Newspaper Clips
June 20-21, 2017

June 21

IIT-K invites young innovators
http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/iit-k-invites-young-innovators/article19111362.ece

Registrations for contest open

A Young Innovators' Program (YIP) is being organised by IIT-Kharagpur to help students realise their ability to find innovative solutions to problems in real life. The objective is to develop the zeal of innovation, research and thereby contribute to uplift of the nation.

YIP, meant for students from classes 8th to 10th, will be organised in four stages, the first being submission of project idea. A coordinating teacher from each school will register the teams through the registration link, which will open on June 20, and will be coordinating with the institute. The idea will be judged by a panel consisting of experts in their respective fields and renowned IIT faculty.

Around 100 submissions will be selected for the second stage and a synopsis of 5-10 pages will be required for submission in the second stage, according to an e-mail issued by the organisers.

The ideas can be on energy, agriculture, bio-sciences, environment, hardware modelling and product designing. The first stage will consist of just abstract ideas and the deadline is July 14. Students can submit their ideas through an online portal.

A team would consist of 2-3 students of the same school and a teacher. In further stages, the students will get a chance to visit IIT Kharagpur, interact with like-minded experts in various fields and expand their knowledge.

The most important aspect is that the work of all innovative ideas will be certified by IIT Kharagpur and therefore, students will get an experience in the field of research right at a young age.

IIT-B students cry foul over massive fee hike
http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-iit-b-students-cry-foul-over-massive-fee-hike-2478938

Students at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) have decided to stage a sit-in protest at the institute on Thursday demanding the recently imposed fee hike to be revoked.

Alleging that the institute authorities are paying a deaf ear to their demands, students have decided to sit outside the main building on Thursday to seek an answer to their concerns.

"We have decided to have a sit-in protest as the administration is paying no heed to our demands despite our efforts to reach out to them. The fee hike is going to pinch a large number of students severely as the institute has decided to hike the fees for several heads between 100-300 per cent. Most research scholars here are on fellowships and it will be difficult for them to arrange for additional funds," said a PhD scholar from the institute.

The protest comes in the wake of a recent fee hike at the institute under which students have to shell out more for several facilities like hostel rent, gymkhana, medical, and exam charges for the academic year 2017-18. The hike is for both undergraduate and postgraduate students and ranges between 30-300 per cent under various heads. The new fees were
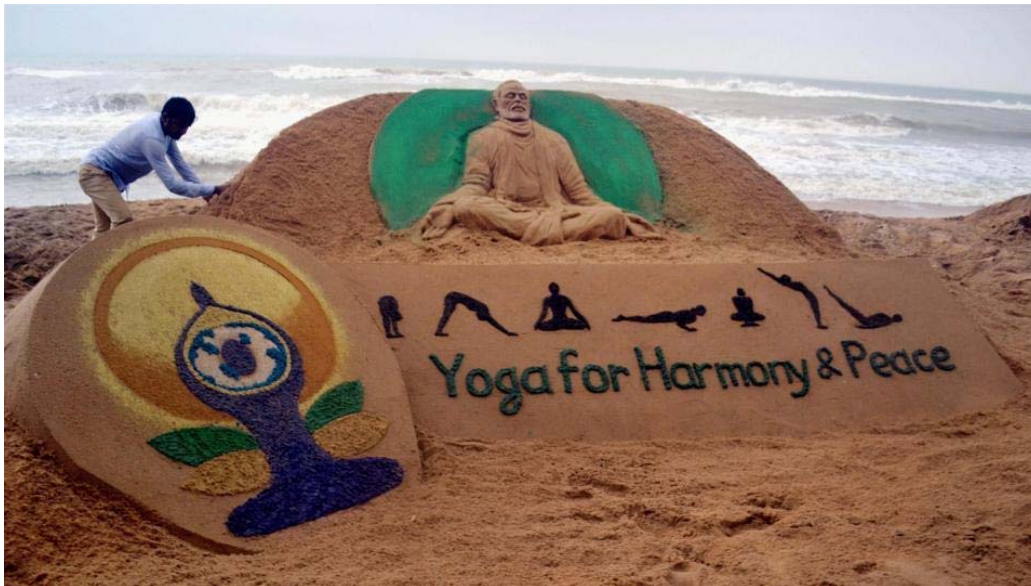
declared on the institute's official website and students have to pay the sum by July 11, 2017, with delayed payments permissible till July 19, against a fine of Rs 100 per day.

Earlier this month, students had submitted a representation with over 700 signatures opposing the hike. The institute students said that since none of these efforts seem to have helped, they have now decided to protest.

UGC plans Inter-University Centre for Yogic Sciences, yoga depts at varsities

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/ugc-plans-inter-university-centre-for-yogic-sciences-yoga-centres-at-varsities/story-3UMnoOJvxwwXfFuedeVyUM.html

The commission has also shortlisted 54 universities for setting up yoga departments, besides three universities and two institutions for national-level yoga centres.

Sand artist Sudarsan Patnaik creates a sand sculpture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the message 'Yoga for Harmony & Peace' at Odisha's Puri beach on Tuesday.

After approving undergraduate and post-graduate yoga courses at universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC) now plans to establish an Inter-University Centre for Yogic Sciences in the country.

Sources said a proposal submitted in this regard is being examined by the commission.

The UGC had also asked all universities and colleges to prioritise the celebration of the International Yoga Day (IYD), and submit proof of activities undertaken by students and faculty members for review. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the country in celebrating the third IYD edition on Wednesday.

Earlier, the commission constituted a panel under the chairmanship of Dr HR Nagendra, chancellor of the Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana University in Bengaluru, to assess the feasibility of establishing an Inter-University Centre for Yogic Sciences. A report has been submitted to the government.

The proposed centre will cater to all yogic requirements of universities and colleges under a single roof. "It can be used as a place to train the faculty through experts, and ensure that they are familiar with every nuance of the discipline. It will also be used to conduct collaborative research inside and outside India," said an official.

The government will soon take a final decision on the centre.

The commission has shortlisted 54 universities for setting up yoga departments, besides three universities and two institutions for national-level yoga centres. "Six central universities will get yoga departments. The commission has granted Rs 10 crore to each of the six central universities," said another UGC official.

Last year, the UGC had approved BSc (yoga), MSc (yoga), PhD (yoga), PG diploma (yoga) and PG diploma (yoga therapy) courses in various institutions. Through the Central Board of Secondary Education, it also turned yoga into a subject in the National Eligibility Test. As many as 7,279 candidates appeared for it on January 22 this year.

Iconic library won't be demolished, says Delhi High Court
http://www.asianage.com/metros/delhi/210617/iconic-library-wont-be-demolished.html

No portion of the building which houses the 'iconic' Karol Bagh branch of the Delhi Public Library would be removed: HC

New Delhi: The Delhi high court has said that no portion of the building which houses the "iconic" Karol Bagh branch of the Delhi Public Library (DPL) would be removed or demolished without its permission.

The court gave the direction while allowing the DPL to initiate steps for appointing an agency to remove the rubble generated by demolition of a portion of the building earlier.

A vacation bench of Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva and A.K. Chawla said that the DPL has to first ascertain which floors of the central Delhi building, housing the 55-year-old library, need to be demolished and submit a report to the court. "The removal of any structure would be with the permission of the court," the bench said and added, "It used to be an iconic library at one point of time."

It said that its interim order restraining the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) from demolishing the building would continue. The order came during the hearing an application filed by the building's owner, seeking directions to the library to appoint an independent agency to clear the rubble.

The owner, Dimple Enterprises, has claimed that the rubble is adding to the structural instability of the building. The application was filed in the PIL moved by some scholars who have challenged the NDMC's two notices to the DPL to vacate the premises claiming the building was structurally unfit and therefore, needs to be demolished.

The court had earlier stopped the NDMC from taking any further step, saying the library "shall be kept closed and nobody shall be permitted to enter the premises till further order". It had also asked the Centre to consider the reports given by the IIT, Delhi and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) after inspecting the premises and to take a decision with regard to the building's structural stability.

Environmental studies now a must at UG level

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/environmental-studies-now-a-must-at-ug-level/articleshow/59247051.cms

HYDERABAD: Under-graduate (UG) students in Telangana will have to pursue a six-month course in environmental studies as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it mandatory for all higher educational institutions to offer the course.

The UGC issued a circular on Monday to all institutions regarding compulsory implementation of the module syllabus for UG in all universities and colleges. An expert committee framed an eight unit module syllabus for the course, which will be offered to students during the second semester. The module covers topics such as natural resources and associated problems, ecosystems, biodiversity and its conservation among many others.

The first seven units will cover 45 lectures to enhance knowledge skills regarding environment. Unit eight is based on field activities, which will be covered in five lecture hours. As part of the field work, students have to document environmental assets (river/forest/grassland/hill/mountain), visit to a polluted site (urban/rural/industrial/agricultural), and study common plants, insects, birds and simple ecosystems (river, hill etc.)

The exam of 100 marks will be conducted at the end of semester. The question paper will have short answer pattern for 25 marks, essay type with inbuilt choice for 50 marks and field work for 25 marks.

"Degradation of green cover, rise in temperature and climate change has severely damaged the environment. The UGC was of the opinion that awareness about such issues can only be made by making the course mandatory," said Prof C Manoharachary of department of Botany, Osmania University, who was a member of the expert committee.

June 20

International Yoga Day: UGC seeks details and proof from varsities

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/international-yoga-day-ugc-seeks-details-and-proof-from-varsities/articleshow/59228038.cms

BENGALURU: To ensure that International Yoga Day is observed in letter and spirit by all educational institutions with most of their students taking part, the HRD ministry has issued a circular asking universities to detail all activities that their affiliate institutions will conduct.

The varsities have also been told to submit video recordings of the events held on the day. The UGC has asked universities to follow the Common Yoga Protocol 2017 to avoid any problems. The protocol is the format decided by the ministry of Ayush, detailing the sequence of pos tures to be followed, fundamentals of yoga and precautions to be taken before and after performing yoga.

However, a cross-section of colleges contacted by TOI for their International Yoga Day schedule said they were either unaware about the circular or had received it as late as June 19. Those admitting to having received the letter said they needed a day's time to plan events as per protocol.

Some colleges, though, are preparing for the big day in advance as per prior notification. "Rehearsals have been going on. On June 21, 200 students will showcase yoga as part of the day-long celebrations. They will also take part in an interactive session with other students to pursue yoga," Father Abraham from Christ University said.

Padma Shekhar from Bangalore Samskrit University said it has organized a special lecture by Dr Mahabaleshwar Bhat, while students and teachers will perform yoga during the two-hour programme starting 11am.
One of the biggest events, expecting footfall of about 3,000, has been organized by PES University. Vidwan Shankar Shanbogue and troupe will perform to the rendition of Yoga Geete Sugama Sangeeta from 10.30am to 11.30am, followed by health awareness programmes.

AoL celebrations in 150 countries.

At least 150 countries are set to join Art of Living's International Day of Yoga celebrations. Under this, more than 50 million yoga enthusiasts from all over the world are expected to gather in front of a popular landmark in their cities and salute the rising sun as part of the `Sun never sets on yoga' movement.

Inmates of 21 prisons across the country will also gather for this year's Yoga Day celebrations. Over 25,000 trained yoga teachers from the organization will lead the Centre's Common Yoga Protocol 2017 for millions across the globe.

JoSAA 2017 counselling begins, get registered at josaa.nic.in
http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/josaa-2017-counselling-begins-get-registered-at-josaa-nic-in-117061900269_1.html

Last date for registration and choice filling June 26, 2017

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur
The Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoOSAA) has started the centralised counselling and seat allotment from June 16, 2017. Students can fill registration form from the official website, josaa.nic.in. JEE Advanced 2017 result was announced on June 11, 2017 Sunday.

Dates to remember

Event	Date
Registration and choice filling begins	June 15, 2017
Last date for registration and choice filling	June 26, 2017
First round of seat allotment begins	June 28, 2017
First round reporting for seat acceptance begins	June 29, 2017
First round reporting for seat acceptance ends	July 3, 2017

Registration and choice filling

All the candidates who have appeared in JEE (Main) 2016 are eligible to register for seat allocation in NIT+ system (except IITs & ISM). Here is a step-by-step guide on how to register and choice fill:

1. Log on to the official website josaa.nic.in
2. Click on the tab Click here for Registration And Choice Filling on the homepage
3. Enter JEE Main 2017 roll number, password, and security pin
4. Fill-in the choices in decreasing order of preference
5. Fill-in as many choices as possible
6. Remember to 'lock' the choices. The last saved choices will be locked automatically when the time-window for filling-in of choices closes

There are no limitations on the number of institutes you wish to apply for. The seat allocation will be jointly conducted during June-July 2017 this year also. Actual dates of seat acceptance of various rounds will be published soon. Candidates are advised to visit the official website for regular updates on schedule of events.

Admission process

The registration is a simple process, according to the official notification, where candidates reconfirm a few basic details, i.e. gender, state code of eligibility and nationality and provide their contact details.

The qualified candidates have to now lock their choices to seek admission in 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 31 National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 23 Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) and 20 government funded technical institutions.

Nearly 36000 seats are available in various B Tech courses for the academic session 2017-18. The successful candidates can fill their choice by June 26, 2017 at 5:00 PM. All candidates who have appeared in JEE (Main) 2017 are eligible to register for seat allocation in NIT+ system (except IITs).

Counselling and seat allocation process

Students are allowed to participate in the counselling process through 'freeze', 'slide' or 'float' options. These three options allow a candidate to either retain the allotted seat or to opt for a change in seat in any other institute or in the same institute where the seat has been allotted. Withdrawal option is not available in the last round of seat acceptance period.

To accept allotted seats, candidates must pay seat acceptance fee through e-challan or SBI net banking, and report at the respective reporting centre (RC) for document verification. The RCs would be opened from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

JEE Advanced 2017 results

The result of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Advanced 2017 was declared on June 11, 2017. Sarvesh Mehtani from

Chandigarh (Panchkula) secured the All India Rank (AIR) 1, followed by Pune's Akshat Chugh and Delhi's Ananya Agarwal at the second and third position respectively.

More seats in new IITs
https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170621/jsp/frontpage/story_157994.jsp

- 387 additional BTech berths on offer this year

New Delhi, June 20: The Indian Institutes of Technology have announced nearly 400 extra BTech seats this year, all of them up for grabs in some of the new tech schools that have come up since the nineties.

The number of seats in other institutions - such as the 31 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the 22 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) - are, however, likely to remain the same.

The increase in the number of IIT seats is evident from the break-up mentioned for each tech school on the website of the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA), the agency established by the human resource development ministry to manage and regulate admissions to 92 tertiary institutes administered by the Union government.

According to the website, the IITs that are set to announce the first round of seat allocations on June 28 will offer admission for 10,962 seats this year - a rise of 387 over the 10,575 seats offered last year.

An official in the IIT Council said the tech schools' top decision-making body headed by HRD minister Prakash Javadekar had last year decided to increase the number of seats at all levels. Later, though, the older IITs had said they couldn't increase the seat strength at the BTech level.

"There is scope for expansion in the new IITs. They have increased their strength this year," the official said.

Among the new tech schools, IIT Ropar has increased its number of seats from 155 to 260 this year while IIT Bhubaneswar has added 90, taking its BTech seat strength to 350 from 260 last year.

The other IITs that have increased their seats are Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Patna, Guwahati, Jammu and Roorkee.

The impact of the additional seats on each IIT

IIT	Seats (2016)	Seats (2017)
IIT Bhubaneswar	260	350
IIT Hyderabad	240	285
IIT Jodhpur	120	180
IIT Patna	200	225
IIT Roorkee	970	975
IIT Ropar	155	260
IIT Guwahati	615	645
IIT Jammu	90	120

While IIT Guwahati was established in 1994, the others, except Roorkee, came up in the last 10 years.

One of the new tech schools, IIT Palakkad, has reduced its seat strength by three - from 123 to 120.

The number of seats in IIT Kharagpur, the oldest among the IITs, remains unchanged at 1,341.

Nearly 50,000 students, including 7,000 girls, have cracked this year's JEE-Advanced that IIT aspirants need to clear to enter the premier tech schools.

The IITs have decided to set up a special web desk to clarify the concerns of girl students, realising that many don't take admission after getting offers because of safety issues.

Over 100 women teachers, students and alumni run the initiative that would advise women candidates on the facilities available and a range of extra-curricular activities, including sports and cultural and literary events.

IIT Delhi had last week held an Open House exclusively for female candidates to explain to them what education meant in an IIT.

In the NITs the number of seats remains unchanged at 19,000, while the IIITs will offer 4,000 seats. These institutions will hold seven rounds of counselling together so that no candidate can block seats in more than one.

The NITs will hold a separate eighth round of counselling this year to fill up vacant seats, if any. An NIT director said the government was planning to amend the statute of the NITs to allow admission of students from other states against vacant seats under the 50 per cent domicile quota.

Each NIT has a domicile quota for students of the state concerned but they must have cleared the JEE-Main examination.

Many seats remain vacant every year in NITs in the north-eastern states. An NIT Council meeting that Javadekar chaired last month had discussed this issue.

IIT Kharagpur develops wearable technology from silk protein
http://www.ipera.in/patent/iit-kharagpur-develops-wearable-technology-from-silk-protein.html

A team of scientists from IIT Kharagpur have developed a wearable technology which is based on the protein found in the silk fiber called silk fibroin. The hybrid material is said to offer greater sensitivity and scope of detection by storing data and detecting light, both in the ultraviolet and visible wavelength range.

This novel material can help soldiers, defense personnel and also has a scope for bio-medical applications. While it is not certain if a patent has been applied for the technology, the invention appears to be highly promising.

The fabric can sense what's going around. Not only this, the textile can store data and communicate for the necessary action as well.The Indian brains have inched closer to indigenously built wearable electronic device, thanks to the exclusive properties of silk.

There is a photodetector in the fabric which works by converting the light signals into electrical energy, like voltage or current. When the light falls on the fabric, the photodetectors in it are activated to generate electrical signals. The fabric, despite being so functional, is light in weight, flexible, stretchable, biocompatible and biodegradable, just as you want it to be!

This newly-invented scientific marvel has the abilities to generate prototype textile-based smart electronic devices for soldiers and combat personnel. It can also be deployed for biomedical purposes as well.

"We have designed a hybrid photodetector using zinc oxide nanostructures on gold-nanoparticle-embedded silk protein for applications that combine electronics and light," Samit K. Ray, currently officiating as the Director of S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata informed.

"The hybrid material can store data and can detect light, both in the ultraviolet and visible wavelength range, thereby offering greater sensitivity and scope of detection," he added.

Predhiman Krishan Kaw, father of India's nuclear fusion, dies

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/father-of-indias-nuclear-fusion-dies/articleshow/59225583.cms

AHMEDABAD: The father of India's nuclear fusion reactor research programme, Padma Shri Prof Predhiman Krishan Kaw, died late on Sunday night. He was the founder director of Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar, an institute that catapulted India to being one among the seven member entities that is building the world's largest fusion experiment — the US $ 14 billion International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). Kaw was the first chairman of the ITER Council Science and Technology Advisory Committee and led the committee's deliberations from 2007 to 2009.

Prof Kaw was a researcher at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in its new plasma division in 1982, after working under John Dawson of Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, US. In 1986, Kaw began a full-fledged institute that spearheaded the establishment of a national magnetic fusion program in Ahmedabad, founding the Institute for Plasma Research and playing a leading role in gaining international recognition for the national program. He began building India's first Tokamak fusion reactor 'Aditya' which continued into the Steady State Tokamak reactor (SST-1). His collegues at IPR remember how he used to spent 10 to 12 hours a day managing the institute and in the evening dedicated his time for plasma physics.

Kaw, born in Kashmir, had an unusual childhood. He was an extraordinary student and was home schooled by his uncles and grandfather. Kaw passed his MSc at the age 16 from MMH College in Ghaziabad. He then joined IIT-Delhi and was awarded the premier institute's first PhD at the age of 18. Kaw always remembered his professors at MMH college Gazhiabad — especially Dr Chandra Bhushan, Dr P K Agarwal , and Dr Singh who inspired him to study physics. At IIT he was a researcher under Prof MS Sodha, who introduced him to plasma physics, while Kaw's initial interest lay in high-energy physics.

Recently, he was named the 2015 laureate of the Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Prize for "outstanding contributions" in the field of plasma physics. He has authored some 308 research papers. Among the 15 awards and fellowships he had won in his lifetime Kaw cherished the SS Bhatnagar award he received in 1986 and the Indian National Science Academy's Young Scientists Award of 1974, which was conferred on him by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He had one advice for his students. He would say: "As young physicists of this country you should think very seriously about taking an opportunity to develop some areas of science for your country."

IITs, IIMs and Bennett University look to ignite entrepreneurial spark

http://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/startups/iits-iims-and-bennett-university-look-to-ignite-entrepreneurial-spark/59228522

This partnership with Babson Collaborative and the immersive experience will help strengthen the entrepreneurial culture being developed at Bennett University.

This partnership with Babson Collaborative and the immersive experience will help strengthen the entrepreneurial culture being developed at Bennett University.

About 10% of Bennett students are engaged with The Bennett Hatchery— the on-campus startup incubator that's part of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the university — in various stages of taking their startup ideas forward. The incubator handholds and mentors student startups, providing them business advice and market connects.

Students can also apply to get up to Rs 10 lakh seed funding for their startup. Leading institutes across the country, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and new-age universities such as

Bennett are going all out to encourage entrepreneurship among students so that they can create significant economic and social impact at a national and, eventually, global scale.

Incubation and entrepreneurship cells, startup boot camps, mentoring, generous stipends and access to capital are just some of the ways schools are trying to foster an entrepreneurial culture.

"In a world filled with uncertainty, we see opportunity – and accordingly we are pushing the limits of creativity and skills in our young students by giving them the building blocks for building a life for themselves," said Bennett University vice-chancellor Yaj Medury.

"Students are able to appreciate the fact that the future rests in the hands of innovators, risk takers and entrepreneurs." Ajay Batra, director of the entrepreneurship centre, said, "We focus on building students' entrepreneurial mindsets and mentor them to create world-class commercial or social organizations."

At IIT Madras, The Centre for Innovation's Student Lab encourages the concept of 'walk in with an idea, walk out with a product'. The institute recently established a Gopalakrishanan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship that will provide the global thought leadership that will help launch the next generation of solutions from the institute's labs as well as from among young students.

"The Entrepreneurship Cell plays a pivotal role in encouraging and nurturing entrepreneurial aspirations of students right at an undergraduate level," said IIT Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

The IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) has sector-specific units, such as Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI), the Bio Incubator (BI) and the Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC). It has incubated around 120 companies so far. IIT Mandi has had an E-cell for some time now and last year launched Catalyst, a technology business incubator with plans to boost new business startups. IIT Mandi director Timothy A Gonsalves said that, till now, it has incubated several startups by students.

Universities and engineering institutes apart, business schools are pushing the entrepreneurship agenda equally strongly.

IIM Udaipur, for instance, believes that companies today need an innovator to survive, not just a manager. The institute has an incubation centre as well as a dedicated student committee to help budding entrepreneurs.

"We allow a special summer entrepreneurship programme, where aspiring entrepreneurs work on their ideas, instead of going for the routine summer placements provided. The college provides a fixed stipend for them to work with," said Arun Singhal, mentor, incubation centre, IIM Udaipur. Older IIMs like the one at Kozhikode are also keen on entrepreneurship.

IIM Kozhikode has set up a business incubator and entrepreneurship development centre called LIVE--Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship--to support startup enterprises and evangelise entrepreneurship. LIVE supports founder talks, guest speakers and others from the startup ecosystem in order to promote entrepreneurship. It supports campus events organised by student E-cells such as Startosphere– an annual entrepreneur-investor meet and innovation challenge.

In addition, there are elective courses on entrepreneurship and new business ventures besides managing innovations, said Keyoor Purani, executive director, IIMK LIVE.

Placement holidays are another policy that schools offer. A student willing to start a venture can pursue entrepreneurship with an assurance that after two years, she can participate in on-campus job placement programmes. IIM Kozhikode has such a scheme in place, as does SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), which offers a deferred placement option with a stipend for two years.

"We also provide mentoring, connection with inventors and alumni and assistance with various aspects of the process," said Ranjan Banerjee, dean, SPJIMR. Students from the institute recently took part in a global entrepreneurship competition in Thailand and finished second.

Interdisciplinary dual degree on offer at IIT-M
http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/interdisciplinary-dual-degree-on-offer-at-iit-m/article19105763.ece

Students from any engineering branch can apply

Students who join the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) this academic year will have the opportunity to upgrade their dual degree programme to an interdisciplinary one.

This is in addition to the existing dual degree programme.

Flexible options

Students who join the B. Tech + M. Tech dual degree programme in the institute and opt for the Interdisciplinary Dual Degree programme (ID DD) will study for five years and receive a degree in B Tech from the parent discipline and M Tech in an interdisciplinary programme.

However, the upgrade option is limited to students with a CGPA of more than 8 in the beginning of the fifth semester.

IIT-M director Bhaskar Ramamurthi said it was part of the endeavour to offer more flexibility in education.

"The IIT-M will be allowing its UG and DD students to gain dual degree in four of the highly sought domains in the present times, including advanced materials and nanotechnology, biomedical engineering, computational engineering and data science," he said.

Later, the programme may be expanded to include areas such as energy systems, battery technology, internet of things, industry 4.0 and management.

Students of UG or DD from any branch of engineering can upgrade to any interdisciplinary dual degree programme if they meet certain academic criteria, he added.

Doctor writes to parents over suicide
http://www.asianage.com/metros/mumbai/200617/doctor-writes-to-parents-over-suicide.html

The suicide by the 17-year-old son of a professor on June 16 is one of the three suicides by children of teachers in the past 18 months.

Mumbai: The recent suicide by the son of an IIT-B professor has prompted noted psychiatrist Dr Harish Shetty to write a letter the faculty of the premier institution exhorting teachers to be more attentive towards the mental condition of their children and encouraging them to take up their counselling to avert such incidents in future too. The suicide by the 17-year-old son of a professor on June 16 is one of the three suicides by children of teachers in the past 18 months, which

prompted the psychiatrist who practices in and around the campus to write the letter.

Dr Shetty has drawn the attention of the faculty to the fact that the children of professors are as prone to suicidal tendencies as other students studying in the institute. He points to the fact that being children of IIT-B faculty and having to live up to the expectations do have an adverse effect on the children which needs to be spotted in time.

The youngster who hung himself to death on Friday night wrote in his suicide note that he was under pressure owing to his studies and could not cope with it hence decided to end his life. According to Powai police the professor and his family had shifted from Chennai to Mumbai recently and the boy was unable to adjust to the new environment and was depressed.

"There is something happening with the youth across the country that probably we all are not able to fathom. Generic explanations of the reasons and causative factors that we all so spontaneously share and believe may not be always true and in fact not the holy grail at all. Yet one single fact is that depression is reaching epidemic proportions," wrote Dr Shetty.

He advised the parents not to overlook the issue nor treat it as a stigma and get help as soon as they spot signs of depression in their children. "Most parents do not talk about it at all as it causes anxiety and they fear for their kids. Then, we brush it aside and repress it because it causes turmoil inside us," the letter read.

Doctor's suggestions

- Parents must get trained as 'mental health soldiers' and counsel children every quarter.
- Build a system and a permanent counselling centre with the help of alumni.
- Screen children for drugs.
- Keep track of social media shares of children as they give away intentions about suicide to friends.

Lights off, coffee: How IIT Kharagpur aims to tackle student depression

http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/vending-machines-forced-power-cuts-how-iit-kharagpur-is-looking-to-tackle-the-killer-depression-on-campus/story-SP77EKFx59fS8Av2HOqSUO.html

Given the stressful high competitive environment at one of India's top engineering colleges, students are increasingly cut-off from one another. The IIT administration is hoping to change that, and is emphasising more positive student evaluations and programmes.

Every now and then, one of India's most prestigious engineering colleges cuts off power to its hostels for an hour in the evening.

The practice, at IIT Kharagpur, is not to save electricity or cut costs. It is instead part of efforts to get students to mingle — contact that officials hope will help cut stress after three of its students killed themselves between January and April this year.

IIT Kharagpur is part of the country's marquee Indian Institutes of Technology colleges that lakhs vie for each year. Only a few thousands make it, entering a college of intense competition with some of the best minds to vie for top jobs at the end of their four-year course.

"Students are meeting increasingly less. This naturally creates a lot of problems as they end up being alone.

This small step will help them connect when they take a 10-minute coffee or tea break," said Manish Bhattacharya, dean of students affairs of IIT Kharagpur, while explaining another effort to draw students out by installing vending machines for free tea and coffee.

The machines, for which a Japanese company has been roped in, will be in place from the academic year beginning this summer.

The blackout hours are helping, students say. "It was like an outreach programme where the administration wanted to speak to us… tell us what had happened and how it was important to be connected with fellow students. Many came out of compulsion but realised that it helped. Students interacted with each other, even discussing the suicides that had been troubling for many of us," said Anisha Sharma, a student.

The latest suicide was on April 8, when a fourth-year student was found hanging in his hostel room.

Other efforts include a programme for parents with psychiatric professionals, courses on happiness mental well-being, and reaching out to alumni who faced depression during their college days.

Depression is seen as among the main reasons and students say the institute lacks adequate number of counsellors.

Mental health professionals on campus reported depression, adjustment disorders and, in some cases, personality disorders as among the cases they often come across.

"The first thing that parents ask us when they come to drop their children to the institute is about placements and package. They need to stop this. It puts unnecessary pressure on the students. This is the reason we have decided to have an orientation programme with the parents too," said PP Chakrabarti, IIT Kharagpur's director.

Officials said they will also turn a microcredit elective on "the science of happiness well-being" into a 3-credit course for all students from the next academic year.

"We are evolving more courses so students will be able to go for micro-specialisation in science and happiness. The subjects that they take up include depression, grief, so these projects that they take up to engineer happiness are meaningful," said Prof P Patnaik, IIT Kharagpur.

The courses are run by the institute's Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness.

IIT Kharagpur has also decided to collaborate with an agency to identify the strength of students instead of their weaknesses, as is the case with current evaluation systems.

Officials are in touch with alumni for campaigns that will prod students to open up.

"Some of the alumni have approached us and they will share their experiences by recording it and circulating it on the website and Facebook page of the institute. There is a stigma attached with depression and this will address that," the spokesperson said.

Winners of IIT Guwahati's Technothlon to be taken on a free guided tour to NASA
http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/iit-guwahati-technothlon/1/982342.html

The student fraternity of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati will be organising 'Technothlon' prelims on July 16. The winners will visit NASA's campus in California.

The student fraternity of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati will be organising 'Technothlon' prelims, an international school championship on July 16 at more than 400 centres across the country. The top teams will then be invited for the final round which will held at IIT Guwahati campus on August 31.

About Technothlon
Technothlon is an international school championship conducted by the students of IIT Guwahati. The competition will be held in two phases -- prelims and mains. The prelims will test the logic, analytical ability and practical observations of the students, the release said.

Winners to visit NASA campus
The winners of Technothlon - the international school championship, organised by the student fraternity of IIT Guwahati, will visit NASA's campus in California.

"The winners will be awarded a guided tour to NASA's AMES research centre in California, USA," a release issued by Technothlon said.

Other awards

The top 100 participants which are selected for mains in each squad will be given gold certificates and the next 400 participants in both the squads will be awarded with silver certificates from Techniche, IIT Guwahati.

Structure

Students participate in teams of two.

There are two squads:

- **Junior Squad:** Students of classes 9 and 10
- **Hauts Squad:** Students of classes 11 and 12

The members can belong to the same class or as well as different classes.

For example: A team consisting of one member from class 9 and one of class 10 is perfectly acceptable for junior squad. The basic requirements for team formation are they should consist exactly two members from the same squad and the same institution.