

Newspaper Clips June 4-6, 2016

June 6

IITK ranked as number one institute

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

KANPUR: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has been ranked as number one engineering institute among top ten institutes in country. IIT Kharagpur, Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani (BITS) and Vellore Institute of Technology were rated at second, third and fourth position respectively whereas Delhi Technological university stood on fifth rank. IIT BHU, SRM Engineering college Kattankulathur and NIT Karnataka bagged sixth, seventh and eight position on top ten list of colleges while IIT Guwahati and Netaji Subhash Institute of Technology Delhi were rated on ninth and tenth position. The rating has been conducted by one Indian magazine in its special issue of May 30,2016 on the basis of seven counts which included reputation, quality of academic input, student care infrastructure, job placement, perpetual and factual rank of the college.

On all counts, IITK was given 100 marks while IIT Kharagpur and BITS Pilani were given 93.56 and 78.5 marks by the magazine . IITK has the credit of being made as 'national centre for flexible electronics' with an objective of developing the technology for rolling screens and flexible electronic circuits. It has also been made the national coordinator for impacting research innovation and technology (IMPRINT), the first of its kind in Pan- IIT and IISC joint scientific programme. Besides, it was also been selected by the central government for setting up country's first river science centre on the basis of its research and technological potentials.

Hindu ND 6/06/2016 p-9

HRD Ministry to telecast IIT lectures live soon

NEW DELHI: Students across the country would soon be able to watch live telecast of lectures from six IITs and some other top institutions in their living rooms, with the HRD Ministry set to launch 32 Direct-to-Home channels to cater to their needs.

The Department of Space has agreed to allot two transponders on a GSAT series satellite for this project, while MoUs have been signed with many institutions which will provide lessons and content that will be beamed on these channels.

"The government is focusing on using space technology to expand the reach of high quality education. Through the 32 DTH channels the aim is to ensure that

live classrooms can be transmitted from ten 'Teaching Ends' out of which six will be IITs located in Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kharagpur, Kanpur and Guwahati," a senior official said.

More institutions

Lectures of over a dozen other premier institutions will also reach students on TV and these names are being finalised. The Ministry is working to ensure that these channels are on air in a couple of months, sources said.

These channels will be freely available on Doordarshan's FreeDish DTH platform and all that the students will need is a Set Top Box to receive them, an official said.— PTI

IITs turn lenient? Dole out marks for partly right answer

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/IITs-turn-lenient-Dole-out-marks-for-partly-right-answer/articleshow/52610931.cms>

MUMBAI: The IITs for the first time have introduced a partial marking scheme for students who appeared for JEE (Advanced) on May 22 this year. As per the new scheme, students will get one mark for each of the correct option in questions which have multiple right answers, provided no incorrect option is selected. Students will benefit from the scheme in 48 of the 108 questions in both papers I and II put together. In the previous years, negative marks were given if the students did not choose all the correct options. The answer key for JEE (Advanced) 2016 was released on Sunday morning.

For example, if question number 13 in paper II has B and D as the right options, students who have marked only B will get one mark, students who have marked only D will also get a mark, while students who have marked both B and D, will get full four marks. Students welcomed the scheme that IITs have granted this year. A professor associated with JEE (Advanced) 2016 said, "We have done so to allow students to score even if they have managed to deliberate and get one right answer. We are getting positive feedback. Earlier, if all right answers were not marked, students got negative marks." The professor said each of the three sections of physics, chemistry and biology in paper I and II have eight such questions. Therefore, there are 48 questions where students will benefit.

Rajat Rathi from Pace Junior Science College said he has benefited from the scheme. "Most of my friends managed to get a mark or two in questions where they would have otherwise scored in negative," said Rathi.

In the answer key released on Sunday, the IITs have also given benefit of doubt to students in three questions—two in physics and one in chemistry. Students who have marked either of the two right options in the three questions—question numbers 15 (physics) and 28 (chemistry) in paper I and question number 7 (physics) in paper II—will be given full marks.

But a few students saw their scores drop from the expected one, and plan to challenge the answers which they found to be ambiguous. An official of a coaching institute, Vinay Kumar, said students were expecting bonus marks in question number 5 in paper II and also in question number 31. "They are planning to write to the JEE (Advanced) office," he said.

An IIT professor said, "Feedback received over the next two days will be reviewed."

Dainik Bhaskar ND 6/06/2016

P-13

आईआईटी मद्रास ग्रीन तकनीक से रोशन करेगा गांव

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी मद्रास अब ग्रीन तकनीक की मदद से राजस्थान में जोधपुर के एक छोटे से शहर फलोदी को रोशन करेगा। हाल के दिनों में यह जगह 51 डिग्री तापमान को लेकर चर्चा में थी। आईआईटी के उत्साही वैज्ञानिकों का समूह यहां डायरेक्ट करंट (डीसी) के जरिये घरों को रोशन करने में जुटा है। देश में विद्युतीकरण के क्षेत्र में अल्टरनेटिव करंट (एसी) का सर्वमान्य मानक है। यह तकनीक ग्रीन हाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन की कमी में भी मददगार साबित होगी। जोधपुर जिले में रेत के टीलों के बीच बिजली आपूर्ति की यह नई क्रांतिकारी पहल उपयुक्त है। एजेंसी

Improve higher education standards: UGC member

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubbali/Improve-higher-education-standards-UGC-member/articleshow/52613253.cms>

Belagavi: The quality of education imparted at higher learning centres should be of very high standards, said Padma Shri awardee Dr Sanjay G Dhande, a member of the University Grants Commission and former director of IIT Kanpur.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 6th annual convocation of KLE University after presenting gold medals to rank holders here on Saturday. "Higher education offers lifelong dividends in terms of economic mobility, social recognition, family stability and individual satisfaction for serving the society. The present spectrum of higher education is knowledge driven. Improvements in the existing system are required and academicians and institutes act as springboards for creation of knowledge," Dr Dhande opined.

Vice-chancellor Prof C K Kokate presented a brief report of the university. He said that about 2,700 research papers of faculty members have been published in international and national journals. The university has entered into agreements with international organizations like WHO, NIH and Clinton Foundation. The university's JN Medical College has been recognized as "Global Site for Women's and Children's Health Research".

As many as 1,352 received degrees, which included 19 PhDs, 10 post-doctorals, 334 postgraduates, 817 undergraduates, 20 diploma holders, 62 PG diploma holders, three fellowships and 87 in certificate courses. As many as 41 students bagged gold medals in their courses.

Chancellor Prabhakar Kore, registrar Dr V D Patil, members of board of management and academic council were present.

June 5

Hindustan ND 05.06.2016 P-2

Navbharat Times ND 05.06.2016 P-18

आईआईटी छात्र प्लास्टिक कचरे को काम में लाएंगे

नई दिल्ली। वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्र प्लास्टिक के कचरे से उपयोगी चीजें बनाने में जुटे हुए हैं। 'प्लास्टिक वेस्ट रिसाइकलिंग प्रोजेक्ट' के तहत ये छात्र सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर लगने वाले फर्नीचर बेंच, कुर्सी आदि भी तैयार करेंगे।

इस प्रोजेक्ट में आईआईटी के छात्रों को दिल्ली सरकार और फ्रांस के एक संस्थान का भी साथ मिल रहा है।

'प्लास्टिक वेस्ट रिसाइकलिंग प्रोजेक्ट' की अगुवाई बीटेक (केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग) अंतिम वर्ष के छात्र अमर श्रीवास्तव कर रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना से जुड़े अमर ने बताया कि दिल्ली में हर रोज निकलने वाले कूड़े में एक बड़ा हिस्सा प्लास्टिक का होता है, जो बड़ी समस्या है। प्लास्टिक कचरे से बनाए जाने वाले फर्नीचर को पार्क, फुटपाथ, स्कूल, बस स्टॉप आदि पर लगाया जा सकेगा।

IIT में 16 कंपनियां ब्लैक लिस्ट

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

अब कोई भी कंपनी छात्रों को नौकरी के लिए ऑफर लेटर देकर उसे वापस ले नहीं सकती। ऐसा करने वाली करीब 16 कंपनियों को ब्लैक लिस्ट कर दिया गया है। इनमें स्टार्टअप कंपनियां भी शामिल हैं। हालांकि अभी तक इन कंपनियों के नामों का खुलासा नहीं किया गया है। इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलजी यानी आईआईटी की प्लेसमेंट कमिटी ने शुक्रवार को बुलाई इमरजेंसी बैठक में इस बाबत फैसला लिया और इसे लागू भी कर दिया गया है।

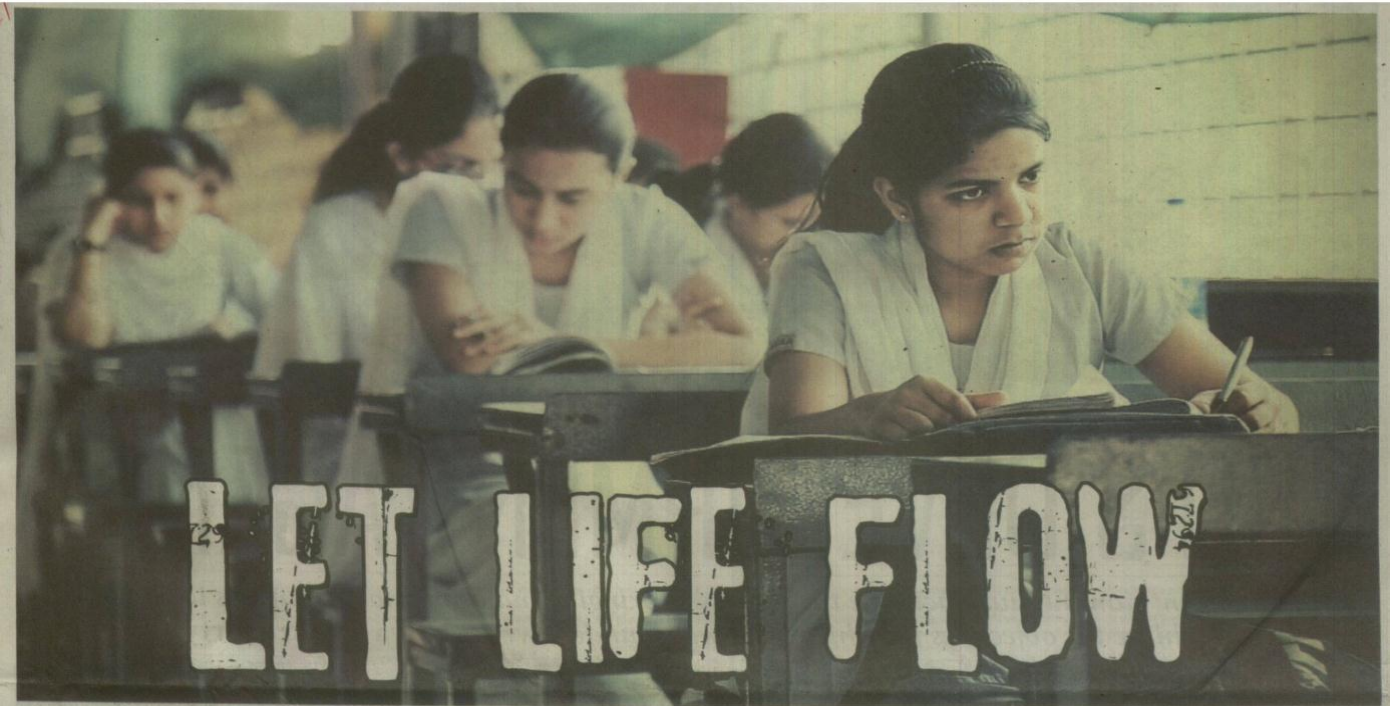
प्लेसमेंट में हिस्सा नहीं ले पाएंगी कंपनियां : गौरतलब है कि यह कदम कमिटी को इसलिए उठाना पड़ा, क्योंकि बहुत-सी कंपनियों ने छात्रों को नौकरी का ऑफर देने के बाद ऑफर वापस ले लिया। इससे छात्रों को अब परेशानी का सामना



करना पड़ रहा है। हेल्थकेयर स्टार्टअप 'पोटिया' और ग्रीसरी पोर्टल 'पेपरटेप' ने इस तरह के ऑफर कैसल किए। कमिटी द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के अनुसार अब इस साल यह कंपनियां प्लेसमेंट में हिस्सा नहीं ले पाएंगी। कुछ कंपनियों ने ऑफर देकर बाद में तोलमोल किया था, उन कंपनियों को आईआईटी प्लेसमेंट सेल ने अपने पहले दिए गए ऑफर से ना मुकरने को कहा। और अगर वे ऐसा नहीं करती हैं तो उन्हें भी एक साल के लिए प्लेसमेंट से निकाल दिया जाएगा।

'वादों पर अडिग रहें कंपनियां'

आईआईटी-मद्रास के एडवाइजर बाबू विश्वनाथन ने बातचीत में बताया कि अभी तक करीब 16 कंपनियों के खिलाफ इस बाबत कार्रवाई की जा चुकी है। इनमें स्टार्टअप कंपनियां भी हैं। जिन कंपनियों को ब्लैक लिस्ट किया गया है, वे अब अगले साल प्लेसमेंट के लिए किसी भी आईआईटी इंस्टिट्यूट कैम्पस में नहीं जा सकेंगे। विश्वनाथन के मुताबिक, प्लेसमेंट के दौरान कंपनियां जितनी सैलरी का ऑफर छात्रों को करेंगी, उसपर उनको अडिग रहना होगा।



The spate of suicides by budding engineering students in Kota may have put to light the enormous pressures faced by students in dealing with admission to India's premier engineering institute but the issue of suicides and mental pressure is not restricted to Kota alone which has earned the tag of being the 'Mecca of IIT', reports Piyush Ohrie

David: *Nahne munhe bachche teri mutthi mein kya hain.*
Children: *Mutthi mein hain taqdeer hamari, hum ne kismat ko bas mein kiya hain.*

David: *Bheekh mein jo moti mile, loge ya na loge, zindagi ke aansoon ka bolo kya karoge.*

Children: *Bheekh mein jo moti mile toh bhi hum na lenge, zindagi ki aansoon ki mala pehnanenge, mushkilon se ladte bhidte jeene mein mastaa hain.*

Reminiscing the past, Shalendra's lyrics can be useful in capturing the sense of Nehruvian's socialist era, which was marked by shortages, frugality, idealism and the contentment of living with less. About 62 years after it was first played out in R K Productions Boot Polish in 1954, socialist India has seen a transformation and has today given way to consumerism, materialism and pragmatism where flaunting of wealth is now even celebrated in certain quarters.

As the foundations of the nation strengthen so does the aspiration of its billion plus citizens and the philosophy today is hunger for more than contentment with less.

While this aspiration and hunger has given us likes of Virat Kohli, who continues to excel in his game and has become a role model for his generation, unfortunately many youngsters of his age group and below are not able to cope up with the hunger for more in their respected fields which either is not of their liking or of their unsuitability in it. The pressure of competition and the need to excel in it is now taking a toll on the demographic asset of our country, among the three major D's described by the prime minister that makes us Incredible India, the

other two being demand and democracy. The spate of suicides by budding engineering students in Kota may have put to light the enormous pressures faced by students in dealing with admission to India's premier engineering institute but the issue of suicides and mental pressure is not restricted to Kota alone, which attains its popularity as being 'Mecca' of IIT.

Delve deeper and you begin to unravel how a large part of demographic asset is getting affected mentally, physically and socially in a bid to become something big professionally, affecting the students' past, present and future.

Areas around IIT Delhi, such as Kalu Sarai, Munirka and Neb Sarai have become popular for coaching institutes preparing thousands of students for getting through tough competitive examinations. Each part of the city has its own set of unique centres, whether it is near Mukherjee Nagar for IAS preparations or Sector 14 Old DLF Colony for preparation of MBA and GMAT examinations in Gurugram.

Preparing for IIT JEE, Anuj Maheshwari, a class 11th student says, "Till class 10th my main motive was to work hard and study science. I achieved it and now my intention is to get through JEE."

While further discussing his priorities Maheshwari says, "I will not completely abandon my school classes but since the workload for coaching classes is super rigorous, my main priority will be my IIT classes."

When asked about his confidence and if he has a plan B in mind, Maheshwari added, "Suppose I do not make it to the IIT, I will do my engineering and then try to do an MBA but I will be headstrong in facing failure and not take a wrong step

even though a lot is at stake for me and my career", referring to the mishaps in Kota. Anuj will be among the list of 1,30,000 students vying for IIT selections. While he

the fact remains that if I need to rise up the hierarchical order in any field I need to be graduated from the best college or I will be among many professionals strugg-



The pressure of competition and the need to excel in it is now taking a toll on demographic asset of our country, among the three major D's described by the prime minister that makes us Incredible India, the other two being demand and democracy

may put a brave front in dealing with his challenges, Anuj Goyal puts a more saddening and cynical apprehension.

In choosing Delhi over Kota to save on the cost of coaching, Goyal highlights that he has a father who is a heart patient, a mother who is diabetic and a young sister to take care of. "Reality always bites and

gling to meet the ends with low salary and no raise, a situation, which I cannot afford at present or in the future", he added.

This insecurity and the fear of failure in Goyal today can also be seen in lakhs of other students.

Out of 10,65,179 candidates that appeared for class XII CBSE examinations

about 90,000 have scored more than 90 per cent. Out of 2,70,000 students vying for 54,000 seats of Delhi University (DU), many would lose out because of high cut offs that will be on offer. If that's not all, about a million students compete for 50,000 plus medical seats as well. Five lakh and three lakh students try for limited UPSC and IIM seats respectively. Many in doing so also end up dropping seats. Even in the field of media, thousands of students apply for a total of 180 English Journalism seats at IIMC.

A disappointed parent recounting her daughters' struggle points out, "My daughter had a dream of getting into top colleges of north campus at DU but she could not make it as she got 82 per cent. After graduation she worked for a while and decided to pursue CAT for which she dropped a year but unfortunately she could not get the required percentile for it as well. Today she is back at her old job but feels sad about herself". Highlighting the increase in cases of depression amongst the youth, Dr Deepak Kumar, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Institute of Human Behaviour and Applied Sciences (IHBAS) said, "Suicide by young students is just one part of greater mental disorders of depression. In relating stress to depression, Kumar added, "Hyperactivity, emotional outbursts and lack of concentration are a few symptoms which can lead to depression and often increases among youngsters amidst stressful and adversarial situations."

In providing views on the state of youth's troubled mindset with respect to their careers, a professor at IIT Delhi says, "The problem with the job set up in India is that we are still a service-driven economy than a manufacturing one, therefore

you see even an engineer would subsequently do an MBA and try to be a corporate professional. In the longer run there will have to be more emphasis on skills, vocational and creative endeavours. India is a growing economy so there will be continuous demand. The question is that is the youth courageous enough to change her/his mindset and create a new path that backs her/his creativity and skills or continue to be defensive with tried and tested options?"

Narendra Modi may have advised students to be satisfied with the marks they've achieved in the 20th edition of Mann Ki Baat, however the tough journey involved for many students to evolve into successful professionals might always lead to dissatisfaction and pressure. Structurally there is a need to create more jobs in order to absorb 10 lakh freshers every year because there will always be a change in the mindset, the will and the courage to explore new options.

Perhaps another advice from our PM can hold greater relevance amongst the youth which would be to "aspire for becoming something rather than aspiring to do something."

As one began from the music of Shankar-Jaikishan and lyrics of Shalendra to denote the trend then, indicating to today's times, one ends with music of Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy with Praseen Joshi's lyrics that explains the beauty of childhood within creativity, enthusiasm and innocence, the qualities that must be propagated than be ceased.

"Dhoop ke sikke uthakar gangunare do usse, baingari kanchey hatheli par sajanee do use."

Bholi bhali bholi bhali rehene do, zindagi ko behene do"

VOICES

ANUJ MAHESHWARI

Suppose I do not make it to the IIT, I will do my engineering and then try to get an MBA degree from a reputed institute but I will be headstrong in facing failure and not take a wrong step even though a lot is at stake for me and my career

DR DEEPAK KUMAR

Suicide by young students is just one part of greater mental disorders of depression. In relating stress to depression, hyperactivity, emotional outbursts and lack of concentration are a few other symptoms which can lead to depression

PROFESSOR AT IIT DELHI

The problem with the job set up in India is that we are still a service-driven economy than a manufacturing one, therefore you see even an engineer would subsequently do an MBA and try to be a corporate professional. In the longer run there will have to be more emphasis on skills

June 4**Hindu ND 4/06/2016****P-01**

IIT entrance test will be of Class 12 level: Smriti Irani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: With the government expressing concern that the joint entrance examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) sometimes has degree-level questions that a Class 12 student may find hard to solve, the IITs have assured the government that the questions will be of Class 12 level.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani said such a change would help students, who had not undergone coaching at institutes, gain admission into IITs.

■ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

IIT entrance test to be of Class 12 level

Asked about the recommendations of a report submitted by a committee headed by former Cabinet Secretary T.S.R. Subramanian on the new education policy, Ms. Irani refused to divulge details.

The report on evolution of a National Education Policy will be made public only after its recommendations are shared with

States, she said, in reply to a question.

Asked about reports that Mr. Subramanian had written to the Ministry pressing it to make the contents of the report public - and that he would himself make it public otherwise - the HRD Minister said: "This education policy will not become a legacy of one individual who seeks a headline."

Startups set to lose Day 1 status at IITs

THE 'FLIP' SIDE Such companies may be asked to come in the second phase, instead of the coveted first-day slot

Ramsurya Mamidenna,
Rozelle Laha and Sunny Sen
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are likely to strip startups of their Day 1 status in campus placements, in the wake of Flipkart's recent decision to defer the joining date for its latest batch of campus recruits from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad from June to December.

The relegation was suggested by IIT Bombay (IIT-B) during a meeting of the IIT Council, comprising placement cell heads of all IITs, in Mumbai on Friday. The Council also decided to blacklist companies that have withdrawn offers this year, and sought explanation from those that have reduced the salary offered to graduates or deferred their joining dates.

"There is a proposal for asking the startups to come in the second phase. It is still a proposal and will have to be discussed," said a person familiar with the development.

IITs normally reserve the Day One slot for the most reputed companies. Flipkart has so far enjoyed a Day 1 slot across almost all IITs, barring some, such as IIT-B. IIT-B prefers to slot other recruiters like banks on the first day.

After deferring the joining dates of 18 students citing an organisational rejig, Flipkart committed ₹1.5 lakh as a joining bonus for each candidate, a move that drew strong criticism from IIM-A. The company also deferred placements of students from IITs and NIITs.

When contacted, a Flipkart spokesperson refused to comment on Friday's development, but said that some current employees are facilitating a process of offer-



■ Startups account for 20-30% of campus hirings at IITs and IIMs

ing the students internships in other organisations at an estimated remuneration of ₹50,000 per month and a signing bonus. "Our attempt will be to allocate you as per your top preferences. However, it will depend on the number of interested candidates vis-a-vis the available openings," according to the letter written by Flipkart employees to students, a copy of which is available with HT.

If Flipkart confirms the offer, the Council will not take any action against the e-commerce firm, said professor V Babu, placement adviser, IIT Madras, who was part of the meeting.

"In our placement process, startups are given special privilege," said professor SK Das, director, IIT Ropar. "We have to take back a commitment from them that they won't do what Flipkart has done."

Students selected to IITs take loans to fund their education, and any delay in the joining dates puts financial pressure on them.

"Companies that have withdrawn offers have been blacklisted from campus placements in all IITs for one year. Those taking stu-

dents with reduced salaries have been asked to give some explanation within a week as to why they are doing it, failing which, they, too, will be blacklisted for one year," said professor Babu.

He refused to divulge the names of blacklisted companies.

The IIT Council's decision has drawn sharp criticism from startups and headhunters alike.

"This is tit-for-tat. But if you go for an eye for an eye, there will soon be a city of blinds," said Sanjay Sethi, CEO of ShopClues.

"Startups shouldn't be singled out. In the past, large companies have also deferred hiring... The impact is many folds as startups need the best of talent as they are building businesses," said Deepak Garg, co-founder, Rivigo.

"The move is unfair," said Rituparna Chakroborty, co-founder of staffing firm Teamlease Services. "Instead of postponing startups to come at college placements on one particular day, colleges should allow students to pick up multiple job offers."

(WITH INPUTS FROM
HIMANI CHANDNA)

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P-01

PLACEMENT SEASON

IITs get tough, blacklist six start-ups

Other start-ups that cut salaries originally offered also risk being blacklisted, but get a week's time to respond

By ARUNDHATI RAMANATHAN
arundhati.r@livemint.com

BENGALURU

Six start-ups that went back on their word to hire graduates from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will be blacklisted across all IITs in the upcoming placement season, placement heads of 16 institutes decided at a meeting of the All IIT Placement Committee held in Mumbai on Friday.

These start-ups will be barred from hiring from IITs in 2016-17, said Babu Viswanathan, placement advisor at IIT-Madras.

The blacklisted companies will be allowed to visit campuses next year after they appear before the placement committee, Viswanathan clarified.

He added that he was not allowed to disclose the names of the start-ups.

Besides, start-ups that cited business environment to slash salaries they had originally committed to paying IIT graduates, also risk being blacklisted if they do not accept the students at the originally promised package, Viswanathan said.

At least five companies had reduced salaries by as much as 25%, he said.

"We are giving these companies a week's time to respond. If they don't respond, they will be blacklisted," he added.

Start-ups have gained prominence on campuses and account for about 20-30% of all companies that come to IITs. In fact, at IIT Madras alone, the number of students joining start-ups rose from 13.7% in 2014-15 to 33% in 2015-16, Viswanathan said.

"Their presence is growing. So, to avoid any fallout, we want to send the message that only if you are serious about hiring our students, come to the IITs," he said.

The decision was not welcomed by all.

TV. Mohandas Pai, chairman of Manipal Global Education and a former member of the board of Infosys Ltd, said it was an immature and insensitive decision on the part of the IITs.

"It is a mercenary system. Students want to go to highest bidder and the highest bidder in turn is governed by market conditions. Moreover, these students also leave in about six months,

so it is a very unfair decision to blacklist companies," Pai said.

Companies, though, were not surprised.

"Blacklisting is an expected outcome. Relationships with campuses are long-term; so, a blacklisting does hurt the reputation of the company on campus for a certain amount of time. So, companies should be a little cautious about hiring and plan better," said Amit Sinha, vice-president (business and people), Paytm, which hired about 50 students from IITs and other top engineering colleges in December.

As for companies such as Flipkart and Roadrunnr that deferred the joining date for campus hires, the IITs have decided to take no action as the companies have already tried to find alternative solutions, said Kaustubha Mohanty, convener of the placement committee.

Flipkart has managed to find alternative paid internship opportunities in about 10 start-ups like Rivigo, a logistics firm, and GreyOrange, a robotics company.

The IIT alumni of the e-commerce marketplace went about finding suitable opportunities in other start-ups and all the graduates it hired have been found opportunities, said a Flipkart spokesperson.

They will be paid ₹50,000 a month during the course of this internship, with the option to either join Flipkart in December or continue to be employed at the start-up.

"It is a good move. This is definitely better than doing nothing. But the internship opportunity is not really like what I would have gotten at Flipkart. It is still a compromise," said a student whose job offer at Flipkart has been deferred by six months. The 24-year old said he is also pursuing other job opportunities.

Flipkart and other start-ups made offers to 150 graduates at the IITs alone last December. In May, Flipkart asked graduates from IITs and IIMs to join the company in December instead of June.

Roadrunnr has also agreed to reduce the period of deferment from December to September, Viswanathan said.

Decisions on the kind of placement slots to be offered to start-ups and whether students should be allowed to accept more than one offer will be left to individual campuses, he said.

The placement committee, which usually meets twice a year, met out of turn on Friday to thrash out a strategy after Flip-

Campus hirings: IITs blacklist six start-ups

FROM PAGE 1

kart and other start-ups such as CarDekho and Hopscotch deferred the joining date of students from IITs and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) by four to six months. The IITs felt the need to lay down some ground rules before campuses send out invitations to companies in July for the next placement season.

The IIT placement committee's action follows a scathing letter from IIM Ahmedabad to the Flipkart management, made public last month, in which it castigated the company for postponing the hiring of graduates

by six months due to its ongoing corporate restructuring.

The company, and the sector as a whole, has been going through a turbulent time, with funding coming down and valuations being slashed.

Investors infused some \$1.15 billion in Indian start-ups in the first quarter of this year, down as much as 24% from the December quarter, which itself had seen a slump in investments of 48% from the preceding three months, according to a joint report by KPMG and CB Insights.

The number of start-up deals also fell 4% to 116 in the quarter, the report said.

Business Standard ND 4/06/2016 P-03

Flipkart, IITs stand-off: Alumni offer help with start-up internships to students

E-commerce major to help students get stipends of ₹50,000 a month

VINAY UMARJI &
ALNOOR PEERMOHAMED
Ahmedabad & Bengaluru, 3 June

A fortnight after India's leading e-tailer Flipkart deferred the joining dates of 40-45 students across 10 Indian Institutes of Technology in the company to December, the alumni of IITs as well as Indian Institutes of Management in the company have stepped in to soothe the frayed nerves. They have offered to get these students internships at other start-ups till December. The internships will earn the recruits a monthly compensation of ₹50,000.

The proposal was shared with All IITs Placement Committee (AIPC) on Friday, where the placement chairpersons of around eight IITs met in

Mumbai to deliberate on the fate of students hired by Flipkart as well as the future course for start-ups in IIT placements.

"Flipkart has offered assistance in getting internships for a stipend of ₹50,000 a month for the students till the deferred joining date of December. However, we have asked for written commitment by Tuesday," said K Mohanty, head (AIPC) and placement chairperson at IIT Guwahati. Mohanty, however, denied any decision being taken on start-ups at future placements.

The alumni letter to students, shared by Flipkart, says it is a voluntary initiative by 'Flipsters' - as the employees of the company are called - and would have no bearing on the existing offer from Flipkart. "At the end of the

internship, you have an option to join Flipkart in December or continue at the start-up, given there is mutual interest," said the note, which asks the recruits to apply for internships on a form before June 4. On May 20, Flipkart had sent letters to the students who were hired during campus placements that their joining date would be deferred till the firm completes its organisational rejig in December. The e-commerce player had also offered a joining bonus of ₹1.5 lakh. This sparked outrage among IITs and IIMs, which have pledged to scrutinise companies that attend campus placements.

Flipkart is undergoing an organisational rejig even as it struggles to battle global rivals such as Amazon and Alibaba,

JOB PROFILE

May 16-20 Flipkart sends letters to IIMs, IITs deferring joining dates to December

May 16-20 IIM-A sends letter to Flipkart seeking explanation over move

May 23-27 IITs follow suit, seek explanation from Flipkart

May 23-27 Flipkart maintains its stand on joining date; agrees to send revised letters

June 03 IITs, IIMs alumni at Flipkart step in, offer help in getting internships till December

which have become aggressive in India. According to IIT sources, the premier technology institutes are set to meet again in August to review their placement process regarding inviting start-ups at their campuses.

"Against the usual time of

October, we will meet early in August to decide what measures to incorporate in inviting start-ups for placements.

In the meeting on Friday, not all IITs were present; hence, a decision could not be arrived at," said a placement chair of one of the IITs. ▽

Hindustan Times ND 4/06/2016 P-14

'It seemed like an act of racial profiling'

Shreya Bhandary
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Four days ago, what was meant to be a weekend getaway for three IIT students turned into a nightmare when the Italian police detained Akshit Goyal, Deepak Bhatt and Uday Kusupati for 10 hours, without any reason.

"After a day full of atrocities, we were in a state of mental trauma. All the other people held were Pakistanis and Africans, and so it clearly seemed to us an act of racial profiling," said Akshit Goyal, a second year computer science student at the Indian Institute of Technology - Delhi (IIT-D).

Goyal, with his friends Deepak Bhatt from IIT-D and Uday Kusupati from IIT-Bombay, is on a two-month internship in France at the Inria Sophia Antipolis, a



■ The three IIT students are on a two-month internship in France at a research body. HT PHOTO

European research body.

"There were around 20-25 police officers who were checking passports, so we readily showed our passports and were let off. But immediately another police officer sought our passports and

asked us to stay back with a group of 10 people," said Goyal.

"We had a medical checkup done. Our finger prints and photographs were taken and despite repeated requests to put us through someone who can

speak in English, we were only told 'no problem', while things just got worse," he said.

The trio was driven to Genoa city, three hours away. To their surprise, they were taken directly to the airport and after thorough physical frisking, they were put on a plane to Bari.

Once in Bari, while the other passengers were being questioned for lack of documents, the students got a chance to get in touch with their families back in India.

In an hour, police officials returned the passports, apologised for the 'mistake' and allowed them to continue their trip.

Though unwilling to term the incident as racist, Goyal said it was "an attack on a person's dignity and blatant disrespect towards self-identity".

EDUCATION POLICY

Won't release report without feedback from all states: Irani

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

REACTING TO former cabinet secretary T S R Subramanian's letter, asking the government to make public his panel's report carrying suggestions for the national education policy, HRD Minister Smriti Irani on Friday said the new policy will not be the legacy of an individual trying to make "headline".

She said the ministry will not disclose the report's contents unless it has received views and feedback from all state governments.

Addressing a media conference on Friday to discuss the HRD Ministry's achievements over the last two years, Irani said, "This education policy will not become an attempt to be a legacy of one individual who seeks a headline. My request is that this (policy recommendations) is the property of one lakh and ten thousand villages, over 5,000 blocks, over 500 districts, and 20 states, which have entrusted it to us with the confidence that any recommendation that comes to the Centre will be shared with them before it is made into a draft policy.

"It is unfortunate that misleading or distasteful headlines are done. I will not renege on my promise to state governments that they will have a voice in it (draft policy) before I dedicate it to the nation."

Subramanian was the chairperson of a five-member committee tasked with assimilating feedback, collected by the HRD



Irani at the press meet on two years of Modi government in Delhi Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

Ministry through grassroots- and national-level consultations on 33 themes, and making suggestions for drafting a new education policy. The panel submitted its suggestions to the government on May 27.

With the report not public yet, Subramanian had sent a three-page letter to Irani on Thursday, informing her that after some "soul searching" he has decided to go public with its contents as education is a matter of public interest. The former bureaucrat, however, did not mention when he intends to do this.

The HRD Ministry officially replied to the missive on Friday,

informing Subramanian that the timing and method of disclosure of the report rests with the government.

The ministry's letter to Subramanian states, "Subsequent to the presentation of the committee's report to the government, the report itself and the responsibility and prerogative of determining the modalities, timing and manner of dissemination and further consultation would vest with the government. The ministry is presently in the process of studying and internalising the recommendations, an essential precursor to subsequent processes.

Given your vast, rich and long experience in pivotal and responsible positions, you would no doubt appreciate the position."

The former cabinet secretary said, "There are two different issues. First, I completely agree with the minister that the process of policy-making is the government's prerogative. Second, all documentation which is of public interest should be in the public domain as per the RTI Act. I am not contesting what the minister has said. For me, this is a matter of principle of information. I had objected even when the Vohra Committee report of 1993 was not disclosed."

Irani defends Ministry's rejection of three names for IIM-A chief's post

Minister says new education policy will be made public after States give feedback

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 3

Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani on Friday defended her Ministry's decision to reject the names of three corporate stalwarts — Chairman of the Board of Directors of Infosys R. Seshasayee, Chairman of HDFC Deepak Parekh, and Hero MotoCorp CMD Pawan Munjal — who were recommended by a search panel for the Chairman's post at IIM Ahmedabad.

On the grounds for the rejection, Irani said, "I am of the opinion that I would not like to give credence to supposed headlines. I will only say this that it is the right of institutions to propose certain names giving valid reasons and if valid stands are not found then we have the right and the authority to ask for a reason. That possibly can be the only interface that the Ministry has, at the level of the Joint Secretary, with an institution." It is not something that is scaled up to the Minister, she add-

ed. Irani was speaking to reporters at a press conference to highlight the achievements of her Ministry over the last two years.

Education policy

On the new education policy, Irani said, "We received suggestions from 1.10 lakh villages. 20 States also wrote to us. After that we set up a committee to study the suggestions received and give additional suggestions from their side. When we started the stakeholder consultation process, we promised States that the Ministry will receive their opinion first before making the policy public. States are yet to send their feedback. We do not want to break the bridge built between the Centre and States."

The Minister's response came after former Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramanian wrote to her asking her to make public the panel's report containing suggestions for the new national education policy — or else he will.

She added, "The education poli-



Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Irani and Minister of State Upendra Kushwaha addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday KAMAL NARANG

cy will not become an attempt to become the legacy of one individual who seeks a headline... The recommendations have to be shared with the States first before it is made a draft policy."

Irani also highlighted the Ministry's achievements under schemes such as Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, Kala Utsav, National Institutional Ranking Framework, Know Your College Portal, among others.

"We are planning to a launch a

student tracking system — Shala Asmita Yojana — in order to enhance the quality of education. In conjunction with States, we aim to create the world's largest student tracking system. This will also monitor attendance of teachers and non-teaching staff."

For Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan, Irani said faculty from prestigious foreign institutions will aid state universities and colleges in upgrading their curriculum.