Newspaper Clips
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Modi's bold move: Demonetization gets positive response from IITians

https://www.pagalguy.com/news/modis-bold-move-demonetization-gets-positive-response-from-iitians-4549235143868416

PM Modi's announcement about the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 did not drastically affect life at the IITs. The reason? Most students have already gone cashless, and the banks and ATMs being shut is least of their worries.

Paytm, an online wallet system saves the burden of carrying cash at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. Aakansha Bordia, said, "We use Paytm quite often. It is accepted by every shop, restaurants, etc inside campus." She added, "It is not at all a problem for us at IIT-B, rather we are proud of PM's bold move. I liked the way it was brought in, sudden, and surprising. It will curb black money, as well as control the fake currency in the market."

Saurabh Awatade from IIT Madras, said, "Most students at IIT-M use an offline wallet system called 'Zup' which is accepted by all restaurants and eateries around the institute." He continued, "But there were long queues at ATMs here to withdraw enough 100 rupee notes in case we have to go outside the campus for any work."

On the night of November 9, 2017, students at various IITs were standing in long queues, not for rock concert tickets, but to withdraw cash from ATMs.

Such was the scenario at IIT Delhi, Sidharth Ranjan, said, "There were huge lines outside ATM till late night yesterday, withdrawing Rs 400 cash multiple times to secure enough cash on hand for the next 3 days. Even the ATMs are out of cash now, currency notes of Rs 100 are over."

He continued, "But I must say, the enthusiasm among people to get 100/- denomination notes was awesome, as if the ATM was dispensing some rock concert tickets." Some were lucky to get 100/- denomination notes, but some were not. One faculty member from IIT Kanpur, was in quite a situation as he had almost no cash in pocket. Vishal Jain, the aforementioned faculty member, said, "I have to leave for Indore today (November 9, 2017) and I have Rs 2600 (four Rs 500 notes, and one Rs 100 notes) in cash, which is worth only Rs 100. Nobody is ready to take the four notes of 500/- denomination and even the banks and ATMs are shut today."

Students at IIT Kharagpur did not even bother to withdraw any money last night. With a 2,100-acre campus, they rarely go to the city. Atal Ashutosh Agarwal, said, "Overall, this change will have a big impact, and in the initial days, people might face some problems. If we are short on cash, we can always make online payments, so there are no issues as such. This is an amazing move by our PM and I hope it cleans the system."

IITs Witness a Decline in the Number of Startups Enrolling for this Year's Recruitment Program

http://jobs.siliconindia.com/career-news/IITs-Witness-a-Decline-in-the-Number-of-Startups-Enrolling-for-this-Years-Recruitment-Program-nid-199591.html
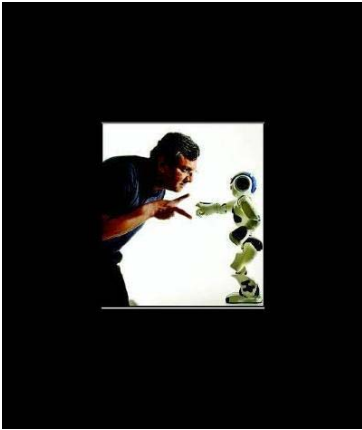

BENGALURU: With per-placement orders catapulted up by 25-30 pct, 2016 has been a year of opportunities for IIT's when compared to last year. But, in spite of the rise in placements, there has been 50 pct fall in the number of startups expected to appear for the campus recruitment drive. The downfall also involves e-commerce giants such as Flipkart, OlaCabs, Snapdeal, and Paytm as they have not yet registered for placement programs in any of the IITs.

This year, IITs have barred about 31 firms, which includes Grofers, Hopscotch, and Portea Medical as they revoked offer letters, delayed joining dates, and sometimes made last-minute changes in the offers already provided. Identifying the intolerable behavior, the screening test conducted on these firms blacklisted them as "playing with the careers of students." As reported by the Times of India (TOI), the companies were effectively blacklisted by The All IIT Placement Committee as around 135 IIT students were affected by their unprofessional recruitment procedure.

IIT Roorkee reports to TOI that, last year, 52 startups registered themselves and recruited the students; but, this year, only 35 companies registered for the program. N P Padhy, Placement Head explains, "There is a significant decrease in the number of startups that have registered for placement drives this year due to funds crunch and other market issues." Also, further analysis on the current situation showed that even some of the regular campus visitors such as Delhivery, Mad Street Den, Aura Semiconductor and Practo did not register. Lastly, TOI reports that the process of empanelling firms planning to recruit IIT students is open till the end of November.

IIT Kharagpur to organise Kshitij

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/IIT-Kharagpur-to-organise-Kshitij/articleshow/55333340.cms

KOLKATA: Kshitij, one of the grandest techno-management fests in Asia is back again with a pre-event workshop on Robotics being organised at Kolkata on November 13, 2017 in Vidyamandir Auditorium. The workshop is aimed towards learning the development of a robot and at the end of the workshop, the participants will make their own robot. Harsh Bharadwaj, general secretary, Technology Students' Gymkhana said "This workshop is mentored by the students of IIT Kharagpur and offers an open platform for hands-on experience and channelizing their innovative ideas to get a new dimension in the field of robotics." Last year's workshop has seen the presence of over 3,500 participants and the count for this year is expected to surpass it. The workshop not only introduces the students to the world of robotics but also helps them taking the first step in this field of science with extra vigour and zeal. This would help the enthusiasts to participate in Robowars, an event in Kshitij which is an international robotics challenge.

The magnitude of Kshitij can be understood by its social initiatives, outreach programmes around the year, huge prize money worth more than INR 65 lakhs and the total participation of more than 70,000 students from 1400 colleges of India last year. It provides an opportunity to lead the sharpest minds to one ultimatum, to adjudicate the most elite verbal warfare, to walk the shoes of justice and honor, to envisage a better world.

The fest will host the IIT Kharagpur Global Model United Nations Conference 2017. Kshitij has consistently gained patronage by UNESCO, South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN) and Centre for Environment Education (CEE). Last year, SAYEN and CEE had organized an inquisitive case analysis challenge on climate change in Kshitij, whose best solutions are considered for execution to help the society achieve a step towards cleaner and better environment. Using segregated waste bins and handprint ushers during the fest and thus, ensuring an eco-friendly campus is what being implemented by Kshitij on collaborations with SAYEN and CEE.

Every year Kshitij bestows its opulence filled with immense knowledge, great opportunities, experiences and lots of fun on masses of students coming all the way from across the country. Apart from participation from other IITs, huge number of participants join from BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, NIT Surathkal, BITS Mesra, etc. The fest comprises of events, guest lectures, workshops and exhibitions. The portfolio of much celebrated guests comprising Nobel Laureates, globally reputed academicians and scientists, economists, industrialists, Bollywood stars. To name a few of them who visited in the recent years, Dr. Bedabrata Pain, inventor of CMOS technology and National Award Winning Film-maker, Sir James Mirlees, Nobel laureate in Economics, Dr Carlo Cottarelli, Director of International Monetary Fund, Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, first Indian cosmonaut, Prof Anthony James Leggett, Nobel laureate in Physics, Jimmy Wales, founder of

Wikipedia etc. Kshitij has also served as the perfect stage for showcasing path-breaking technological advances of recent times through its unique exhibitions and workshops.

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Efforts on to capture leopard lurking in IIT-B

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MUMBAI: Three days after a leopard was spotted within the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) campus in Powai, officials from the Mumbai forest range said that they will trap the big cat.

Forest officials said that they had been instructed by the Nagpur forest division to track the leopard using camera-traps to monitor their movement and install a trap cage in the area.

"We have been told by the state forest department to trap the leopard at the earliest. We have already set up the camera traps and will be installing the cage by Friday within the campus," said Santosh Kank, range forest officer, Mumbai.

The IIT-B campus, on the periphery of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, is known to be frequented by leopards during the night time. The campus is abuzz with the latest sighting of a leopard near two hostels – 7 and 9 - at the north-western edge, adjacent to the national park.

Experts said that there is no need to trap the leopard as it was a mere sighting. "Leopard sightings are common at areas near IIT-B, Powai. The animal has not harmed or posed a danger to anyone on campus. The forest officials should rethink their stance," said Krishna Tiwari, founder, forest and wildlife conservation society.

On Tuesday, the IIT-B security office issued a notice to all campus residents, advising them to be cautious while moving in that area. They also shared a list of guidelines given by SGNP officials in order to resolve man-animal conflicts. "Since IIT Bombay is always frequented by leopards, these guidelines will be helpful in taking precautions when dealing with them, so that we can face least problems due to their presence," read the notice.

An unconfirmed photograph of the big cat from one of the hostels has gone viral on social media portals. "Students are not really afraid as leopard sightings are frequent in the campus during the night," said an IIT-B student.