

Newspaper Clips

November 28, 2011

Mail Today ND 28/11/2011 P-6

IIT-D entices alumni for faculty positions

By **Ritika Chopra** In New Delhi

BATTLING an acute faculty shortage, the IIT-Delhi is trying to play the depressed job markets in the US and Europe to its advantage.

Currently, 300 out of the total sanctioned strength of 750 faculty positions are lying vacant at IIT-Delhi. Faced with the challenge of filling up these posts with quality candidates, the institute is reaching out to its alumni settled abroad in the hope that the decline in research funding and job insecurity there will inspire the former students to join IIT-Delhi as faculty.

Within two months of assuming charge as the institute's director, Professor Raghunath Shevgaonkar has already met alumni members currently teaching at some of the top universities in the US such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Carnegie Mellon University.

"These days it's quite tough to get research funding in the US. It's also tough to get a tenure job at a university. In contrast, top institutes like the IITs have been receiving a lot of research grant and are keen to hire good faculty," Shevgaonkar, who met about eight alumni members (identified by different departments) in New York and Washington DC last month, said.

Over the past five years, IIT-Delhi has witnessed a three-fold jump in research grants from ₹40 crore in 2006 to over ₹120 crore in 2010-11.

"What I am trying to do is give a better picture of the opportunities available in India and at our institution, especially. We're hopeful that some of them will be keen to join us as fac-



300 positions lying vacant in IIT-D.

ulty," Shevgaonkar added.

As a further incentive to move back to India, IIT-Delhi is also offering to employ the spouses of such candidates if they have the required qualifications.

"We are open to contacting our alumni in Europe as well," Shevgaonkar said.

One of the main reasons behind the shortage of teachers at the institute is the addition of 54 per cent OBC seats over the past three years. While the number of students has increased rapidly, the institute has not been able to find teachers at the same rate to maintain the recommended student-to-teacher ratio of 10:1.

Union minister Jairam Ramesh had recently questioned the quality of teachers at the 15 premier engineering institutes. Infosys chairman Narayan Murthy, too, had expressed his doubts over the quality of students at the IITs.

Hindustan Times ND
28/11/2011 p-1

EVEN IIT LABEL CAN'T SELL SOME COURSES, 750 SEATS VACANT

Chetan Chauhan

■ chetan@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) authorities will have a relook at some of the least aspired for courses to avoid the high rate of vacancies in the institutes. About 750 seats - while the total number of admissions in IIT-Delhi was 850 - remained vacant in 2011.

The vacancies — about 7% of the total admissions in IITs — are on two counts: of the 13,000 students selected through the Joint Entrance Examination, a large number did not even apply for admission in IITs and some others chose to drop out after taking admission.

Sanjay Dande, director of IIT-Kanpur, which conducted the 2011 IIT-JEE admission exams, blamed some unpopular courses being run by the institutes for the vacancies. "The course on pulp and paper technology, for example, in the Indian School of Mines (Dhanbad) has no takers," he told HT.

Another reason for the high dropout rate, Dande admitted, was easier availability of popular courses in other technological institutes. The last few years has seen several good technology institutes coming up in the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

750 IIT seats lying vacant...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Even after depositing the initial fee (₹40,000), I took my son out of IIT-Roorkee as he got a better course in the National Institute of Technology," said SK Vats. Since the IITs do not have a system of refunding fees, most dropouts don't bother to inform the institute. These seats are shown in records as filled.

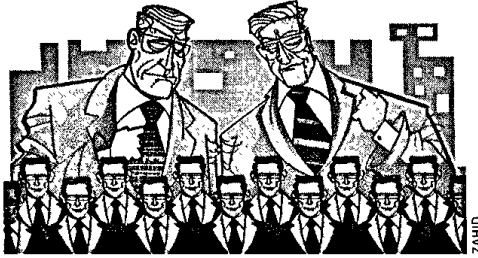
Rajiv Kumar of IIT-

Kharagpur suggested that seats should be declared vacant after a stipulated timeframe and thrown open for admission. "IITs should also refund the fees deposited so that seats are not unnecessarily blocked," he said.

Professor GB Reddy of IIT-Delhi, said the issue was being discussed and all the institutes had been asked to revise or review the unpopular courses.

Economic Times ND 28-Nov-11 P1

There's No Such Animal: IIMs on Cattle-Fair Tag



Placements being streamlined: Institutes

SREERADHA D BASU & WRITANKAR MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Are IIM placements akin to cattle fairs when the highest price tag symbolises the highest accomplishments? The remarks of Satish Pradhan, chief, group human resources, of Tata Sons, to this effect at an IIM Ahmedabad event on Friday have evoked strong reaction from the IIMs. Why blame us? Students have been bred on the success story and companies vie to pick the best talent, IIMs say. For their part, most recruiters want placements streamlined.

Pradhan had said on Friday that annual placements at B-schools like the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), and others are like a 'cattle fair' held in Pushkar, Rajasthan, every year. Every cattle which is to be sold is paraded before its potential buyer. Students too vie for the best companies and the highest price tag symbolises the highest accomplishment

of two years, he had said. IIM-A director Samir K Barua has taken strong exception to Pradhan's remarks. "What makes Mr Pradhan think that students have no perspective and just go for compensation? Some of them have several years of experience and it's most unfortunate that it is assumed that they are simply driven by salaries," he says.

In any case, at IIM-A, we have moved away from the day-based placements and have adopted a cohort system where one looks at the nature of jobs and signs up accordingly, says Barua. What's more, our students have contributed not just as entrepreneurs, but also as business leaders. About two-thirds of all professional CEOs have come out of IIM-A. "Anybody who becomes the chief of an organisation has shown the tenacity to last the distance. I think such comments need to be reconsidered," he adds.

'There's More to Life than Placements Alone' ▶▶ 22

'More to Life than Placements Alone'

▶▶ From Page 1

"When the companies are looking at profits, why not the students?" asks IIM-Rohtak Director P Rameshan. He points out the two approaches. "One is that students are our products and we are releasing them into the Indian and world market. The other is that we are service providers and they are our clients. Either way, it is important that our students get the best positions."

Rameshan says it's a rare student who will start his/her own enterprise right out of school. "Look at the investment they have made. Everybody can't be a scientist or an entrepreneur. It's quite possible that a few years down the line, they may want to do something on their own," he says.

According to IIM-Calcutta Director Shekhar Chaudhuri, it is a mixed bag. "There are some students who are looking for jobs defined by the highest salary, but there are also those with work experience who are looking at the fit, the management, the culture of the organisation etc." He, however, asks, "How many parents today encourage their children to take up a low-paying job in the social sector? Even companies vie with each other to bag students, and try to outdo each others' offers. It's a vicious cycle. So why blame only the institutes and the students? The society around plays a big role."

Agrees IIM-Kozhikode Director Debashis Chatterjee. "It's a materialistic society and students have been bred on the success story. The India they are looking at is slightly less idealistic and slightly more pragmatic. But having said that, there are several students who have refused placements and have started something on their own."

Beyond the provocative statement, the idea Pradhan was trying to put across was that a job is not the be-all and end-all of life; there's more to life than placements, Chatterjee says. "We are in the business of education, not the business of employment," he adds. "The IIMs are looking at grooming students for far more than just a job; we are looking at multi-dimensional students."

But IIM-Ranchi Director MJ Xavier feels Pradhan is 100% right. "The joy of learning, of becoming a better intellectual was what attracted the best people to the IITs and IIMs. Now, people are looking at the I-banks with crore-plus salaries. They are not motivated to look at anything broader."

Xavier has a word of caution for IIMs too. "Even as IIMs need to remember that we are institutes of learning, not employment exchanges. Then we become more market-driven. And markets are short-term oriented, not long-term driven. The country needs a lot of things in the long run. Everything is becoming placement-driven, it's like a bazaar."

RECRUITERS ROOT FOR IIMS, BUT WANT BETTER PLACEMENT SYSTEM

For their part, recruiters believe that IIMs prepare students in totality, but they agree that the placement system needs to be streamlined. Dhananjay Bansod, chief people officer at Deloitte India, says the placement process in IIMs has become a race for students to bag the best job, and for corporates to bag the best students.

"The system creates a lot of stress on students days ahead of the placements. There is no guarantee that the present process of slot zero and placement week is impeccable. It tends to ruin the self-confidence of students and adversely affects those who may not get a job in the first go," he says.

Bansod, who each year recruits one of the largest number of students from the IIMs, thinks that it's time to change the placement process in these institutes. "This is more so since the present system treats students like commodities. The companies race against each other for slot zero, which makes the process worse."

Bansod says the cohort system, which IIM-A has adopted, is a better process since all companies of the same industry will come together to recruit students at the same time. "This gives a narrow space for the race," he says.

Cappgemini India's head of HR Rajesh Padmanabhan, too, says the placement process at IIMs creates a big rush and anxiety. He, however, thinks the IIMs groom students in totality and not just for the placements. "The quality of education no doubt has improved over the years and the exposure of the graduates is pretty holistic. However, there is scope to re-look at the placement system as student expectations have changed. It can be much more streamlined," says Padmanabhan.

Nokia India's MD D Shivakumar, himself an IIM-Calcutta alumnus and a leading recruiter, says the placement in IIMs is a free market between the students, institutions and the employers. He says the IIMs have played a big role and the country needs more such institutes. "The Indian economy is going to grow at a faster pace than the four-fold growth in the last 20 years. There is already a shortage of talented people and we need more good institutes like the IIMs and more trained managers," says Shivakumar, who is about to take charge as head of India, Middle East and Africa for Nokia.

One of the biggest recruiters at top business schools, Cognizant, however, gives a thumbs up to the recruitment process at IIMs and at other premier B-schools. "The fact that most students from premier B-schools have work experience and are in close contact with the alumni of their respective institutions helps them evaluate companies better and make appropriate career decisions," says chief people officer Shankar Srinivasan.



Asian Age ND 28/11/2011 P-14

On Mars rover, tools to plumb a methane mystery

**Kenneth Chang
meanwhile**

There are no cows on Mars. Of that, planetary scientists are certain, which leaves them puzzling over what could be producing methane gas detected in the thin Martian air. Methane molecules are easily blown apart by ultraviolet light from the sun, so any methane around must have been released recently. Could the gas be burbling from something alive? Cows, after all, burp methane on earth. Other creatures, including a class of micro-organisms that live without oxygen, also produce methane.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration could get some answers soon. On the launching pad at Cape Canaveral in Florida is a spacecraft, the Mars Science Laboratory, that lifted off on Saturday and scheduled to reach Mars next August. It will deliver an SUV-size rover named *Curiosity* that carries an instrument that can detect methane in the air, and if it does, it will unleash new excitement about the prospect of life on Mars.

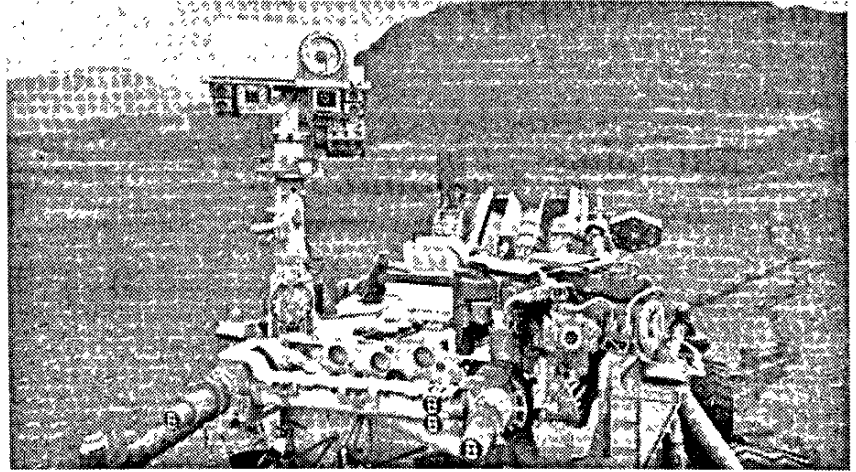
"Based on evidence, what we do have is, unequivocally, the conditions for the emergence of life were present on Mars — period, end of story," said Michael J. Mumma, a senior scientist for Nasa at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, who led one of three teams that have

made still-controversial claims of detecting methane in Mars' atmosphere. "So life certainly could have arisen there."

Because Mars is smaller than earth, it cooled faster, and it probably would have been hospitable for life earlier. That raises the intriguing possibility that pieces of Mars containing microbes were blasted into space by asteroid impacts and later landed on earth, seeding life here. In other words: we could all be descendants of Martians.

The possibility of Martians has long fuelled the imagination of earthlings, from the Edgar Rice Burroughs Barsoom novels to the canals Percival Lowell deluded himself into seeing through his telescope to *War of the Worlds*. Other times, the pendulum swung back the other way. Mariner 4, the first space probe to whiz past Mars, in 1965, sent back pictures not of verdant forests, but of barren rocks. And Nasa's two Viking landers in 1976, equipped with sophisticated life chemistry experiments, analysed the soil and found it devoid of the organic building blocks of life. Mars, it appeared in 1976, was really most sincerely dead. "Things looked so grim for exobiology on Mars," said Christopher F. Chyba, a professor of astrophysical sciences at Princeton University. "We made this tremendous investment in two Viking landers. There was a backlash of the people who felt the biology was oversold and 'pre-mature.'"

Nasa subsequently played down the notion of



An illustration of the Mars Science Laboratory's SUV-size rover named *Curiosity*.

— NYT

life on Mars and instead set out on a methodical campaign to explore the past geology and climate of Mars. Although Mars today looks dry and cold — dead — geological markings like gullies, dry lake beds and colossal canyons point to a liquid past. "Follow the water" became the mantra. Nasa's last two rovers, *Spirit* and *Opportunity*, found convincing evidence of environments that were habitable in the distant past. *Curiosity* will go further, looking for carbon-based molecules, including methane, that are the building blocks of life.

Recent orbital images show that water might still occasionally flow on the surface of Mars. New knowledge about life on earth and how it can thrive in seemingly hostile environments, like the dark, boiling waters near ocean-bottom volcanic vents, also

***Curiosity* carries an instrument that can detect methane in the air, and if it does, it will unleash new excitement about the prospect of life on Mars**

made scientists less dismissive of the notion that life persists on Mars. In 1996, a team of Nasa scientists announced that they had found fossilised microbes in a Martian meteorite that had landed in Antarctica. Those claims remain at least as controversial as the methane findings.

But short of photographing a cow or some other life form ambling among the rocks, *Curiosity* is not

going to discover life. As with every Nasa probe since the Viking landers, *Curiosity* is not carrying experiments designed to tell whether the building blocks of life ever came together to form life. If there are microbial Martians thriving in the soil, *Curiosity* will not see them. "I don't think we've put down enough groundwork," said Michael A. Meyer, Nasa's lead scientist for Mars. That is frustrating in particular for Gilbert V. Levin, who believes that his experiment on the Vikings 35 years ago, designed to detect life, did indeed detect life. Drops of a nutrient solution containing radioactive carbon-14 were added to Martian soil, and a stream of radioactive carbon dioxide was detected rising out of the soil.

By arrangement with the *New York Times*

Mahamedha ND 28/11/2011 P-10

आईआईटी कर्मियों ने वेतन विसंगति पर रोष जताया

रुड़की (संवाददाता)। आईआईटी कर्मचारियों ने व्याप्त वेतन विसंगति पर गहरा रोष जताया है। कर्मचारियों का आरोप है कि आईआईटी प्रशासन इस ओर लापरवाही बरत रहा है। जबकि इस बाबत संस्थान के पूर्व निदेशक आदेश कर चुके थे।

कर्मचारियों ने एमएसीपीएस को लागू करने की पुरजोर मांग की है। आईआईटी कर्मचारियों की बैठक संस्थान परिसर पर स्थित बास्केटबाल ग्राउंड में आयोजित हुई। कर्मचारियों ने केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों के लिए लागू की गई मोडिफाइड एश्योर्ड करियर स्कीम (एमएसीपीएस) पर चर्चा की। आईआईटी कर्मचारी यूनियन के उपाध्यक्ष राजपाल सिंह ने आरोप लगाया कि आईआईटी प्रशासन कर्मचारियों की वेतन विसंगति को दूर नहीं कर रहा है। जबकि पूर्व निदेशक का आदेश था कि जिन कर्मचारियों को बीस वर्ष पर 5,400 रुपये ग्रेड पे मिला है, उन्हें तीस वर्ष की सेवा पूरी करने पर 6600 का ग्रेड पे दिया जाए। लेकिन प्रशासन इन

आदेशों को नहीं मान रहा है। कर्मियों ने आरोप लगाया कि संस्थान में कार्यरत जूनियर असिस्टेंट, सिविल इंस्पेक्टर, मैकेनिक, जूनियर लैब असिस्टेंट के पदों में भी जानबूझकर अनियमितता पैदा कर दी गई है। आधे कर्मचारियों को दस वर्ष की सेवा पर 2800 ग्रेड पे तथा आधे कर्मचारियों को 2400 ग्रेड पे दिया जा रहा है। इसी तरह समूह 'घ' कर्मचारियों की वेतन विसंगति मसलन दस वर्ष पर 2000 ग्रेड पे तथा बीस वर्ष 2400 ग्रेड पे देने के लिए पूर्व निदेशक ने समिति का गठन किया था।

इसके अध्यक्ष प्रो एसएन सिन्हा तथा सदस्य प्रो. जीएस सिंह नामित किए गए थे। इस पर भी अभी तक कोई काम नहीं हुआ है। पत्र लिखने के बावजूद प्रशासन संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं दे रहा है, न समस्याएं हल हो रही हैं। उपाध्यक्ष राजपाल सिंह ने चेतावनी दी कि प्रशासन के रवैए से क्षुब्ध होकर वे 12 दिसंबर को संस्थान के मुख्य भवन के सामने अनिश्चितकालीन भूख हड़ताल पर बैठेंगे।

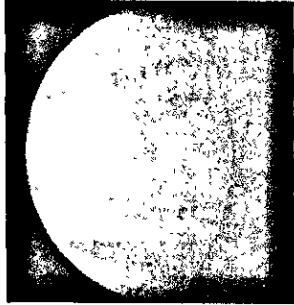
Found: Planet that's just like Earth

Gliese 581g May Contain Liquid Water And Even Life, Say Scientists

London: Scientists claim to have discovered a potentially habitable planet which has an environment much similar to that of Earth and may contain water and even life.

The exoplanet, called Gliese 581g, is located around 123 trillion miles away from Earth and orbits a star at a distance that places it squarely in the habitable or the Goldilocks zone, the scientists said.

The research, published in



HOME AWAY FROM HOME?

a paper published in the Astrophysical Journal, suggests that the planet could contain liquid water on its surface, meaning it tops the league of planets and moons rated as being most like Earth, they said.

"Our findings offer a very compelling case for a potentially habitable planet said Vogt," said lead researcher Steven Vogt, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California.

"The fact that we were able to detect this planet so quickly and so nearby tells us that planets like this must be really common," Vogt said. The new findings are based on 11 years of observations of the nearby red dwarf star Gliese 581. The team reported the discovery of two new planets around Gliese 581.

This brings the total number of known planets around this star to six, the most yet

discovered in a planetary system outside of our own. Like our solar system, the planets around Gliese 581 have nearly-circular orbits, the team said.

It found that Gliese 581g has a mass three to four times the Earth's and orbits its star in just under 37 days. Its mass indicates that it is probably a rocky planet with a definite surface and enough gravity to hold on to an atmosphere, they said. PTI

Hindustan ND 28-Nov-11

P3

ऑनलाइन परीक्षा में मिलेगा गलती सुधारने का मौका

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

ऑनलाइन परीक्षा में अगर कोई उत्तर गलत हो जाता है तो उसे बदल सकेंगे। इस बार ऐसा प्रावधान किया गया है। 22 शहरों में इस वर्ष परीक्षा ऑनलाइन होनी है और 68 शहरों में ये परीक्षा पुराने पैटर्न पर ही होगी।

ऑनलाइन परीक्षा के दौरान छात्र ये भी देख सकेंगे कि उसने कितने प्रश्नों को हल कर लिया और कितने प्रश्न अधूरे रह गए। परीक्षा के दौरान कंप्यूटर स्क्रीन पर एक पैनल दिखाई देगा जिसमें सभी प्रश्नों की कलर स्क्रीन अलग होगी जो ये बताएगा कि कौन से प्रश्न आपने हल कर



लिए हैं और कितने प्रश्नों को आपने हल नहीं किया है। इसके अलावा केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड और आल इंडिया इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा की वेबसाइट पर जल्द ही प्रैक्टिस टेस्ट डाल दिए जाएंगे। एआईईईई प्रशासन का कहना है कि अगर कोई छात्र अंग्रेजी माध्यम चुनता है लेकिन स्पष्टता के लिए वह प्रश्नों को हिंदी में देखना चाहता है तो इसका विकल्प उसके पास मौजूद रहेगा।

एआईईईई की खास बातें

- 27 हजार सीटों के लिए करीब दस लाख छात्र प्रतिवर्ष बैठते हैं।
- राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (एनआईटी) और चुनिंदा इंजीनियरिंग कालेजों में एडमिशन होता है।
- अब कई निजी कॉलेज भी एआईईईई की रैकिंग से एडमिशन देते हैं।
- एआईईईई की उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं को ऑनलाइन करने का फैसला
- केंद्र सरकार प्रबंधन में एडमिशन के लिए होने वाले टेस्ट केट को भी ऑनलाइन कर चुकी है

परीक्षा कब होगी

ऑनलाइन परीक्षा अगले वर्ष 7-26 मई के दौरान होगी। पहली शिफ्ट नी बजे से 12 बजे के बीच और दूसरी शिफ्ट दो बजे से लेकर पांच बजे तक होगी। 29 अप्रैल 2012 को ऑफलाइन यानी पेपर/पेन टेस्ट होगा।

रिहर्सल का मौका

परीक्षार्थियों के अभ्यास के लिए केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड और ऑल इंडिया इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा की वेबसाइट पर एक मॉक साफ्टवेयर दिसंबर तक लोड किया जाएगा। यह पूरी तरह मुफ्त होगा

ऑनलाइन परीक्षा सस्ती

ऑनलाइन परीक्षा में आवेदन करने का शुल्क कम है। ऑफलाइन माध्यम की तुलना में इस माध्यम से छात्र तीन सौ रुपए बचा सकता है। सीबीएसई और एआईईईई की वेबसाइट पर मॉक टेस्ट मुफ्त में दिया जाएगा।

आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख

आल इंडिया इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा में आवेदन करने की अंतिम तारीख 31 दिसंबर है। ऑनलाइन परीक्षा में आप अपनी सुविधा के मुताबिक 19 दिन (7 मई से 26 मई) में से कोई दिन चुन सकते हैं।

ई-मेल होगा पेपर

ऑफलाइन परीक्षा की तरह ऑनलाइन परीक्षा में भी छात्रों को पेपर मिलेगा। परीक्षा के बाद छात्रों को ई-मेल कर दिया जाएगा। बी.एल.एम. और बी.आई.टी. की परीक्षा ऑफलाइन माध्यम से होगी।

कंप्यूटर खराब हो गया तो

कंप्यूटर खराब होने की स्थिति में दूसरा सिस्टम होगा। साथ ही जो समय बर्बाद हुआ होगा वह सर्वर से मालूम चल जाएगा। परीक्षा के दिशा-निर्देश पढ़ने के लिए अतिरिक्त समय मिलेगा।