

Newspaper Clips **November 7, 2015**

To save paper and environment, IIT-D to go paperless by 2016

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/to-save-paper-and-environment-iit-d-to-go-paperless-by-2016/story-bIpV4C8rEOd5DHdZETVmjN.html>

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is planning to soon go paperless with all inter-departmental as well as administrative communication being conducted through e-office, in a move aimed at saving paper and protecting environment.

IIT-D is already in the process of digitising all its files to ensure a smooth transition to e-office system which will enable all administrative work to be conducted using electronic files. Officials said they have procured e-office system from National Informatics Centre (NIC).

“We want to make all administrative work digital which will help us increase efficiency. We have taken e-office system from NIC and slowly moving to online system. All the existing files will be digitised and saved in the system so that it can be accessed as and when needed,” said Sushil, deputy director, operations.

He said the institute, which is probably the first IIT to move its administration to digital mode, will go fully online from January or February after which all file movement will happen online.

“We will take a few months to fully move to a paperless administration. The training is already going on to take everyone on board for the launch of the new system. The whole administration will go online by the month of January or February. Our aim is to go completely paperless,” he said.

The institute, which is already a zero-waste campus, is already phasing out hard files from its system and transforming them into e-files for future use. “All files will be available in the electronic format. All physical files will be done away with in a phased manner. All head of departments, deans and others will communicate online rather than sending papers, he said.

Officials said the move will not only help the institute cut down use of paper but also help them in making their work flow efficient.

Deccan Herald ND 07/11/2015 P-6

IIT-Delhi to set up park for start-up incubation

NEW DELHI: Aiming to incubate engineering and tech fledglings, IIT-Delhi will soon set up a science park in its campus with top of the notch R&D facilities.

The park, planned as a response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'start-up India' call, will be open to both IIT alumni and other students with workable ideas.

Faculties associated with the project say construction of the park will begin from January and it will be operational by the end of 2017.

The park will initially incu-

bate 100 companies both in engineering and biotech sectors. "We will increase the number of start-ups in the years to come," an IIT faculty told *Deccan Herald*.

A panel comprising the deans of IIT-Delhi, industry leaders and venture capital investors will scrutinise each project proposal for its practicability and market potential, the faculty said. "The science park will be open to anyone including our alumni," the faculty said. "It is open to whoever coming with an idea that could be tested and developed into a profitable busi-

ness. Of course, every proposal will be meticulously evaluated to determine its potential before approval for incubation."

Though the institute will not collect any fee for research and development of approved projects, selected candidates will have to pay some amount as rent for using the facilities at foundation for innovation and technology transfer (FITT), an industry interface organisation established at IIT-Delhi as a registered society.

"But such a rent will be very nominal," another faculty said. The institute will get five per

cent stake in the start-ups incubated in the park.

IIT-Delhi will organise its own resources to establish the park. "We have various resources to establish the science centre. We have also requested the government for some funds. In all, we will require Rs 130 crore for the project," the faculty said.

The institute has been providing R&D assistance for start-ups for the last few years. However, it could not support more than 15 firms due to space and resource constraints.

DH News Service

IIT Tirupati students grumble about basic amenities, authorities seek time

<http://www.pagalgu.com/articles/iit-tirupati-students-grumble-about-basic-amenities-authorit-37028241>

IIT Tirupati is one of the two new IITs that started in 2015. It is operating out of a transit campus at the moment in Tirupati, so having a few issues with amenities are expected. Yet, students in IIT Tirupati have quite a few things to grumble. The authorities are considering all possible steps to solve these issues.

Lack of Wi-Fi in the hostels is a major concern for students at IIT Tirupati. "Wi-Fi is available in the academic building but not in the hostels. It is an inconvenience to work after college hours" said one of the students who did not wish to be named. He also added that they had spoken to the professor in-charge a few weeks ago and were promised that Wi-Fi would be enabled from the next semester. The students also complained about not having a washing machine and proper sports equipment. The students have to either do their laundry themselves or outsource to washerwoman who charges Rs. 10 per piece of clothing. For sports, apart from the cricket set, the rest of the equipment is yet to arrive.

PaGaLGuY spoke to K. N. Satyanarayana, who is IIT Tirupati's Professor-in-charge. He says he is doing as much as he can to address these issues. "The students discussed these issues a couple of weeks ago with me, and steps are being taken to rectify them. Since it is a transit campus, we want to spend prudently which is why some things are taking time to materialise," he says.

He added that having been a hostel warden years ago, there was a risk with having washing machines. "From my past experiences with IIT Madras, I have realised that students are not always careful with the machines. We first want to put a system in place which will be of convenience to the students and also not harm them when using the machines. As of now they are managing on their own, but this too will be addressed," he added hopefully.

With regards to the sports equipment Prof. Satyanarayana added that various sports kits have been ordered and will arrive in the next few weeks. But until then, he says that he has sought permission from a nearby school for the students to use the school's courts. A bus service too has been started to drop and pick up students from the school.

Like any new institution, IIT Tirupati is grappling with administration issues. But while these issues are getting addressed by the authorities, the pace at which the changes are taking place is too slow for the students facing them.

Business Line ND 07/11/2015 P-16

IIT grads, doctors should keep off civil services: Birender Singh

Says it is a waste of money spent on their professional education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, November 6

Union Minister Birender Singh has reservations on IIT graduates and doctors opting for the civil services, saying they should not be wasting the nation's money spent on their education.

"I think somewhere there are aberrations. When students from IITs, medical colleges opt for IAS, I have total reservations for that.

"Spending crores and crores on one student, maybe a doctor or maybe an IIT graduate or post-graduate, ultimately he comes to administer...no. That is not the correct stream. If they want they



Birender Singh

should do graduation in arts like me.

"Why they want to waste the nation's money?" the 69-year-old Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Sanitation and Drinking Water, said here while speaking at a function of the Institution of Engineers.

Singh, who last year switched over to the ruling BJP after serving

the Congress for 42 years, said: "You will excuse me for saying this, I know certain batches of UPSC where the top one (toppers) they did not opt for IFS, they did not opt for the IAS, but they went for IRS (Indian Revenue Service), you know."

Aberrations in system

"So these are the aberrations in our system we must improve upon. We should be straightforward in our choice, if we want to be this, okay, we cannot be this or that, but we cannot be both (from doctor or IIT graduate then becoming an administrator)," Singh said.

Earlier, going down the memory lane, he recalled how a teacher had once looked down upon him way back in 1966 when he told her that he was wanted to become a lawyer.

For JEE 2016, 40% weightage for board marks will remain

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: Students preparing for IIT and NIT entrance exams should prepare well for their Class 12 exams as the HRD ministry has decided that there will be no change in the pattern of joint entrance examination (JEE) 2016.

Putting an end to the confusion over a change in the pattern of JEE 2016, the human resource development (HRD) ministry has decided to continue the same pattern of JEE 2015 under which 40% weight is given to board marks and 60% to the JEE-Main score.

"We have received the report of the committee and it will be studied in detail. However, as only a few months are left for the entrance exams we want to give ample time to students to prepare and hence have decided not to make any changes to the format right now," said a senior HRD official requesting anonymity.

A sub-committee of the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) council had recommended that Class 12 board marks should



■ Smriti Irani

not be taken into account for admissions in NITs. However, HRD minister Smriti Irani had formed another committee to examine the issue. The ministry has received the report and its recommendations, if accepted, will be applicable only in 2017.

MINISTRY APP TO CHECK CHILD'S PERFORMANCE

NEW DELHI: Parents will now be able to keep a track on their child's performance and know their weak areas by using an online system being launched by HRD ministry called Saransh. The online tool, which will be available as a mobile app, will help parents compare their ward's performance within the school and other schools in the state. Last year this system was made available to schools and principals only.

HTC

Mint ND 07/11/2015 P-15

Pre-placement offers on the rise as firms intensify talent hunt

Many firms do most of their entry-level hiring through such offers, which have risen 50% from last year

By RIDYA SAPAM
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MUMBAI

Earlier this year, Deutsche Bank AG took in nine students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, as summer interns. All of them have now joined the company in different roles.

Same was the case with global software firm Adobe Systems Inc. The company recently hired all seven IIT Kanpur students who interned with it this summer.

The story repeats across India, where companies competing for talent identify bright students early and lock them in with pre-placement offers (PPOs).

So much so that many companies conduct much of their entry-level hiring through PPOs, instead of waiting for the official placement season that runs from December through March.

The number of PPOs has gone up by nearly 50% from last year's figure, said placement cell executives from multiple premier technology institutes and business schools.

"Companies are increasingly going for the PPO model as it is

an easier way to find talent at an early stage. So, most companies are taking interns and placing them while slowing down their activities during final placements," said Divya Pratap Singh, overall placement coordinator, IIT Kanpur.

According to placement cell representatives, IIT Kharagpur has already received 170 PPOs this year, up from last year's 90, while IIT Bombay has got 150 against last year's 110, and IIT Madras has got 56 PPOs against last year's 70.

IIT Kanpur has received around 93 PPOs till the first week of October, which is 40% more than the 66 in the same period a year ago.

"We are seeing a considerable increase in the number of pre-placement offers this year. Most companies are no longer waiting for the final placement as there is a huge competition among them to recruit the best talent," said Manu Pant, secretary, corporate relations and placement team at the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), New Delhi.

Around 20 companies, including Accenture Strategy and American Express, have made around 45 PPOs to students at

FMS so far, 25% more than last year's October figures. Pant said PPOs will rise further as most companies are yet to make announcements in this regard. Last year, it got a total of 61 PPOs.

Management Development Institute (MDI) Gurgaon and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) Delhi have also seen a jump of more than 40% in pre-placement offers.

Till the beginning of October, MDI received 80 such offers and IIFT 43.

"Pre-placement offers have shot up as more and more companies are finding it comfortable to hire through the internship

route. Hence, the intake of interns from B-schools has also increased," Pant said.

Firms such as JP Morgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Microsoft Corp., Nomura Holdings, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Reckitt Benckiser Group Plc and Facebook Inc. have already concluded pre-placement recruitments across the IITs and MDI Gurgaon, FMS and IIFT.

Among the most in demand are software developers, finan-

cial consultants and data analysts.

"Large technology companies are adding jobs at the entry level. That directly correlates with the pre-placement offers going up in these top institutes. At the same time, a lot of start-ups which are expanding are also putting pressure on top institutes as they have funds," said Kamal Karanth, managing director at Kelly Services, a leading recruitment agency.

Most companies, especially multinationals, hired 25% more people in the September quarter over the previous year, he added.

IIFT director Surajit Mitra agreed that as hiring sentiment improves, PPOs are expected to rise. Even pre-placement interviews are on the rise, with 50 interviews already offered at IIFT, he added.

Godrej Industries, one of the Indian firms active in the pre-placement season, said around 91% of students who were part of its internship programme have been placed as management trainees, said Sumit Mitra, head, group human resources and corporate services at Godrej Industries Ltd and Associate Companies.

"Today, our businesses have a growing global presence. This kind of expansion means that new roles are created across businesses and countries. This year, our recruitment requirement from business schools has increased by 20%," Mitra said.

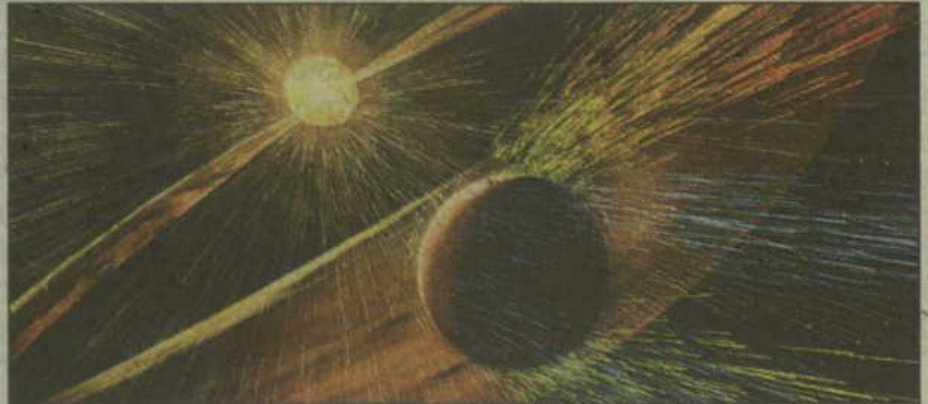
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Solar wind transformed Mars into cold, arid planet: Nasa

AP

Washington: Strong solar winds likely played a key role in the transition of the Martian climate from an early, warm and wet environment that might have supported life to the cold, arid planet Mars is today, according to Nasa.

Nasa's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission data has enabled researchers to determine the rate at which the Martian atmosphere currently is losing gas to space via stripping by solar wind. The findings show that the erosion of Mars' atmosphere increases significantly during solar storms.



A Nasa photo shows an artist's rendering of a solar storm hitting the planet Mars and stripping ions from the planet's upper atmosphere.

MAVEN measurements indicate that the solar wind strips away gas at a rate of about 100 grammes every second. "We've seen that the atmospheric erosion increases significantly during solar storms,

so we think the loss rate was much higher billions of years ago when the Sun was young and more active," said Bruce Jakosky, MAVEN principal investigator at University of Colorado, Boulder. PTI

Human Resource Development Ministry to Launch Smart Apps to Make Education Available on The Go

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/human-resource-development-ministry-to-launch-smart-apps-to-make-education-available-on-the-go-1241031>

New Delhi: The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry will launch smart apps to make education available to more people and on the go.

Officials said that in the National Conference on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in School Education, organised by the Ministry, ICT-based initiatives of the Ministry including 'e-pathshala', a web mobile based application of teaching and learning material, innovative teaching practices along with assessment of learning for the use of students, teachers and others will be launched.

The high-level conference would be attended by celebrated names of the education sector. HRD Minister Smriti Irani will be the chief guest.

Apart from e-Pathshala, other initiatives which will be launched are 'Saransh' and 'Shaala Siddhi' that seek to integrate digital and app-based technology into education would be launched in the presence of esteemed guests, teachers, students and parents.

The event would also showcase the digitised monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, officials said.

Bosch India ties up with IISc for research & innovations

<http://www.siasat.com/news/bosch-india-ties-iisc-research-innovations-864306/>

Bengaluru :Bosch India, a leading supplier of technology and services, has signed a pact with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for local research and innovations.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan yesterday, the company said in a statement.

“This partnership between industry and academia further enforces our ties with IISc and underlines our commitment towards local innovations, according to our slogan ‘Invented for life’.

“We expect to see positive results as we collaborate in research on areas of strategic interest, such as mobility, healthcare, energy and water,” Bosch Group India President Steffen Berns said in the statement.

“With the MoU sign off, we look to engage in deeper research that will improve the quality of life in totality,” IISc Director Professor Anurag Kumar said.

In May 2011, the Bosch Group had announced investments totalling Rs 300 crore to provide support for universities and research projects in Germany, China, India, and the US over a period of ten years as part of its global initiative ‘Bosch InterCampus Program’, Kumar added.

The programme aims to achieve lasting improvements in research conditions for undergraduates and scientists in the university sphere, he said.

Approximately Rs 115 crore was allotted for India to accelerate progress in highly promising fields like environmental protection, energy and mobility, Kumar added.

The Robert Bosch Centre for Cyber Physical Systems was set up at IISc with this grant and is in its fourth year, Kumar said adding that with the signing of the new MoU, Bosch and IISc will deepen their already existing relationship.

“These partnerships symbolise Bosch’s innovation focus in India. It will increase our problem solving capabilities, and at the same time the collaboration will result in sharing our learnings for the benefit of the society.

“I believe it is absolutely essential for the growth of innovation in India,” Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions President Vijay Ratnaparkhe added.