Newspaper Clips
June 14-15, 2015

June 14

MHRD pulls IIT Goa off from JEE (Advanced), aspirants have 90 fewer seats now

http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-imhrd-pulls-iit-goa-off-from-jee-advanced-aspirants-have-90-fewer-seats-now-2095360

Four days ahead of JEE (Advance) results, the IITs have scaled down the number of available seats by 90. Reason, the newly announced IIT Goa has to opt out of the admission procedure due to lack of a campus.

"Since the site for the permanent Campus has not been finalized as yet, the Central Government has decided that the first academic session of IIT Goa will now commence from 2016-17," said a press release of the IIT Bombay issued Saturday evening.

"This is also subject to the site for permanent Campus being approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in accordance with the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee," says the release. IIT Bombay is supposed to mentor the IIT Goa for initial few years.

Ninety seats - 30 each in three streams of electrical engineering, computer engineering and mechanical engineering - were on offer at the Goa IIT for 2015-16. This means that instead of 10,006 seats, the IITs would have 9,916 seats.

The Goa IIT was announced by the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry last year and has got the nod to begin operations from July/August 2015, from the campus of Goa Engineering College (GEC) at Farmagudi.

Dainik Bhasker ND
14/06/2015   P-01

आईआईटी गोवा में इस वर्ष एडमिशन नहीं

मुंबई | इस साल आईआईटी गोवा में छात्रों का एडमिशन नहीं होगा। यह फैसला स्थायी कैंपस की साइट तय नहीं होने व प्रवेश के लिएं सीट आवंटन की प्रक्रिया में देरी होने की वजह से लिया गया है।

Hindu ND 14.06.2015 P-08

Now, Kashmir Valley demands IIT, IIM

SRINAGAR: Days after the State government announced setting up of AIIMS in both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir, various social, political and religious bodies demanded setting up an IIT, IIM and IIMC for the Valley to end the "regional imbalance" and ensure equitable progress in the State.

The demand for setting up of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in the Valley gained momentum after Industries and Commerce Minister Chander Prakash Ganga on June 11 announced that AIIMS would come up in both the regions — Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre announced setting up of AIIMS and the top management and engineering institutes in the State during the Union Budget earlier this year.

However, the issue of setting up of the proposed AIIMS in the Valley led to protests in Jammu in support of the demand for the establishment of the premier institute there.

Ruling PDP MP Tariq Hamid Karra welcomed the move of setting up of AIIMS in Jammu but demanded IIM and IIT for the Valley saying "Kashmir also deserves the same and should not be discriminated against".- PTI

Varsity teachers across states bat for credit system

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New Delhi: Several state university teachers offered surprise support to the ministry of human resource development on choice-based credit system.

Amid opposition from various teacher groups in Delhi University, a delegation of 40 teachers from 32 state universities met Union human resource development minister Smriti Irani on Thursday, urging her not to delay implementing the proposed system. CBCS is set to be effective from the 2015-16 academic session.

Following this meeting, a National Democratic Teachers' Front team, comprising DU teachers, apprised Irani of their concerns about introducing the system in DU.

Teachers from state government-run universities in Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan met the HRD minister and conveyed preparedness for the scheme at their respective universities.

"Our universities have started working towards that change. We have urged her not to delay the process and implement it from the forthcoming academic session. ," said a delegation member.

It was somewhat in contrast to what the minister will get to hear from the NDTF delegation which is scheduled to meet her again.

"On Thursday, we just raised our point that DU is not prepared for implementation of the system irrespective of what the VC is saying. Forget about student mobili-

CBCS ROW

ty between universities, there can't be mobility within DU in the present structure. Integrating skills in mainstream courses is a good idea, but what about workload and infrastructure? A prerequisite of any reform is to make the 4,000-plus ad hoc teachers permanent," said Inder Mohan Kapahy who was part of the delegation.

However, the group spoke in different voices over the issue of removal of the VC Dinesh Singh. "A section of teachers are no longer pushing for his removal. They are giving an impression to the government that these are issues of left-wing teachers," an NDTF activist said.

Pioneer ND 14/06/2015   P-01

What derails speed on rails?

Rail Ministry orders fix-it probe to circle the wagons against late running of trains; to conduct a Train Ops Audit with IIT-Bombay

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

In what would be, perhaps, the first-of-its kind in the history of the national transporter, the Ministry of Railways has decided to conduct Train Operations' Audit (TOA) — aiming to address the perennial problem of the late running of trains across the country. The TOA is part of the Ministry's slew of measures planned to improve the overall performance of the transport behemoth including arresting the decline in passenger and freight traffic.

The Ministry has joined hands with IIT-Bombay to conduct a phase-wise (zonal) study of the operations of passenger as well as goods trains. In the first phase, the IIT-Bombay will submit a report on the worst-affected Delhi-Ghaziabad-Mughalsarai section, which accounts for over 90 per cent of late running status of trains of the total punctuality figure of about 75 per cent.

Sources said the IIT-Railways partnership will look into the aspect of different cycles. "It will be explored if in one cycle only passenger trains and in the remaining part only freight trains can be operated. For example, during day time only passenger trains can be operated in regions of congestion and at night, only goods trains and vice versa," they added.

The Railways has been tasked to put on track faster

OFF THE RAILS

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SENIOR RAILWAYS OFFICIAL

month-long exercise by stationing top Railway officials between the most choked Allahabad-Mughalsarai section in March-April. But the crucial ECR, NCR and Northern Railway zones expressed their inability to meet punctuality with the existing infrastructure and resources

- The IIT and Railways' subsidiary, RITES, will work together to study bottleneck areas and devise means to ensure trains run faster on the "existing infrastructure"

- Besides the operations aspect, the Ministry is also likely to rope in IIT-Delhi to devise a marketing strategy to improve the declining percentage of passengers and freight traffic

trains in some sections in the next couple of years and this can only be after "strengthening time management" of train operations, which is the biggest failure in the system, officials pointed out.

At present, Railways has been able to meet only 75 per cent punctuality on an average with the worst performer being the North Central Railways (NCR) and East Central Railways (ECR). They have a dismal record of less than 25 per cent punctuality maintenance.

The PMO had sought explanation from the Railway Minister over trains running late after it received complaints by the passengers. The complaints were forwarded to the Railways Ministry and it was asked to follow the schedule and fix the problems so that trains are on time.

What derails speed...

From Page 1

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu was in for a rude shock to know that the punctuality figures used to be fudged by the officials to maintain it at 99 per cent even as there were complaints galore about incessant delays of express trains, including Rajdhanis and Shatabdis.

The Railways then did a month-long exercise by stationing top railway officials between the most choked Allahabad-Mughalsarai section in March-April.

But the crucial ECR, NCR and Northern Railway zones expressed their inability to meet punctuality with the existing infrastructure and resources.

A senior Railways official said that across the zones, availability of Line Capacity on High Density Network (HDN) and other important routes is to be taken into account. "It would be seen that most of the Zonal Railways are in the range of optimal and higher than optimal utilisation of line capacity. Further, 161 out of total 247 sections, which are 65 per cent of the sections, are running at 100 per cent or above line capacity on HDN routes," said an official.

The IIT and Railways' subsidiary (RITES) will work together to study bottleneck areas and devise means to ensure trains run faster on the "existing infrastructure".

The TOA is the reason why the annual railway timetable, which is revised beginning July every year, has been delayed this year for couple of months. The Railways is planning for a complete overhaul of the timetable, especially trains operating in the Northern (mostly affected by fog), North Central and East Central Zone. The new timetable will be in place from September 1 or a month later.

Besides the operations aspect, the Ministry is also likely to rope in IIT-Delhi to devise a marketing strategy to improve the declining percentage of passengers and freight traffic. While passenger volume has registered a dip of 3.31 per cent, freight declined to about 7 per cent. "It has become a major concern for the Railways. Hence, we are considering marketing our value and asset's size. The idea is to win back those who have left and preferred roadways and other alternate transportation," said the official.

Mentor institute gives final diagnosis for IIM

TNN | Jun 14, 2015, 02.16 PM IST

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Mentor-institute-gives-final-diagnosis-for-IIM/articleshow/47663545.cms

BHUBANESWAR: What was being feared for a long time is almost certain now. In all probability, the proposed Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Odisha, will not admit students in this academic year.

IIM Indore, the mentor institute for IIM Odisha, has conveyed to the ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) that unless it clarifies the Odisha institute's location by June 15, the admission process cannot be initiated there for the 2015-16 academic session.

TOI had on May 24 reported that there was grave uncertainty over the elite B school's future with no clarity yet on its location.

Though there is still one working day, that is Monday, left for the MHRD to finalize the location, the ministry is yet to send its team to visit the temporary and permanent sites suggested by the state government in Sambalpur.

"We have not taken any further step regarding IIM Odisha as we have still not received any clarification/confirmation from MHRD regarding the location of the institute. I have informed the MHRD that in case this is not settled by June 15, we may not be able to start the programme this year," IIM Indore director Rishikesha T Krishnan wrote to his faculty members in an email on June 1.

According to IIM Indore's admission schedule for two-year post graduate programme in management for 2015-2017, the last date of acceptance of admission offer by the institute from the students is June 26.

The selected students' registration is scheduled for July 9 while classes are slated to start from July 13.

Technical education minister Sanjay Dasburma said he was still optimistic. "I hope the MHRD will soon send a team to finalize the campuses in Sambalpur. The state government will be ready to extend any facility needed for starting admission in the premier B school," he said.

Dasburma said the ministry had not reverted to the state's response to its queries on Sambalpur. The MHRD had asked the state's response on infrastructure at Sambalpur, iconic business houses in the city, mega industrial units close to the proposed IIM and the details about the economic activities in and around Sambalpur besides possible job avenues for family members of the IIM staff.

The state government on June 5 gave the MHRD options of three possible sites for the permanent campus of the B school and three others for temporary locations. However, the state has not given details such as availability of uninterrupted power supply, video-conferencing facility, quality of accommodation to be available to the IIM's faculty, staff and students.

Centre's decision 'final' over IIMs, proposes HRD

The HRD ministry has sought vast powers over IIMs in its draft bill on their functioning

http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/jobs/centres-decision-final-over-iims-proposes-hrd/83961/

The HRD ministry has sought vast powers over IIMs in its draft bill on their functioning, a move that is unlikely to go down well with academicians and others concerned with the autonomy of these prestigious institutes.

"Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Institute (IIMs) shall, for efficient administration of this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time," a provision of the draft IIM Bill, 2015 says.

"The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not, shall be final," it adds. The draft bill has been put out by the ministry to seek public opinion and can undergo changes.

The bill, though, says the Board of Governors of each IIM will be the "principal executive body" but goes on to grant the central government powers which it may use to overide the board.

The Board may, with the approval of the central government, make regulations and the rules to carry out the provisions of this Act regarding tenure, remuneration and terms and conditions of employees of institutes, it said.

The draft bill makes it clear that the Board can take a decision on matters like fees, emoluments and service conditions only with the Centre's approval.

The ministry says the bill will declare certain institutes of management to be institutions of national importance with a view to "empower these institutions to attain standards of global excellence in management, management research and allied areas of knowledge…"

Reacting strongly, DUTA President Nandita Narain said she was against any provision which further erodes the autonomy of IIMs and these institutes should have complete autonomy in academic matters and deciding on their courses and faculty members.

However, she added that financial matters like fee structure and emoluments should be regulated as these are public-funded bodies.

Times Of India ND 15/06/2015 P-8

IIT admits to errors in JEE papers, alters answer keys

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New Delhi: Giving relief to students, IIT has modified its answer keys for the physics and mathematics papers of the joint entrance exam (JEE).

This is the first time that IIT-JEE has publicly conceded errors and made corrections in its published answer keys. This happened due to the directions of Delhi high court in a PIL. The HC in its order of May 2014 had directed JEE to receive objections in the answer keys from stakeholders.

In physics, in its first answer key released last Monday, IIT had said the correct answer for question 12 is either option C or D. Instead, it should have said C and D. As it worked out, students who marked either C or D got full four marks, while students who marked both C and D as correct got only -2. The modified answer key has added C and D also as correct answer. The marking scheme for this question is: 4 marks if only the bubble(s) corresponding to all the correct option(s) is (are)

> **The Delhi high court in its order of May 2014 had directed JEE to receive objections in the answer keys from stakeholders**

darkened; zero marks if none of the bubble is darkened; -2 in all other cases. Going by the answer key announced earlier, most students who attempted the question would have gotten -2 marks, despite solving the question correctly.

Now, IIT has corrected its wrong marking scheme, as reported in **TOI**, and is giving full 4 marks to all those students who marked correct choices of C and D.

IIT did the second correction in mathematics question number 48, Paper II, related to non-coplanar vectors where the correct answer was 9. The modified answer key now says that "considering the level of the question, 4 marks will be awarded to all the candidates". Now all the candidates, irrespective of at-

tempting this question or not, will get four marks. This question did not carry any negative marks. So now, candidates who did not even read the question will get 4 marks.

IIT conceded the third error in physics question number 19 but has decided not to award marks. The question had two columns: column I had four entries: A, B, C, D and column II had five entries: P, Q, R, S, T. For each entry in column I, students had to darken the bubbles of all the matching entries. However, due to ambiguity in the question, IIT announced two correct answers: either (R) or (R) and (T). If IIT announced R and T only, this would be a single set of answer. Instead, IIT announced two sets of answers: R or R and T. The marking scheme for this question is: 2 marks if only the bubble(s) corresponding to all the correct matches are darkened; zero marks if none of the bubble is darkened; -1 in all other cases. But due to the answer keys, most students who darkened bubble T got negative marks as T is correct as well as incorrect.

Hindu ND 15.06.2015 P-7

Ideas that make life easy, on show at IIT-Bombay

Ishita C.P.

MUMBAI: From a portable, foldable boat to low-cost toilets, an array of interesting ideas and designs by students of the Industrial Design Centre of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, have been showcased at the Design Degree Show on the campus.

The five-day show, which began on Saturday, showcases 190 degree projects by 56 students of the centre across the broad themes of Craft and Culture; Access and Transportation; Health and Well- Being; Society and Analysis; Communication and Learning; and Working and Living India.

The portable boat by Tonmoy Phukan, 24, a second year student of Mobility and Vehicle Design, can ferry 16 people to safety during floods. "I was strongly motivated by the catastrophic effect of the floods in Assam in 2014. There are very limited ways to rescue victims, and there is no boat specially designed for flood rescue," Mr. Phukan says.

He designed a stackable inflatable boat, *Erawan*, which can house a collapsible roof, lifejackets, pedals and first-aid kits. Passengers are protected from floating debris and side impact. A ladder on the boat will help reach people on the higher floors, he says.

Trivikram Annamalai, 24, Industrial Design student, has come up with a device to detect veins easily for injections. "The thought of getting injected traumatises many, and when you have to under-

A portable flood rescue boat was one of the many innovations on display at a design show at IIT-Bombay. – PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

go multiple attempts of needle insertions, it's nightmarish." Mf. Annamalai says.

The low-cost vein detector helps nurses visualise a vein and puncture it with ease. A prototype has been developed, and pilot-testing is in progress, he says.

Keerti Chowdhry, 25, an Animation and Film Design student, designed an animated dictionary for dyslexic children. "Spellings and comprehension have always been arch-enemies of children who have learning disabilities. My project aims to help them with spellings, reading and comprehension by combining sight words and phonic system and creating new ways to learn," she says.

The designs on show include an interactive kiosk, which employs face detection and delivers personalised advertisement, a light-weight foldable electric bike, and a water-fetching aid, which can hold vessels of multiple sizes.

Amita Sharma, Senior Consultant in Educational Consultants India Ltd., Union Human Resource Development Ministry, inaugurated the show.

190 projects on display at annual IIT-IDC exhibition

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: The annual 'Design Degree Show' organized by IIT Bombay students kicked off on Saturday. The five-day exhibition will display projects made by the graduating students of the Industrial Design Centre (IDC) that seek solutions to problems related to transportation, health etc. There are 190 projects designed by 56 students at the exhibition under six themes

The projects include an animated dictionary for students with learning disabilities, flood rescue kit, low cost vein detector, Mumbai railway map, development aids for children with cerebral palsy etc.

Amita Shar ma, advisor, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) inaugurated the exhibition on Saturday.

"The major purpose of such an exhibition is to encourage students to design projects solving the unsolved problems of the people. We are going to present these designs to major stakeholders in industry and government. Many projects are ready to be taken to the market, said BK Chakravarty, head of the IDC.

Also, the Dandi Salt Satyagraha Memorial made by 20 professional sculptors from India, USA, UK, Tibet, Bulgaria, Japan, Austria, Burma and Sri Lanka was on display

The events will be open for all up to June 17.

Rashtrya Sahara ND 15/06/2015 P-2

आईआईटी-बंबई से रेलवे ने मांगी मदद

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। माल ढुलाई से घटती आमदनी और गाड़ियों के विलंब से चलने की चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे रेलवे ने आईआईटी से चीजों को चुस्त-दुरुस्त करने और बेहतर विपणन रणनीति तैयार करने में मदद मांगी है।

■ माल ढुलाई, समय की पाबंदी के अलावा बेहतर विपणन रणनीति तैयार करने में आईआईटी की मदद चाहता है रेलवे

यात्री ट्रेनों की लेटलतीफी पर आलोचना झेल रहे रेलवे ने अति व्यस्त दिल्ली-मुगलसराय रूट पर आपरेशंस ऑडिट कराने तथा इस मार्ग पर दक्षता की दिक्कतें दूर करने के लिए आईआईटी बंबई के साथ बातचीत शुरू की है।

एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि देश के सबसे व्यस्त खंडों में से एक दिल्ली-मुगलसराय यात्रामार्ग पर 70 फीसद समस्या ट्रेनों की लेटलतीफी की है। उन्होंने कहा कि नवीनतम कवायद के अलावा रेलवे अपना अध्ययन करा रहा है कि वहां किस तरह समय का पालन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। स्टॉक, सिग्नल, पटरियों की स्थिति और इंजन की खराबियों जैसी चीजों पर गौर करने के लिए यात्रा-मार्ग में इलाहाबाद जैसे महत्वपूर्ण स्टेशनों पर अधिकारी तैनात किए गए हैं। पीएमओ ने यात्रियों से शिकायत मिलने के बाद ट्रेनों के देरी से चलने के लिए रेल मंत्री से स्पष्टीकरण मांगा था। रेलवे की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती लेटलतीफी की है। अनुमान के मुताबिक लेटलतीफी, आंदोलनों और अन्य समस्याओं के कारण हर साल रेलवे को एक लाख करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान होता है। लेटलतीफी के कारण लोग अपने मालों की ढुलाई रेल के बजाए सड़क मार्ग से कराना पसंद कर रहे हैं।

Tribune ND 15/06/2015   P-10

Top Central varsities sitting on govt funds may face budget cut

UGC panel institutions showing better financial results will get more funds

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

Top Central universities have been sitting on government funds to earn interest monies rather than spend the allocations on improvement of education standards, an expert committee appointed by the UGC to fix financial accountability of the universities has found.

The committee has recommended slashing of funds of universities found under spending and enhancing allocations for institutions reporting better financial outcomes on expenditures of plan allocations.

The committee has also found land allotted for prime Central universities such as the Central University of Jammu and the Central University of Kashmir to be unfit to house campuses and asked if new sites can be explored.

Besides, it has described as "worrisome" the continued absence of Vice Chancellors in universities such as Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, North East Hill Uni-

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Findings of the expert committee

- The expert committee appointed by the UGC to fix financial accountability of the Central universities has found that DU has spent only 33% of the allocations it received in the first three years of the 12th Plan

- It also found land allotted for prime Central universities such as the Central University of Jammu and the Central University of Kashmir was unfit to house campuses

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versity, Meghalaya and Rajasthan, saying absence of V-Cs was further exacerbating the faculty position in the already teacher-starved institutions. According to the government, faculty crunch in higher educational institutions is 56 per cent.

Talking to The Tribune today, MK Kaw, chairman of the UGC expert committee on 12th Plan Allocations for Central Universities, said: "Delhi University has spent only 33 per cent of the allocations it received in the first three years of the 12th Plan. We have recommended a cut of at least Rs 30 crore from the DU's Plan budget for the remaining period of the 12th Plan."

He said: "In the same boat (of under spending) is the Hyderabad-based English and Foreign Languages Uni-

versity which will also have to face a budget cut. Some universities have overspent to the extent of 110 per cent, while some like Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, have not spent the funds on fulfillment of their mandate of globalising Hindi. All they have done is create structures which are incomplete. We are recommending drastic rationalisation of funds between Central universities after our marathon meetings with V-Cs of all 39 universities."

The first-of-its-kind panel set up by the UGC to see if universities were using Central funds judiciously also found land allotted to some universities not being fit for development of campuses. Asked to give examples, Kaw, a former education sec-

retary, said: "The land allotted for the Central University of Jammu is at a place which would require crores of investment simply to build roads and establish connectivity. The land allotted in Ganderbal district to the Central University of Kashmir is at a heavily waterlogged site where massive funds would have to be spent simply to fill the land before construction can begin. We have asked the V-Cs to see if alternative sites can be explored. Another strange case is of the CU of Gujarat for which land hasn't been finalised despite the PM hailing from the state. Local politics is delaying finalization of location. Many universities continue to operate from transit campuses."

On the issue of faculty crunch due to absence of V-Cs, Kaw said: "Acting V-Cs don't have the power to appoint teaching and non-teaching staff. Many universities don't have V-Cs. So, the faculty crunch is rising. We are recommending that acting V-Cs be given the power to appoint at least the non-teaching staff."

Financial Express ND 15/06/2015   P-12

Degrees don't guarantee dignity

We must make efforts to strike a balance between skills and education

RITUPARNA CHAKRABORTY

If we put together some of the disturbing facts that have surfaced in recent times, the writing on the wall is pretty clear. As many as 147 standalone B-schools and MBA programmes offered by engineering institutions across the country closed down in the last academic year. The number of Common Admission Test (CAT) registrants have constantly declined over the last couple of years, and amongst those who registered last year, 22% didn't show up on exam day. Of the 1.5 million engineers Indian churns out annually, 30% remain unemployed. Further, as many as 58% of our graduates are either unemployed or under-employed. These facts clearly indicate that degrees are losing their signalling value. There are two reasons for the same. One, degrees don't guarantee skills. Two, degrees can be fake (ironically, made-in-India fake degrees lead the pack globally).

More alarming is the fact that the NOC data suggests that 90% of our jobs require skills and zero knowledge, while 90% of our kids coming out of colleges and universities have knowledge but zero skills. In light of this predicament, we need to redefine vocational education and make efforts to strike a balance between skills and education. There is an artificial partition between education and vocation. This divide has to end, resulting in jobs and extending certain training schemes for non-engineering graduates as well. There has to be an intersection and interception of three most important factors—education, employment and employability.

We need vocational universities built around the concept of community colleges which allows vertical mobility. We need at least 20 million apprentices and the recent amendments to the Apprenticeship Act shall hopefully contribute to that number. We need to marry MOOCs with apprenticeships for those who want to create an opening balance in their career

One of our biggest issues is our society's view towards vocational skills. This bias is dysfunctional and is stealing our youth of their future. Our dogged push towards degrees is actually setting our children up for failure. However, hope is still lurking around. Much of it is based on some impactful initiatives which can definitely create precedence for widespread change in our environment.

Vocational universities

In a country where million new faces are getting added to the workforce, we need to equip them with the right skills to make them employable rather than destining them to ignonimity. We need vocational universities built around the concept of community colleges which allow vertical mobility. For example, the TeamLease Skill University is attempting to do exactly the same and its difference from any other regular university would be three things: (1) They pray to one god, jobs; (2) academic modularity; and (3) they offer blended learning through a combination of classroom, cloud and distance education.

Massification of apprentices

The biggest short-term impact in our current equilibrium skill situation would come from rebooting our dysfunctional formal apprenticeship regime. India has only 3,00,000 formal apprentices because of the outdated provisions of the Apprenticeship Act of 1961. Smaller countries like Germany and Japan have 6 million and 10 million apprentices, respectively. We need at least 20 million apprentices in India and the recent amendments to the Apprenticeship Act shall hopefully contribute to that number. We also need to encourage many more public private partnerships such as the NETAP (National Employability through Apprenticeship Program) which creates flexibility and inspiration to skill millions and provides them with the necessary academic corridor to build their career.

MOOCs

We need to marry MOOCs with apprenticeships for those who want to create an opening balance in their career. MOOCs is also an effective upskilling tool for those who are already in the formal workforce but are feeling the pressure on account of the competitiveness, fluctuating economic certainty and unemployment, to keep them employable. Also, the growing availability of broadband and the digital revolution have opened new forms of learning content delivery. Cost, scale, quality is an impossible trinity in skill development. Vocational universities, MOOCs and NETAP are innovations which represent an optimal solution around the three.

Lastly, the ministry of skills is a masterstroke. The government, so far, has been organised vertically while India's problems around skills and jobs are horizontal. The creation of the ministry of skills as a horizontal is a brave move and all eyes will be now on how imaginative and forward thinking our National Skills Policy would be to address one of India's biggest roadblocks towards future growth and prosperity.

Though all stakeholders seem to know what needs to be done around jobs and skills, we still miss the bus in execution. While the signs are optimistic, the task ahead is uphill. Time to show some courage and walk the talk.

The author is the president of Indian Staffing Federation, and senior vice-president, TeamLease

Business Standard ND 15/06/2015   P-22

Hiring the hashtag generation

Employers are laying the welcome mat for Gen Y — from hiring videos to claims for the coolest interview ever

MALINI BHUPTA
Mumbai, 14 June

Your next job might be just 140 characters away. It actually is for the Millennial generation, also known as Gen Y, who are now forcing companies to hold all kinds of conversations to hire them.

Job postings on social platforms are passé. What's in is end-to-end recruitment on Twitter and Facebook pages. A study conducted by Jobvite shows that 94 per cent of recruiters either use social media or intend to do so in their hiring efforts. Nearly two million jobs are estimated to be put on Twitter each month.

Both new-age start-ups and traditional companies are speaking to the hashtag generation with hiring videos or hirals (portmanteau of hire and viral) on YouTube that are going viral.

This is not restricted to entry-level openings. Companies are as interested in those not actively seeking jobs (passive talent pool is the jargon) as they are in active seekers who are registered with job portals. Unlike the past, people are increasingly becoming very open and so are companies.
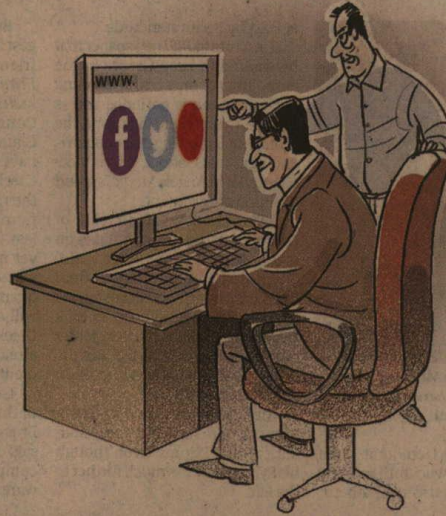
Explains Saurabh Nigam,

vice-president (human resources) at Snapdeal, "The market is so competitive that you need to innovate and find unconventional ways to source talent. We also use Twitter to tweet about critical/senior roles, which gets us a wide response."

Snapdeal has extensively used Twitter to announce open positions (very often these are senior positions) within the company. Over the past year, about a third — 800 people across levels have been sourced through social media.

That's because broadcasting jobs on social platforms help expand the talent pool exponentially and the company gets to connect with its audience/followers. Take HCL Technologies. The company managed to create quite a stir around its brand on social platforms, thanks to its #CoolestInterviewEver campaign last year on Twitter.

HCL was the first company to carry out an end-to-end recruitment process on Twitter. About 250,000 candidates engaged with the firm from 60 countries, of which five were shortlisted through Twitter interviews. The entire process lasted 15 days.

Had the company resorted to traditional methods, the pool would have been no larg-

er than a couple of thousand people. Prithvi Shergill, chief human resource officer at HCL Tech, says: "Social recruiting allows a two-way dialogue between candidates and prospective employers. It gives us a 360-degree view of the individual. We allowed candidates to ask us questions on the company and senior management replied in real time, which made the cam-

paign powerful."

There's more. Snapdeal last year ran a contest on its Facebook page for the most innovative solution to a real business issue facing the company. Applicants were asked to make a case study and solve the problem. The top 10 applicants were then interviewed. These drives, HR chiefs say, are targeted towards a specific talent pool.

COOL FACTS

- #CoolestInterviewEver by HCL helped it become the most followed IT company on Twitter with 325k followers, ahead of TCS, Infy and Wipro

- Snapdeal has hired 800 people, a third of its total headcount addition, through pure-play social strategies

- Social recruiting becomes a good branding opportunity for companies

- 500,000 social job announcements are released on Twitter every month

- Surveys show 39% job seekers are on Twitter

Companies are also converting their talent acquisition process into a marketing blitzkrieg geared towards employees who want a competitive work culture. Pundits call it 'recruitment marketing'.

For example, Grant, maker of Glenfiddich whisky, is using its digital recruitment drive to also popularise its brand among people through 'TheAwesomeJob' campaign

it is running on Facebook. The company is looking for a brand ambassador in India on a one-year contract. People interested in this position, which involves building the brand in India among consumers and a lot of travel, need to get their friends to recommend them for the job.

Shweta Jain, marketing director of Grant, says: "The sharing economy is all about conversations and we are including social media as a part of our brand conversation."

This is a great example of recruitment marketing, as the brand will manage to create sufficient noise around it on social media even if just one brand ambassador is hired for a period of 12 months from this contest.

Swiss retailer Hennes & Mauritz, is planning to launch in India by autumn 2015, says the company will be using social media channels to engage directly with candidates.

Of course, it's not as easy as it sounds. In recruitment via social media, employers need to be a lot more stringent when it comes to credentials of the applicants if the person is being sourced directly from the social platforms.

Financial Express ND 15/06/2015   P-12

Leveraging technological advancements in the online education space

HARISH IYER

We can look at the engagement index of messaging apps and the personalisation of social media platforms like Facebook to arrive at a new model of online education

In January 2015, it was revealed that the 700-million-plus users on WhatsApp were sending out 30 billion messages every day. In 2014, the messaging applications grew at a rate of 148%, adding 900 million users. The instant appeal of messaging apps is simple—they are faster and cheaper to use than email and they allow you to send text, links, videos and photos.

Once the plain-vanilla messaging has been mastered, these apps are differentiating by offering additional services. For example, using Snapchat, users can send money to one another, and users can pay for things at retail stores using Line, the most popular messaging app in Japan. Facebook has introduced instant articles, news and media companies can now publish directly to a Facebook feed—how much longer before they start pushing media to messaging apps is anybody's guess.

Facebook has a far better understanding of its user as compared to what educators and educational institutions know about their learner. The Facebook Graph API gives a mind-boggling array of parameters on which any user can be tracked and the best part is all these parameters are tracked dynamically in real time us-

ing all the interactions that the user has on Facebook. Nobody has to sit and make entries, there are no assessment tests, no forms to fill, a rich user profile gets created automatically as the user interacts with the system—more the usage, better the profile. A Facebook page or a WhatsApp group gets created and instantly users can get onto the page, the content on the page or group is constantly shaped by the user interactions. What content is liked, what is needed, all this is evaluated, created and curated in real time.

On the other hand, online education today looks so contrived and static—a course takes time to create, the whole course has to be created and then the learner goes through the course in a fixed sequence and structure. The lack of engagement and personalisation in this approach is categorised by the 95% dropout percentage in the MOOCs. We just need to look at the engagement index of messaging apps and the personalisation of social media platforms like Facebook to arrive at a new model of online education.

Online education will become as ubiquitous as messaging and social media apps; irrespective of whether it is a pure e-learning model or a

blended learning model, technology will make it unobtrusive, dynamic and in real time. The content for online education will also become user-generated and curated; there has been a 75% increase in the number of Pinterest pins, it has gone up to 50 billion pins. The ease of creating multimedia content will ensure that teacher-created and curated content can easily replace proprietary content that is paid and licensed.

With all these changes, the only challenge that will remain is how to record, quantify and certify these kinds of learning interactions. The Experience API or the Tin Can API is a step in this direction. It aims to create a standard which, if adopted, can record the learning of an individual through a game, a news or media site being browsed, a collaborative document, views and opinion shared on social media etc. All the learning experiences are recorded and collated in a repository. This could help in measuring and certifying online learning as well as aid adaptive learning platforms. Online education platforms working with the ease and convenience of a messaging app could be used to communicate, share, discuss and collaborate over open education-

al resources. As the learner accesses, reads, shares and comments on the resources, a detailed user profile is captured dynamically. The system could assist the educator to personalise the learning experience of each learner or it could directly put the learner on a path of personalised learning.

The other area of interest is the certifying of learning experiences; the layperson needs to make sense of the humongous amount of learning data recorded by each individual. A lot of work is happening in the area of certifying learning. Digital badges earned from a number of institutions and online interactions can record the learning history of the individual, it can also highlight the outcomes of the past learning interactions.

What we need are an interface like messaging and social media apps to share personalised learning resources and to collaborate and engage; a uniform standard for recording learning experiences; and a global standard to certify the learning experiences. All this put together will ensure that educators and educational institutions will finally begin to see online, self-study and face-to-face as parts of one whole educational experience, rather than as separate channels of education.

The author is the founder & CEO of Flinnt.com, a B-school that aims to provides holistic education

IIM students, alumni urge government to change MBA degree criteria

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iim-students-alumni-urge-government-to-change-mba-degree-criteria/articleshow/47663161.cms

NEW DELHI: As the government prepares a new set of norms for IIMs, over 400 alumni members and students of these prestigious business schools have petitioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make changes in the criteria for awarding of MBA degrees in the country.

To ensure that the degrees awarded to IIM students are at par with the global standards, they have said that Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree should be given only for one-year programmes and the two-year courses should be for the Masters in Business Management (MBM).

The petition, to the Prime Minister Modi and to the Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani, have been made through 'oneyearMBA.co.in' and the petitioners include alumni and students from IIMs in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Indore and Lucknow, among others.

The government is looking to usher in significant changes in the ways the premier IIMs are governed and it plans to come up with a new legislation in this regard, while a draft bill has already been put up for the public consultations.

The petition by 'oneyearMBA.co.in', which presents itself as 'a leading resource for news, guidance and analysis on one-year MBA programmes', has asked the government to "ensure that MBA degree at IIMs is awarded to one-year MBA while MBM degrees is awarded to two-year post graduate programmes".

The website's founder Shikhar Mohan said that the petition has been submitted through the Modi government's MyGov.In platform, where the draft IIM bill has been put for the public consultation process.

The petitioners have said that continuing to award MBA degrees for two-year programmes would have multiple negative ramifications including on the competitiveness of IIMs.

"If the IIMs now award an MBA for a course that does not meet international criteria for being called one, they will be compromising their credibility," the petition said.

It further says that the Association of Universities (AoU) awards an MBA equivalent status to two-year post graduate programmes offered by the IIMs without work experience.

However, such courses are considered as pre-experience MBM by the AMBA (Association of MBAs), a global education accreditation agency.

According to the petition, only one year MBA courses at IIMs that stipulate a minimum of five years of work experience as an eligibility requirement meet global norms for an MBA programme and are accredited as full-time MBAs by the AMBA.

"Since the two-year post graduate programmes at IIMs largely recruit freshers (most have less than a year of work experience and many even have zero-work experience), these courses are accredited by the AMBA as MBMs," it noted.

Two-month-old IIM Nagpur gets 1,800 applicants for 60 seats

http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-two-month-old-iim-nagpur-gets-1800-applicants-for-60-seats-2095304

The Indian Institute of Management, Nagpur (IIM-N), which was approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in mid-April, has got a whopping 1,857 applications for the first batch of 60 seats.

The tremendous response is despite the fact the institute is just two months old, doesn't have its own campus and will be a sub-centre of the prestigious IIM-Ahmedabad, which will mentor and run it for the first three years.

Lt Col (Retd) Makarand Alur has been appointed Project Administrator for IIM-N. Alur, who worked at IIM-A, hails from Nagpur, said sources. The institute would be housed in the VNIT campus till its permanent campus at Mouza Dahegaon in the non-SEZ area in MIHAN (Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur) gets ready.

IIM-N is the only IIM out of the proposed six new IIMs that has not only launched its website, but has also placed the admission offer list for the maiden PGP batch 2015-17.

Student suicides bring dark side of Kota's coaching biz to light

Hindustan Times (Ranchi)

THE SUICIDE NOTES OF ASPIRING DOCTORS NIBHA AND SARTHAK CITED 'STUDY STRESS' AS THE REASON FOR COMMITTING SUICIDE

KOTA: The city, a well-known 'coaching hub' for students seeking those coveted seats in top medical and engineering colleges, is drawing the limelight for all the wrong reasons. Increasing number of suicides among coaching students in Kota is bringing the dark side of the coaching business to the fore.

Just last week, two aspiring doctors, Nibha Kumari from Chatra district in Jharkhand and Sarthak Yadav from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, committed suicide. The lifeless bodies of both aspirants were found hanging from the ceiling—one in a hostel near Mahaveer Nagar, and the other in his grandparents' home in Talwandi area.

These two most recent victims of the fierce 'rat race' had only last month joined coaching institutes in pursuit of their dreams of achieving higher ranks in competitive examinations, as promised by the slew of institutes dotting the city. Their suicide notes cited 'study stress' as the cause.

Kumari and Yadav are just two in a growing number of suicide cases among coaching students in Kota. The city averages one suicide a month.

Around 1.50 lakh students from across the country descend on Kota each year to pursue their dreams of cracking IIT-JEE, AIPMT and other entrance examinations.

IITian posing as IPS officer arrested

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/iitian-posing-as-ips-officer-arrested/article7316909.ece?ref=tpnews

An IIT M.Tech graduate who tried to masquerade as an IPS officer was arrested along with eight others on Sunday.

A vehicle he used with a 'police' sticker was also seized from him.

Rupakula Karthikeya of Malkajgiri in Hyderabad, an M.Tech pass-out from Kharagpur IIT, and worked for a while as an outsourcing employee in the computer section of the Director-General of Police's office where he developed familiarity with a few senior officers.

After quitting the job, he continued to relate with the officers.

On Friday, Karthikeya booked four rooms in the name of IPS officer R. Karthikeya, the DIG of Greyhounds, at Dindi Resorts and went there along with a few friends to spend the weekend. On Sunday he picked an argument with the restaurant staff over the food. He also went to the Malikipuram police station under which Dindi Resorts falls, for a "surprise check".

The Malikipuram sub-inspector gave him a red carpet welcomeand spent some time in the resort as well.

In the evening, the resort manager grew suspicious and called up the inspector of Malikipuramand expressed his suspicion. Finally, DSP Ankaiah and his staff reached Dindi Resorts and arrested Karthikeya, seven of his friends and the driver of the vehicle.

Police have booked cases under Sections 419, 171 and 384 read with 34.