

Newspaper Clips

March 15, 2011

Economic Times ND 15/03/2011

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IBM extends tie-up with universities

OUR BUREAU

PUNE

The global move to foster innovation has found many takers and IT major IBM is no different. Its global university relations programme came to India a few years ago, but in the past 18 months, the company has taken it to a new level altogether.

"We work with about 100 engineering colleges across the country. The aim was, initially, to acquire talent for the company, but we realised there is a need to grow the talent pool too," says Bhooshan Kelkar, country manager of IBM India University Relations. "The focus still remains to pluck top talent, but we now want to foster innovation as well."

Growing the talent pool has meant holding Webex seminars, which has attracted the enrolment of about 10,000 students. These seminars are not just cur-

riculum enhancing aids; they also help sensitise students to other, possible workplace issues, like gender diversity, differently-abled people, improving soft skills, intellectual property rights and such.

The university relations programme also offers global, remote mentoring, where students get mentored by someone from IBM's worldwide corpus of managers. Kelkar says the company is in the process of introducing a variation of this programme, where the college will suggest the project it would like to undertake, and IBM offer the mentoring. "The aim is to find the solution for a problem that would be worth publishing," Kelkar adds.

In India, where the problem of employability among technical graduates and the dismal state of publications is the norm, this programme could provide a shot in the arm.

Mint ND
15/03/2011 P-5

IIM-Shillong placement gives hope to new IIMs

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NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong, has started campus placement for graduates through video conference after facing difficulty in attracting a large number of companies to give choices in placement to students last year.

The business school's success is inspiring other new IIMs in small cities, which find it difficult to attract employers as they are inconveniently located or don't have an established brand name, to turn to e-recruitment.

"We know there is a location disadvantage and we are a young IIM. But that should not be a bottleneck for our students' placement," said H.S. Chhabra, a professor in charge of placement at IIM-Shillong. "This year we have placed at least one-third of our students through e-recruitment."

Chhabra said video conferencing allows company officials who don't want to visit the campus to chat with prospective employees, give presentations and make job offers. "Out of 66 of our students, 22 have got through this process this year."

He did not name the companies, saying details of the placement season would be furnished only after it gets over.

Bharat Gulia, senior manager, education, at consulting firm Ernst and Young, said necessity leads to such innovations in placement. Company executives don't like going to far-off places for recruitment when there are connectivity problems, he said.

"In case of IIM-Shillong, the nearest airport is Guwahati (in Assam). So recruitment through video-conference is a good way out just not for Shillong but all new IIMs," he said.

Companies sometimes want to hire just a few students, and it doesn't make sense to go all the way in such a case, Gulia said.

This is the second year of campus placement for IIM-Shillong, which was launched in 2008. Last year, though they managed to place all their students, it was difficult to attract large number of corporate houses.

Some other IIMs, which started classes last year and will go for placement in a year's time, said they may follow IIM-Shillong's lead.

"This gives optimism. It has given a lot of encouragement to all of us," IIM-Raipur's director B.S. Sahay said. "In spite of location, transportation and young brand name, we are optimistic to give good placement to our talented students."

Besides Raipur, new IIMs were launched in Rohtak, Ranchi and Trichy last year; two more IIMs are set to open shop at Kashipur in Uttarakhand and Udaipur in Rajasthan by the coming academic session.

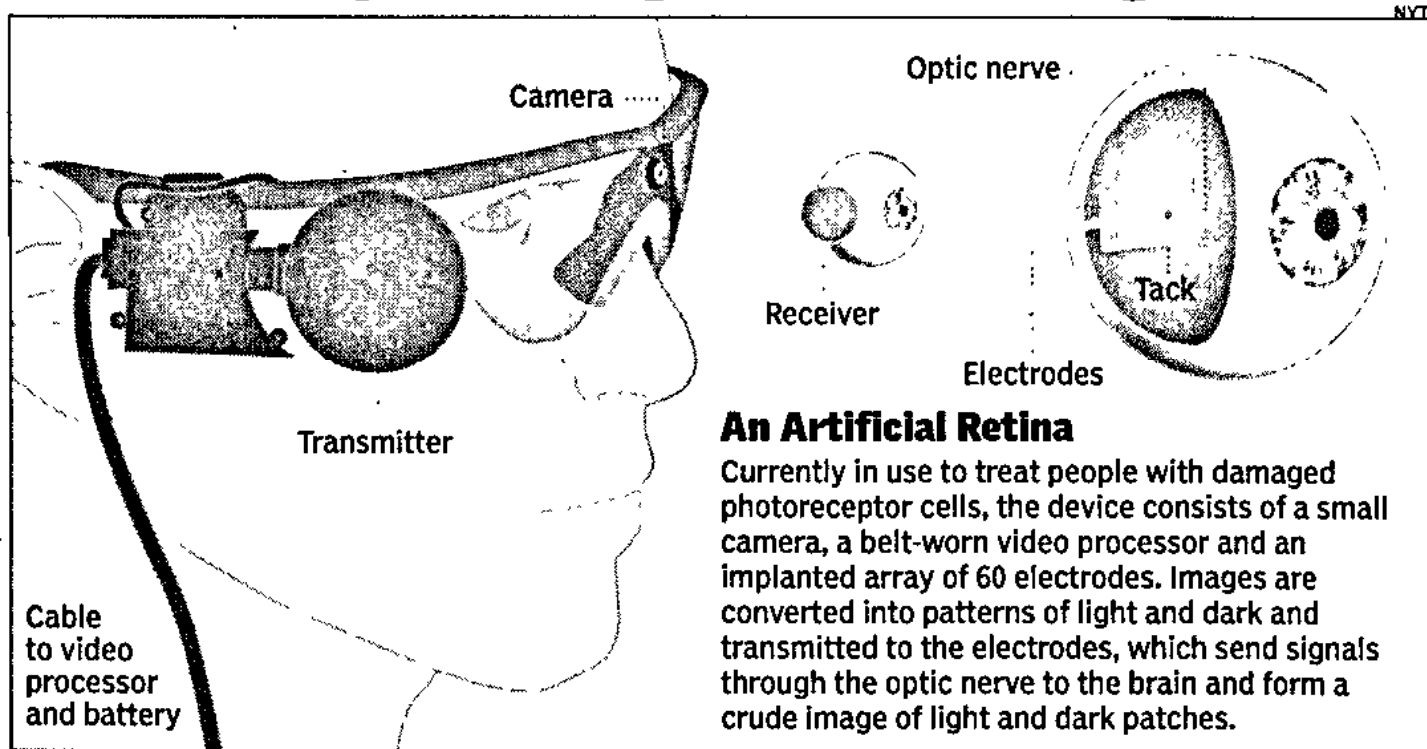
While these campuses are being opened to ensure that students in smaller cities and towns also have access to good business schools, their location does hamper campus placement as companies find it much easier to recruit from IIMs and other established business schools in metros like New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Chhabra said IIM-Shillong's tech savvy has helped it establish its name faster than its peers. "In four years, we have established ourselves well. The faculty-teacher ratio is good, we have IT (information technology)-enabled classrooms and Vsat (very small aperture terminal, a two-way satellite ground station) facility."

Times of India ND 15/03/2011

P19

Revolutionary bionic eye gets green signal



An Artificial Retina

Currently in use to treat people with damaged photoreceptor cells, the device consists of a small camera, a belt-worn video processor and an implanted array of 60 electrodes. Images are converted into patterns of light and dark and transmitted to the electrodes, which send signals through the optic nerve to the brain and form a crude image of light and dark patches.

London: A bionic eye that allows the blind to see has been approved after thorough testing.

Tests have demonstrated that the device is safe, which could mean that it eventually becomes routinely available on the NHS. Specialists said that tests over almost three years had "impressed" beyond their "most optimistic expectations," reports the Daily Express.

Revolutionary retina implants work in conjunction with a camera mounted on a pair of glasses. The camera sends signals to an implanted chip near the retina, which stimulates retinal cells and produces visual light patterns.

They have already transformed the lives of 30 people during initial tests. Doctors now hope the 'bionic eye' could be used to treat around

20,000 people in the UK who are blind because of failed retinas.

British eye surgeon Robert MacLaren, said it was a significant advance. "Until now this concept would have been considered only in the realms of science fiction," MacLaren, from the Oxford Eye Hospital, said. "What surprised all of us was just how much resolution you can get from the implant." AGENCIES

Hindu Chennai 14.03.2011 p-8
(EDUCATION PLUS)

Trends in nano-engineering

QUANTA 2011, a three-day national-level technical symposium, beginning on March 17, will be conducted by the Society of Materials Science Engineers and the Students' Chapter of the Madras Metallurgical Society.

The symposium is hosted by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering Guindy, Anna University,

Chennai. There will be a lot of events to test students' talent.

A workshop on 'Recent Trends in Nano-Engineering', featuring speakers from IGCAR, IIT-Madras, Anna University and MIT, Boston, will also be conducted.

For more details on events and registration, log on to www.quanta.org.in

Hindu Chennai 14.03.2011 p-8 (EDUCATION PLUS)

IIT funds for innovative start-ups

IIIT Madras MSME Incubation Venture Fund, launched with the support of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, has funded two incubation ventures, InnoNano Research Private Limited and Invention Labs Engineering Products Private Limited.

“University originated start-ups are still nascent in India. The objective of the incubation venture fund at IIT Madras is to energize this segment by strengthening the innovation-commercialization link,” says Thillai Rajan, Associate Professor, IIT Madras and Co-ordinator of the fund.

The funding under this scheme involves more than just providing capital. “The aim is to provide substantial value addition and mentoring to the incubatees and assistance in raising the next round of funding. The incubation centre will act as a platform to provide visibility to a much larger audience,” he says.

InnoNano Research has developed a unique affordable all-inclusive drinking water purifier using nanotechnol-

ogy. The company has been founded by Professor T. Pradeep, a faculty member of IIT Madras and a Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee, along with Mr. Anshup, a graduate of IIT Madras, and Professor Satish V. Kailas, a faculty member of IISc Bangalore.

“The funding has come at a critical phase of our growth,” said Prof. Pradeep. InnoNano Research has already completed product development and is in pilot manufacturing stage. The company plans to use most of the funding to acquire equipment related to pilot manufacturing.

Invention Labs, an engineering products company, has developed an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Device that helps people with communication disabilities due to conditions like cerebral palsy, autism, or aphasia.

The product developed by the company has recently won the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. The company

was founded by Ajit Narayanan, a graduate of IIT Madras.

“Our projects have a very high social impact. We have received grants from the government during the R&D stage. We are thankful for funding as we have reached the commercial stage,” said Mr. Narayanan, hoping to benefit significantly from the strong mentoring and other value addition services the company could have access by virtue of the funding.

The company has already successfully developed and tested the product and is in the process of launching in the market. Invention Labs would use most of the funding to meet its technology and corporate requirements.

“Each company will be funded Rs. 6.25 lakh. It is to provide the much-needed initial momentum and financial support for innovations originating from institutions of higher education with a potential to become successful businesses,” says Prof. Rajan.

B. ARAVIND KUMAR

Amar Ujala ND
15/03/2011 P-6

दिल्ली-एनसीआर में भूकंप को
लेकर की जा रही है खास स्टडी

दिल्ली को जल्द मिलेगी लाइफ सेविंग लाइन

● वरुण आर्य

नई दिल्ली। जापान में भूकंप से मची तबाही के बाद भूकंप को लेकर हमेशा संवेदनशील माने जाने वाली दिल्ली में भी डर और दहशत का माहौल है। लोगों को घबराने की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि साल 2011 के आखिर तक दिल्ली-एनसीआर के भूकंप से बचाव के तमाम रास्ते निकाल लिए जाएंगे। दरअसल, दिल्ली स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के सिविल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग में दिल्ली-एनसीआर में भूकंप की आशंकाओं को लेकर एक खास स्टडी की जा रही है। स्टडी में बचाव और राहत के रास्तों पर खास ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। स्टडी के परिणाम साल के अंत तक जारी होंगे।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के सिविल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रो. केएस राव ने बताया कि जापान में मची तबाही की असल वजह भूकंप कम और सुनामी ज्यादा है। ऐसा इसलिए क्योंकि जापान में आमतौर पर भूकंप के झटके लंगते रहते हैं, लेकिन सुनामी से इसकी तीव्रता काफी बढ़ गई। भारत में भूकंप की असल दहशत गुजरात में आए भूकंप के बाद देखने को मिली। इसके बाद से ही यहां भूकंप से राहत और बचाव को लेकर काम किए जा रहे हैं। भूकंप के लिहाज से दिल्ली काफी संवेदनशील समझी जाती है।

● दिसंबर तक जारी
होंगे परिणाम, बचाव
एवं राहत के उपायों
पर खास ध्यान

इसका प्रमुख कारण भूकंपरोधी इमारतों का अभाव और अनधिकृत निर्माण है। भूकंप के झटकों का असर इन्हीं क्षेत्रों में ही देखने को मिलता है।

प्रो. राव ने बताया कि उन्होंने दिल्ली-एनसीआर में भूकंप की आशंकाओं को लेकर चार साल पहले एक खास स्टडी शुरू की थी। जिसके परिणाम इस साल के अंत तक जारी कर दिए जाएंगे। स्टडी के तहत उन्होंने भूकंप के लिहाज से दिल्ली को विभिन्न भागों में वर्गीकृत किया है। इसमें शोध किया गया है कि भूकंप की तीव्रता की सीमा के आधार पर किन-किन क्षेत्रों पर कितना प्रभाव पड़ेगा। अगर भूकंप की तीव्रता 4.5 आंकी जाती है तो कौन सा क्षेत्र सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होगा और अगर यह 6.5 होता है तो कहां सबसे अधिक असर पड़ेगा। स्टडी के तहत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लिहाज से बचाव एवं राहत के उपाय भी खोजे जा रहे हैं। इससे निश्चित रूप से दिल्ली को इस आपदा से निपटने में मदद मिलेगी।