IITs in government research projects. Presumably, the reputation of the showpieces of higher education continues to draw the most competitive students

THE ENTRANCE EXAM TO OUR BEST INSTITUTIONS IS AMONG THE TOUGHEST IN THE WORLD. WHY IS THERE NO COMPETITIVE SYSTEM THEN TO HIRE THE BEST TALENT AS FACULTY, AND THE SAME LEVEL OF COMPETITION TO TEACH AT THESE INSTITUTIONS?

through a world-class competitive examination system and is a very touchy subject to be questioned by anybody to the discomfort of the direct stakeholders. So, for now, “All is well” with our education system and peace prevails. So, do we wait for the day an IIT or IIM ranks among the top 150 to say our education goals would have deemed met. It surely will be a big day for the minister, faculty and alumni of the institution that makes it, yet it may not contribute to addressing the big challenge in front of an average Indian desiring an inclusive growth through access to world-class education.

But the minister's comments have

raised some inconvenient questions that every taxpayer asks in the country whose money is going towards the development and maintenance of these institutes. The entrance exam to these institutions is among the toughest in the world. Why is there no competitive system then to hire the best talent as faculty, and the same level of competition to teach at these institutions. The faculty pay is not world-class for sure, so the world-class talent most likely will never compete to teach here; thus expecting the best research brains to work in these institutes is an ask too much. So, expecting these institutions to be self-reliant on the basis of intellect is a far-fetched dream, but a relevant goal. We are investing hugely in large campuses, we are having ever more competitive examination systems and we are separating the brightest few thousand students from the millions, but that may not add up much for the nation of a billion-plus that we are. We have smart students, we need smarter teachers.

The author heads the Center for Faculty Development, and teaches behavioural science, business communication, strategic marketing and brand management, at IIPM

Financial Chronicle ND 04/07/2011 P10

IIT-K alumnus' startup rocks

Pooja Nath's Piazza offers peer platform for students & teachers of US colleges

EVELYN M RUSLI

International Herald Tribune

WHEN Pooja Nath was an undergraduate at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, she felt isolated. She was one of the few women on the campus. While her male classmates collaborated on problem sets, Nath toiled in the computer lab alone.

"Back then, no one owned a laptop, there was no internet in the dorm rooms. So everyone in my class would be working in the computer lab together," she said. "But all the guys would be communicating with each other, getting help so fast, and I would be on the sidelines just watching."

The experience as a young woman in that culture formed the foundation of Piazza, her start-up in Silicon Valley. The site, an online platform for homework help, was conceived in 2009 during Nath's first year at Stanford Business School. Students post questions to their course pages, to which peers and educators can then respond. Instructors moderate the discussion, endorse the best responses and track the popularity of questions in real time. Responses are colour-coded, so students can easily identify the instructor's comments. Although there are rival services, like Blackboard, an education software company, Piazza's platform is specifically designed to optimise response times. Supported by a system of notification alerts, the average question on Piazza will receive an answer in 14 minutes.

"The whole idea of Piazza stems from the dynamics that I observed at IIT," she said. "From the sidelines I saw how effective it was to



Pallavi

get immediate help, from peers in the same room."

Piazza, which is Italian for public square, is part of a growing group of technology start-ups designed to disrupt the education market. Its peers include Kno, the education tablet maker, and Inking, a platform for interactive, digital textbooks. The trend has also given birth to its own Silicon Valley-based incubator, Imagine K12, which announced its first batch of investments earlier this month.

"Education is a big focus area for us. You're going to see big fundamental shifts in the way education is performed," said Aydin Senkut, an investor in Piazza who made his fortune as an early Google employee. "With Piazza, it's about turning data into actionable intelligence. We want to empower people

to ask and answer questions, and we're going to measure every aspect of it."

Piazza's own metrics are promising. The average

user, according to the company's data, spends two to three hours a day on the site. The reason for the intensity is very similar to the reason for Facebook's growth, which is what excites investors. The company has just raised \$1.5 million in financing from several prominent Silicon Valley backers, including Sequoia Capital, Ron Conway, and Senkut, the founder of Felicis Ventures.

The average user, according to the company's data, spends about two to three hours a day on the site. Relying heavily on word of mouth, Piazza has expanded from about three schools to more than 330 in the past year. At Stanford University, the first school to start using the service, more than half of the undergraduates are registered users.

As in the case of Facebook, the wildly popular social network that sprang out of a Harvard dorm room, the close-knit nature of college

campuses has helped accelerate the adoption of Piazza. It may be of particular appeal to young women who, like Nath herself, face cultural obstacles to educational achievement.

Jennifer Rexford, a computer science professor at Princeton University, started using Piazza for her programming systems class last semester. The platform, which replaced the traditional, classroom e-mail list, helped her reduce her office hours and respond to student questions faster. It also turned into an unexpected resource for grading; at the end of the semester she used Piazza's statistics on participation to reward the most helpful students.

"Piazza gave the students a community, especially in the middle of the night, when the instructors were sleeping," Rexford said. Nath said she was in no hurry to make money from the service, which currently free. Instead, she is focused

on building the number of users over the next year. "We have some ideas, but we're not ready to say this is how we're going to do it," she said. "We're going to stay focused on keeping our engagement rates high."

In part, Piazza is still a personal crusade for Nath. The immigrant engineer knows her path is not common. She spent several years in Canada and Ohio before returning to India at the age of 11. As a high school student in Patna, India, she watched several of her girlfriends drop out of school, one by one, at the age of 15, because their parents found them suitable mates. Her parents, meanwhile, encouraged her to go to IIT — the first woman from her town to do so — and, later, back to the United States to receive a master's degree in computer science from the University of Maryland. But at 22, when it seemed an appropriate time to marry, Nath's parents prodded their daughter — a product of Indian and American cultures — into an arranged marriage. Frustrated by the match and by what she describes as considerable pressure to conform to conservative standards, Nath fled, divorced and even left a job at Oracle.

Untethered, she suddenly felt free to pursue opportunities she was more passionate about. She became a software programmer for Kosmix, a social web start-up, and later joined a promising company named Facebook. Still searching, Nath left soon after, and in 2008 enrolled in business school.

There was one snag. Nath flunked an entrepreneurship class for low attendance. She had a good excuse: too many investor meetings for Piazza.

No takers for IIITs in PPP model

NITIN MAHAJAN

NEW DELHI

July 3: The government is finding it difficult to find takers for the establishment of 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in public private partnership model in the country. Despite repeated reminders, the Union human resources development ministry has so far received a

positive response from only two states, Bihar and Kerala, regarding the proposal. Official sources stated that only Bihar and Kerala have expressed their desire to establish one of these premier institutes in their states. "We are awaiting response from other states," sources added.

This paper had on December 8 last year reported that the Union Cabinet had

approved the setting up of 20 new IIITs with a PPP model. The Cabinet has approved an outlay of ₹2808.71 crore for the proposal. Each IIIT will cost ₹128.00 crore and a contribution ratio of 50: 35: 15 by the Central government, the state government and the industry have been fixed respectively. Apart from sharing the funding of these institutes the state govern-

ment are also expected to provide 50-100 acres of land, free of cost.

The government proposes to establish 20 new IIITs in a phased manner between 2011-12 and 2019-20. Sources stated that during the first four years of setting up each IIIT, the Central Government will provide partial support towards the recurring expenditure upto Rs 10 crore to each IIIT.

Mint, ND 4/07/2011 P-10

PINEAPPLE GROUP

Technology solutions for SMEs

25-year-old entrepreneur provides inventory and data management software to streamline IT systems

BY ANUPAMA CHANDRASEKARAN
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CHENNAI

Nikhil Gandhi doesn't store all phone numbers on his cell-phone. He usually enters them in a diary that has gradually grown to hold more than 4,000 phone numbers.

It is an unlikely old-world quirk for this 25-year-old information technology entrepreneur running a company that focuses on inventory and data management software for small and medium-size companies.

"There are few companies looking at this segment since most businessmen in this category are cost conscious, *kanjoos* (miserly) and wouldn't want to spend crores of rupees on a system," says Gandhi, who claims to have collated contact information of thousands of ancillary companies in Chennai's booming auto sector while completing his MBA at Great Lakes Institute of Management, 55km outside Chennai.

His biggest fear is losing his mobile phone and the numbers within it. A mistake he cannot afford and hence his diary of contacts.

Gandhi and his three friends, engineering graduates who worked in the IT sector in Pune, Maharashtra, started Pineapple Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd in 2009 by pooling in ₹6 lakh of their savings.



Student START-UPS

An initial misstep in targeting political parties to set up their websites yielded no revenue and the friends switched focus to small firms struggling for an IT system that, for instance, tracks products seeing higher demand. This information prevents underproduction of goods that could result in a loss of business and revenues.

"We are constantly looking out for companies who have scaled beyond the smaller model and getting some number of pilot customers on board and shows us a wide variety of possibilities and not just the low hanging fruits," says Rajesh Srivathsa of Ojas Ventures, a \$35 million India-focused early stage venture fund. "But honestly, I don't know if businesses based on enterprise resource applications are compelling enough."

Gandhi, who last year zeroed on a ₹10-lakh, one-year MBA education programme, found the college to be a great networking platform where a visiting faculty helped him win one of his first overseas clients, a US university wanting to link up different departments and track student information.

The Pineapple Group assured nearly 25% cost savings to the university by internalizing a payment gateway for their bookstore, previously managed by someone else for a fee. They



Gradual progress: Nikhil Gandhi at the Great Lakes of Institute Management.

also advised the university to outsource delivery of books, getting rid of overheads of maintaining a van and a driver. This project worth ₹7 lakh will hopefully help them get more deals that will hasten the company's target to achieve a revenue of ₹3 crore by 2012 from the current ₹50 lakh. Overseas projects garner four times as much as Indian contracts.

Three month ago, even as Gandhi wrapped up his final term at Great Lakes by partying away through weekend nights with his classmates, largely drinking mocktails as he doesn't consume alcohol, he could not help hope that he didn't have this ₹10-lakh baggage in the form of an education loan.

"We may not be ready yet to waive loans but we may think of investing in these ideas and take a stake in companies incubated at Great Lakes,"

says S. Sriram, executive director at Great Lakes Institute of Management.

The company's technologically inclined founders take several measures to keep afloat. Only two promoters who devote full time to the venture are on the payroll besides the seven-member software development team. And in the absence of industry know-how, they hired two consultants with nearly two decades of experience in the manufacturing sector to talk and convince clients.

The idea is to target manufacturing companies in India and streamline IT systems at a relatively lower cost than systems offered by SAP and Oracle. But that doesn't prevent Pineapple Group from taking on low-paying jobs of website development as it pays monthly bills.

"My parents tell me that I am not Azim Premji (of Wipro) or Narayana

QUICK FACTS

COMPANY NAME
Pineapple Group

FOUNDER
Nikhil Gandhi and friends

INDUSTRY
Automotive and manufacturing

PRODUCT COMPANY OR SERVICES OR BOTH
Product and services company

FOUNDED
November 2009

NUMBER OF FOUNDERS AND EMPLOYEES
Three founders, six employees

CITY
Pune

INVESTMENT TO DATE
₹6 lakh, mostly self-funded and some from family

THE NEXT CLOSEST MILESTONE THEY PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH
Reach a revenue target of ₹1 crore by end of 2011

Murthy (of Infosys)," says Gandhi, whose grandfather and father ran grocery stores that had seasonal *rakhi* or a firecracker counter in Pune. "They don't understand the risk and the benefits. They don't understand that five years down the line, this business will give me 10 times as much money as the job."

Pineapple Group was among the finalists of the NEN First Dot Student Startup Showcase.

Mint, ND 4/07/2011 P-5

RADICAL THINKER

A teacher fondly remembered as a man far ahead of his time

BY JAITHIRTH RAO
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OBITUARY

Suresh Kuchhal

1928-2011

Suresh Kuchhal died in Delhi last week, aged 83. He was part of a group—along with Vikram Sarabhai, Prakash Tandon, Kamla Chaudhuri, Ravi Mathai, S.K. Bhattacharya, Vasant Mote and Ishwar Dayal—that set up the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Ahmedabad in 1961. He died of old age.

Kuchhal taught finance for more than two decades, before retiring in 1988. Hundreds of Indian chief executive officers and chief financial officers learnt their basics from him. And every one of them is in some measure in debt to Kuchhal Sahib, as he was fondly known.

I, for one, will never forget his class on leverage. How

much debt is good for a firm? We knew or thought we knew what Modigliani and Miller had articulated—that the value of the firm was independent of its financial structure.

In his simple pragmatic teaching style, Kuchhal Sahib managed to convey to us that while this theory was no doubt correct, considerations of risk were not to be dismissed. Firms that borrowed heavily took real risks in so far as the financing method spilled over into the real world. Kuchhal's examples could never be forgotten. They remain in the memories of generations of his students.



Inspiring many: Suresh Kuchhal.

Looking back, it is astonishing to think how far ahead of his time Kuchhal Sahib was. Just two examples of issues he advocated would be illustrative.

One, he was keen that executives and employees have options and shares in the companies they worked for. It is not only rich promoters who should have stakes; the interests of employees, especially the senior ones, need to be aligned with those of public shareholders, he said. This was quite an argument to push in the 1970s. Today, of course, we take it for granted.

Two, he was passionate in his belief that if public sector companies started getting listed on stock exchanges, there would be greater transparency, greater focus on efficiency and overall economic gains.

Again, today, this is considered so normal that there are no arguments at all against the idea.

Kuchhal Sahib did a bachelor of commerce and a bache-

lor of law from Allahabad University prior to training at Harvard Business School. He published a standard textbook on corporate finance.

He taught his students that finance can be an elegant discipline if we focused on simplicity, transparency and lucidity. There was no need to rely on dark incomprehensible boxes.

In fact, elaborate structures can be dangerous and are often used to hide sinister manipulations. If central bankers of the world had insisted derivatives and credit default swaps be instruments listed on exchanges, and not opaque, structured over-the-counter products, much of the financial agony of recent times would have been avoided.

Kuchhal Sahib taught us

that the best way of allocating capital was not by a fiat imposed by central planners from above, but by a credible capital market, provided of course that this market practised transparency and ensured liquidity for participants. His passion and his gentle warnings remain abiding memories.

Meeting him at alumni events, which he meticulously attended, and catching up with his fresh insights, was always a joy.

Honouring gurus is part of our tradition. It would be most appropriate if his students and the institute, which he loved so much, put together an appropriate endowment in Kuchhal Sahib's memory.

The writer was a student of Suresh Kuchhal and graduated from IIM Ahmedabad in 1973.

Business Standard ND 04/07/2011 P-5

Management education system should focus on *aam-aadmi*: Sibal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Hyderabad, 4 July

UNION HRD Minister Kapil Sibal today stressed upon the need for utilising management education system to provide solutions to problems faced by the common man. "Can we, in the management system, bring about a change of mindset and look at management solutions that actually impact and affect the ordinary man on the street—the *aam aadmi*?" Sibal asked.

He was here to inaugurate the campus of the Institute of

Management Technology (IMT) on the outskirts of the city.

"We must actually start thinking through the management education system on connecting management solutions to the *aam-aadmi*. Unless we move forward in that direction, the kind of wealth that we hope to create through management schools, will not be created for the good of the nation," Sibal said.

"However, at the moment, our management schools are centered around getting placements (for their students) in big firms for fat salaries. This is re-

ally a tragedy," the HRD Minister said. "Even children who come to the management schools, look at the end of the one/two-year management courses to get employed in some profitable enterprise," he added.

"I think, this is a wrong way of looking at management, because it is much more than getting fat salaries," he said adding that it is now time to change the nature of management instruction and education.

"There are huge problems in the country and there is a need to study the management of so-

cio-economic issues in the society. I don't think there are any courses taught in India or in management schools that look at education as a management issue," the Union Minister said.

"We have to look into the issues of management for poverty. No case-study has been done with reference to slums and the people living there. There are other problems like how to manage 55 lakh teachers in schools and recruitment of these teachers and how do you manage a school administration, among others," Sibal said.

Times of India ND 04/07/2011 P-15

Magnetic PCs to help save energy?

Silicon Chips Produce A Lot Of Waste Heat

Washington: Coming soon: Magnetic computers which may use far less energy, say scientists. A team at the University of California, which is developing such computers, claims that the future machines will rely on magnetic microprocessors which consume the least amount of energy allowed by the laws of physics.

Today's silicon-based microprocessor chips rely on electric currents, or moving electrons, that generate a lot of waste heat. But microprocessors employing nanometer-sized bar magnets — like tiny refrigerator magnets — for memory, logic and switching operations theoretically would require no moving electrons, say the scientists.

Such chips would dissipate only 18 millielectron volts of energy per operation at room temperature, the minimum allowed by the second law of thermodynamics and called the Landauer limit. That's one million times less energy per operation than consumed by today's computers.

Brian Lambson, who led the team, said: "Today, computers run on electricity, by moving electrons around a circuit, you can process information. A magnetic computer, on the other hand, doesn't involve any moving electrons. You store and process information using magnets, and if you make these magnets really small, you

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LOGGING IN TO THE FUTURE

can basically pack them very close together so that they interact with one another. This is how we are able to do computations, have memory and conduct all the functions of a computer." Lambson is working with Jeffrey Bokor, UC Berkeley professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences, to develop magnetic computers. PTI

कारोबारी शिक्षा

पीएचडी छात्रों की मुरीद हुई कंपनियां

आईआईटी और आईआईएस से निकले पीएचडी छात्रों को मिल रही है मुंह मांगी पगार

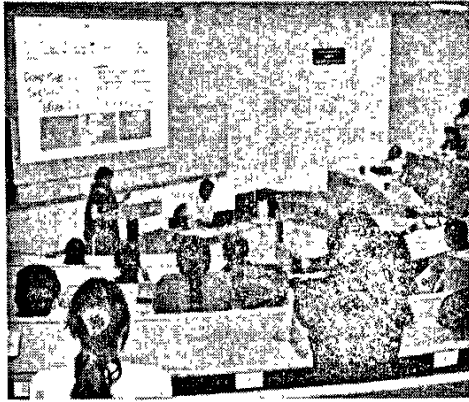
प्रियंका जोशी और कल्पना पाठक

► शोध एवं विकास कार्यों पर कंपनियां दे रहीं हैं जोर

इंटरनेट क्षेत्र की दिग्गज कंपनी याहू ने हाल में भर्ती के लिए एक विज्ञापन जारी कर कहा था, 'हमें वैज्ञानिकों की दरकार है'। अपनी शोध संबंधी जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए कंपनी ने भारत के कई बड़े संस्थानों के साथ मिलकर 'याहू पीएचडी कॉप' कार्यक्रम शुरू करने का फैसला किया। याहू इस तरह के कार्यक्रम की मदद से देश में प्रतिभावान छात्रों की तलाश करेगी।

याहू के अलावा दूसरी अन्य कंपनियों ने भी शोध एवं विकास कार्यों पर खासा जोर दिया है और वे बड़ी संख्या में शोधार्थी छात्रों की नियुक्ति कर रही हैं। इसके चलते पीएचडी छात्रों की मांग में जबरदस्त इजाजा हुआ है। दूसरी तरफ स्थिति यह है कि कंपनियों को शोध कार्य के लिए जरूरत के अनुरूप पीएचडी के छात्र उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रहे हैं। भारत में अभी भी योग्य शोधार्थी छात्रों की संख्या काफी कम है। वर्तमान समय में आईआईटी जैसे संस्थान हर साल तकरीबन 1,000 पीएचडी छात्र तैयार करते हैं जबकि इसकी तुलना में चीन और अमेरिका जैसे देशों में हर साल करीब 8,000 से 9,000 पीएचडी के छात्र तैयार होते हैं।

याहू ने कहा कि इस कार्यक्रम के तहत छात्रों को श्रेष्ठ शिक्षण संस्थान की फैकल्टी के मार्गदर्शन में पारस्परिक हितों से जुड़े विषयों पर शोध एवं विकास कार्य करने की अनुमति होगी। याहू के उपाध्यक्ष और याहू लैब्स बेंगलुरु के प्रमुख राजीव रस्तोगी ने कहा, 'हमें यकीन है कि ऐसे पीएचडी के छात्र जो शोध एवं विकास कार्यों के लिए हमारे साथ मिलकर प्रयोगशालाओं में काम करना चाहते हैं वे वेब उत्पादों और सेवाओं के क्षेत्र बेहतरीन कार्य करेंगे और उन्हें इसके लिए पर्याप्त स्वतंत्रता भी प्रदान की जाएगी। इस तरह के कार्यक्रम के कई लाभ हैं। याहू यहां पूरे समय के लिए अध्ययन कर सकती है। इसके अलावा छात्रों को यहां दुनिया



के सर्वश्रेष्ठ विश्वविद्यालयों की ओर से फेलोशिप और छात्रवृत्ति भी दी जाएगी।' बेंगलुरु में कंपनी की यह प्रयोगशाला वर्ष 2008 में स्थापित की गई थी जो याहू लैब नेटवर्क का एक हिस्सा है। इस प्रयोगशाला की मदद से याहू ने इंटरनेट उत्पादों और कई नई तकनीकी सेवाओं का विकास किया है।

केवल याहू ही नहीं इंटरनेट व तकनीक क्षेत्र की दूसरी अन्य दिग्गज कंपनियों जैसे- माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, गूगल, इंटेल, एएमडी, आईबीएम, बेल लेब्स, एप्लाइड मेटेरियल्स आदि ने भी नए-नए शोध व अनुसंधान पर खासा जोर दिया है। ये कंपनियां भी बड़ी संख्या में शोधार्थी पीएचडी छात्रों को शोध और विकास कार्य के लिए भारत स्थित अपनी इकाइयों में नियुक्त कर रही हैं। इसी क्रम में एएमडी ने देश के शीर्ष इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान जैसे भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान (आईआईएस), भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और भारतीय सांख्यिकीय संस्थान (आईएसआई), कोलकाता से पिछले दो साल के दौरान काफी संख्या में छात्रों की नियुक्ति की है। इन संस्थानों के ज्यादातर छात्रों को नवीन शोध कार्य में लगाया गया है। एएमडी इंडिया के कॉर्पोरेट उपाध्यक्ष (डिजाइन एवं इंजीनियरिंग) शिव गोवानी कहते हैं, 'कंपनी आगे

चलकर और अधिक संख्या में पीएचडी छात्रों को नियुक्त करने का मन बना रही है। आमतौर पर कंपनी में छात्र इंटरशिप के तौर पर पीएचडी करते हैं, उसके बाद कंपनी तदनुसार उन्हें पूर्णरूपेण काम पर रखती है। कुछ खास मामलों में कंपनी विश्वविद्यालय में पीएचडी छात्रों के शोध व विकास कार्यों के लिए फंड भी मुहैया कराती है।'

कंप्यूटर चिप बनाने वाली कंपनी इंटेल की भी योजना भारत में बड़ी संख्या में पीएचडी छात्रों की नियुक्ति की है। पिछले साल की तुलना में इस साल कंपनी ज्यादा छात्रों की नियुक्ति करने वाली है। कंपनी के एक चरित्र एचआर के मुताबिक, 'जब तक हम अपना पीएचडी प्रोग्राम शुरू नहीं कर देते तब तक हमारे कर्मचारी आईआईटी कानपुर के साथ मिलकर शोध व विकास कार्य करेंगे।'

आईआईटी संस्थान के मुताबिक जब पीएचडी करने के दौरान ही छात्रों को विभिन्न फर्मों की ओर से शोध एवं विकास कार्यों के लिए ढेरों ऑफर मिल रहे हैं। आईआईटी और आईआईएस जैसे संस्थानों के साथ मिलकर भी कई कंपनियां शोध कार्य करने में रुचि ले रही हैं। संस्थान के मुताबिक शोध के प्रति कंपनियों की बढ़ती दिलचस्पी के कई फायदे होंगे। वैसे देश के अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में पीएचडी करने

विभिन्न नए विषयों पर अनुसंधान करने में रुचि रखने वाले छात्रों के लिए कंपनियों की ओर से मिल रहे हैं ढेरों ऑफर

टेक्नोलॉजी क्षेत्र की ज्यादातर कंपनियां अब शोध पर ज्यादा जोर दे रही हैं जिसकी वजह से पीएचडी छात्रों की मांग जबरदस्त बढ़ी है

आईआईटी जैसे संस्थान हर साल करीब 1,000 पीएचडी छात्र तैयार करते हैं वहीं चीन में हर साल 8,000 पीएचडी छात्र तैयार होते हैं

वाले छात्रों की तादाद कम नहीं है पर ज्यादातर कंपनियां केवल आईआईटी और आईआईएस जैसे संस्थानों से पीएचडी करने वाले छात्रों को ही तरजीह देते हैं। जानकारों का कहना है कि देश के शीर्षस्थ प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों के छात्र काफी प्रतिभाशाली होते हैं और संस्थान की साख केवल देश ही नहीं बल्कि विदेशों में भी है। यही कारण है कि ऐसे पीएचडी छात्रों की मांग भी जबरदस्त है और उन्हें कॉर्पोरेट सेक्टर में भारी-भरकम पैकेज की पेशकश की जाती है।

उद्योग जानकारों के मुताबिक ऐसे छात्रों को कहीं भी 6 लाख रुपये से 8 लाख रुपये सालाना तक का पैकेज आसानी से मिल जाता है। इसके अलावा कई तरह की सुविधाओं की भी पेशकश की जाती है। जबकि इस क्षेत्र में अनुभव प्राप्त छात्रों को और भी ऊंचे वेतनमान पर कंपनियां अपने साथ जोड़ने की इच्छुक रहती हैं।

एक कंपनी से जुड़े अधिकारी का कहना है कि दो साल या इससे ज्यादा अनुभव वाले शोधार्थी को और भी ज्यादा ऊंची सेलेरी के साथ-साथ अन्य सुविधाएं दी जाती हैं। हालांकि कुछ कंपनियां शोध आदि के लिए विश्वविद्यालय से अनुबंध का रास्ता भी अपना रही हैं ताकि वह कम खर्च में शोध एवं विकास कार्य को अंजाम दे सकें।

छात्रों ने बनाया पैडलचालित वाहन

आईआईटी बंबई के छात्रों के एक समूह ने पैडल से चलने वाला एक वाहन बनाया है। अब छात्र इसे बाजार में पेश करना चाहते हैं।

प्रियंका जोशी

पिछले साल गर्मी के मौसम के दौरान 5 आईआईटी बंबई के छात्रों ने मानवजनित ऊर्जा से चलने वाले एक वाहन बनाने का फैसला किया था जो एक कार की तरह जरूर दिखाई दे लेकिन उसे चलाने के लिए प्रेट्रोल या डीजल की जरूरत न पड़े। आखिरकार तिपहिया साइकिल की तरह दिखने वाले एक वाहन का डिजाइन तैयार किया गया जिसमें ड्राइवर की जरूरत होती है जो अपने पैरों को पैडल पर टिकाकर गाड़ी चला सकता है। सिविल इंजीनियरिंग के चौथे साल के एक छात्र अभिनव अप्रवाल के नेतृत्व में थर्ड ईयर के 4 छात्रों आयुष, चंडक, मयंक गुप्ता, प्रदीप वर्मा और रोहित सिंगवाल ने इस वाहन को लेकर सतर्कता भरी रणनीति शुरू कर दी। बाद में 2 और छात्र कुणाल वर्मा और अलौकिक कुमार भी इसे योजना से जुड़ गए। इस तरह 7 सदस्यों वाली आईआईटी टीम ने 'परम' को तैयार करने से पहले 4 महीने का वक्त लगाकर योजना बनाई।

परम के डिजाइन को देखकर आपको तिपहिया रिक्शा के बीच बैठने की जगह दिखगी, यह कभी-कभी बच्चों की साइकिल की तरह भी लगता है। मयंक गुप्ता का कहना है, 'हमने ड्राइवर की सीट को जानबूझ कर जमीन से कुछ इंच ऊपर ही रखा है ताकि परम को चलाने में कोई दिक्कत न आए।' ड्राइवर के आसपास मौजूद एरोडायनेमिक शेल बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है। गुप्ता का कहना है कि इससे चलाने में ताकत कम लगती है और यह हवा का प्रतिरोध भी करता है जिससे वाहन की गति में बढ़ोतरी होती है। टीम का दावा है कि शुरुआती परीक्षण के दौरान इसकी गति 70-80 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा थी। कॉलेज के प्रोफेसर के फीडबैक और कॉलेज के दोस्तों के सुझाव से टीम ने इस सिंगल सीटर वाहन में विंडस्क्रीन, हेडलाइट, हॉर्न और रिफ्लेक्टर लगाया। वैसे इसे बड़े कैम्पस में छोटी दूरी तय करने के लिहाज से बनाया गया है और 'परम' देश के मेट्रो शहरों के लिए पर्यावरण अनुकूल वाहन के तौर पर एक मिसाल साबित हो सकता है। वैसे तो इसका नमूना बेहद साधारण दिखता है लेकिन गुप्ता और उनकी टीम ने प्रायोजक मिलने से पहले अपने पॉकेट से 2.5 लाख रुपये खर्च किए। गुप्ता का कहना है, 'जिन चीजों का इस्तेमाल किया गया है उसे पाना मुश्किल है और हम लोगों को परम के एक-एक हिस्से को जोड़ने में काफी सतर्कता बरतनी पड़ी। हमने इस साल अमेरिका में मोंटाना स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी द्वारा आयोजित ह्वामन पावर्ड व्हीकल चैलेंज के लिए परम को तैयार किया था। इसीलिए हमें इसका नमूना भी तैयार करना था ताकि हम प्रतियोगिता में शामिल हो सकें।'

परम को 3 कॉरपोरेट प्रायोजक, गेल, ओएनजीसी और एलआईसी भी मिले हैं। गुप्ता का कहना है, 'हमने परम की कार्यशील इकाई और इसके नमूने को बनाने में 8.5 लाख रुपये खर्च किए हैं।' मोंटाना में अंडरवा पोजीशन हासिल करने के बाद गुप्ता उन क्षणों को याद करते हैं जब प्रतियोगिता में आने से पहले परम को तैयार करने के लिए काफी मशक्कत की गई थी। उनका कहना है, 'इस भागीदारी में 3 चरण थे, धैर्य, काम की तेज रफ्तार और डिजाइन। हर चरण से पहले हमारे पास टूटे हुए हिस्से थे या कुछ तकनीकी चीजें थीं जिन्हें जल्द जोड़ना जरूरी था। लेकिन हमने किसी भी तरह से इनका प्रबंधन कर लिया।' यह टीम अब तिपहिया परम तैयार करने के लिए जुटी हुई है। गुप्ता का कहना है, 'फिलहाल यह अभी योजना के स्तर पर है। लेकिन हम डिजाइनिंग पर विचार कर रहे हैं। यह भी मानवजनित ऊर्जा से चलने वाला वाहन होगा और यह परम से ज्यादा तेज गति से चलेगा।' बात यहीं पर खत्म नहीं होती। योजना से जुड़ी इस टीम के 5 सदस्य कॉलेज के बाद उद्यमी बनने का सपना देख रहे हैं और वे परम को व्यावसायिक बनाना चाहते हैं। उनका कहना है, 'हमने अपने अध्ययन में परम की व्यवहार्यता का अनुमान लगाया है और हमने यह देखा है कि अगर हम परम के 100 यूनिट को तैयार करें तो इसकी लागत कम होकर 70,000 रुपये प्रति यूनिट होगी।'

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आइआईटी और एम्स जैसा होगा आइआइएमसी का दर्जा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेट्र : देश के प्रमुख जन संचार संस्थान इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मास कम्यूनिकेशन (आइआइएमसी) को सरकार एम्स (ऑल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेडिकल साइंस) और आइआईटी (इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी) जैसे संस्थानों की तरह राष्ट्रीय महत्व का दर्जा देने पर विचार कर रही है। इसके अलावा आइआइएमसी में एमए, एम फिल और पीएचडी जैसे अतिरिक्त शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत करने की योजना भी तैयार की जा रही है। सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय के अगले छह वर्षों की योजना के मुताबिक आइआइएमसी को राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान घोषित करने के लिए एक विधेयक पारित किया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही इसे उपाधि देने का अधिकार भी दिया जाएगा। योजना में यह भी कहा गया है कि राज्य सरकारों से उनके राज्यों में आइआइएमसी की शाखा खोलने की बात की जाएगी।