

Newspaper Clips

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आईआईटी छात्रों को आम लोगों की जरूरत के हिसाब से उपकरण विकसित करने की प्रेरणा देगे शिक्षक स्टार्टअप कंपनी शुरू करेंगे



नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली के शिक्षक स्टार्टअप इंडिया कार्यक्रम को विद्यार्थियों के बीच लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए खुद कंपनियां खोलेंगे। संस्थान ने करीब 50 शिक्षकों के लिए कंपनी खोलने की योजना बनाई है। इन कंपनियों में आम लोगों की जरूरत को देखते हुए उपकरण तैयार किए जाएंगे।

आईआईटी के निदेशक डॉ. वी रामगोपाल राव ने बताया कि संस्थान चाहता है कि विद्यार्थियों के बीच स्टार्टअप योजना को सफल बनाने के लिए शिक्षक पहले खुद अपनी कंपनी

40 हजार से अधिक आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व छात्र दुनियाभर में काम कर रहे हैं

दिसंबर में स्वर्ण जयंती समारोह मनाया जाएगा

संस्थान के पहले बैच के पास होने का स्वर्ण जयंती समारोह दिसंबर में आयोजित होगा, जिसमें बड़ी संख्या में दुनियाभर से पूर्व छात्र आएंगे। संस्थान ने पूर्व छात्रों से अपील की है कि वे संस्थान के विस्तार, गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने और विश्वस्तरीय बनाने में हर संभव मदद करें।

खोलें। उनके अनुभवों को छात्रों के साथ बांटें, ताकि भविष्य में वे खुद स्टार्टअप शुरू कर सकें।

इससे छात्रों में एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप के प्रति रुझान बढ़ने के साथ इनोवेशन को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा। डॉ. राव ने कहा कि इस योजना के तहत दो-तीन वर्षों में करीब

कैंपस में उद्योग दिवस जल्द आयोजित होगा

बकौल आईआईटी निदेशक डॉ. वी रामगोपाल राव आईआईटी छात्र अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के शोध पत्र तैयार करने के साथ अनुसंधान भी करते हैं। करीब 250 छात्र-हर साल पीएचडी करते हैं। इनमें से कई अपना मनपसंद काम करना चाहते हैं। ऐसे छात्रों के लिए आईआईटी में पहली बार उद्योग दिवस का आयोजन किया जाएगा, ताकि वे विभिन्न कंपनियों के साथ मिलकर आम लोग के लिए तकनीक या उपकरण विकसित कर सकें।

50 शिक्षक अपनी स्टार्टअप कंपनी खोलेंगे।

कंपनियों के कामकाज के लिए कैंपस में ही जगह उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। इस योजना के अंतर्गत कंपनी शुरू करने वाले शिक्षक सरकार के साथ निजी क्षेत्र से भी ऋण ले सकते हैं।

500 शिक्षकों की जरूरत

आईआईटी के निदेशक डॉ. वी रामगोपाल राव ने बताया कि हम अपने छात्रों की संख्या को बढ़ाकर दो गुना करना चाहते हैं। विश्वस्तरीय संस्थान की रैंकिंग में ऊपर आने के लिए हमें अभी 500 शिक्षकों की जरूरत होगी। वहीं, विदेशी छात्रों-शिक्षकों की संख्या भी बढ़ानी होगी। आईआईटी दिल्ली में सिर्फ 70 विदेशी छात्र और दस से भी कम विदेशी शिक्षक हैं।

पांच छात्रों पर शिक्षक जरूरी

रैंकिंग में ऊपर लाने के लिए औसतन पांच छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक आदर्श स्थिति होती है। लेकिन अभी 15 छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक भी नहीं है। यह सब होने पर ही संस्थान विश्व के 100 श्रेष्ठ संस्थानों में आ जाएगा। विश्वजीत कार्यक्रम के तहत सात आईआईटी को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने की सरकार की योजना है।

Mint ND 17.10.2016 P-01

Govt wants IITs, IIMs to go multidisciplinary for world-class institutions tag

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NEW DELHI

The government's so-called world-class institutions plan may change the face of the country's two most premier institutions—the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)—by making them move beyond their respective areas of specialization (technology and management), and admit more students. The world-class institutions will be deemed universities instead of institutions of national importance, which is the present status of IITs and

IIMs. The plan to set them up was first mentioned in this year's budget by finance minister Arun Jaitley.

The plan is still a work-in-progress and will probably require legislative changes, especially when it comes to the authority that will designate world-class institutions. Earlier this month, the human resource development (HRD) ministry released a draft policy regarding this and sought comments.

Such an institution should "compulsorily satisfy the following criteria within a reasonable pre-determined time frame from the date of notification declaring it as a World Class Institution: It should preferably be multidisciplinary

and have both teaching and research focus of an exceptionally high quality..." the draft guidelines stated.

Last month, HRD minister Prakash Javadekar had asked the IITs and IIMs in separate meetings to prepare and bid for the world-class institution tag. (bit.ly/2eomN15)

A professor at one of the older IIMs, who asked not to be named, said that IIMs so far are management schools and can no way be called "multidisciplinary".

"When the first criteria talks about this character, it indicates that they perhaps wish the IIMs bidding (to be world class institutions) to diversify," the professor said.

Only some of the IIMs are

The plan is still in the works and is likely to require legislative changes

likely to apply, he added, and they need to address the question on multidisciplinary education.

A professor at an IIT, who too asked not to be identified, agreed and said institutions wishing to get the world-class institution tag may have to change.

This person added that during United Progressive Alliance's second term (2009-14), there was a discussion on IITs turning multidisciplinary like a full-fledged university. "But it did not materialize. Then the context was improving global ranking."

The guidelines also say that world-class institutions need to have at least "20,000 students over next 15 years." That works out to around 1,334 students a year. Many of the IIMs have had several run-ins with various governments over the way they are run.

The draft guidelines also suggest that the government wants to internationalize the campuses of world-class institutions, with one in four instructors and almost one in three students from overseas.

The lack of internationalization is palpable in India's top institutions and is considered

one of the reasons why they lag in the global rankings. For instance, IIT Delhi has only four international teachers in its 466-member-strong faculty and there were no international students in its undergraduate programmes, as per the QS World university rankings data for 2016-17.

IIT-Delhi, at 185, is the second Indian institution after Indian Institute of Science Bangalore to be in the top 200 universities list this year. At

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the top university as per the QS rankings this year, there are 1,679 international faculty members out of a total of 2,982. And 30% of all MIT students are from foreign countries.

Independently, some of the IITs have started looking for foreign faculty or reputed academics of Indian origin. S.K. Das, director of IIT Ropar, says that he has visited the US and Canada and offered teaching positions to some teachers from those countries.

"For some of our top institutions to become world-class in a real sense, they need to change their character. So far, they haven't done so, and now, there is a sweet reason to change—you will get more academic and administrative freedom as well as more funds if you are successful in your bid to get the world-class institution tag," said a government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Amar Ujala ND 17.10.2016 P-09

आईआईटी में विदेशी छात्रों से फीस लेन पर मतभेद

सीमा शर्मा
नई दिल्ली।

देश के 23 आईआईटी में पढ़ने वाले विदेशी छात्रों की फीस पर फीस निर्धारण समिति और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के बीच मतभेद है। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में भारतीय छात्रों की तर्ज पर विदेशी छात्रों की फीस भी दो लाख रुपये सालाना लेने की सिफारिश की है। लेकिन मंत्रालय का कहना है कि सरकार को एक छात्र पर प्रतिवर्ष छह लाख रुपये खर्च आता है, ऐसे में विदेशी छात्रों को फीस में छूट क्यों दें। फीस पर अंतिम फैसला प्रकाश जावडेकर को ही लेना है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने फीस को लेकर आईआईटी मुंबई के डायरेक्टर प्रो. देवांग वी खाखर की अध्यक्षता में समिति बनायी थी। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि विदेशी छात्रों से भी दो लाख रुपये सालाना फीस ली जाए। हालांकि मंत्रालय समेत अन्य आईआईटी प्रबंधन का कहना है कि हजारों भारतीय छात्र विदेशों में पढ़ने जाते हैं, लेकिन वहां की सरकार भारतीय छात्रों को फीस में कोई छूट नहीं देती है। वहीं, आईआईटी में पढ़ने वाले एक छात्र



फीस के लिए गठित समिति ने विदेशी छात्रों से भी दो लाख सालाना फीस लेने की सिफारिश की

की फीस बेशक दो लाख रुपये सालाना है, लेकिन सरकार को प्रति छात्र सालाना छह लाख रुपये का खर्चा आता है। ऐसे में विदेशी छात्रों को फीस में छूट क्यों दी जाए। अतः विदेशी छात्रों से छह लाख रुपये सालाना फीस ली जानी चाहिए। फीस पर सहमति न होने के चलते अब आखिरी फैसला प्रकाश जावडेकर को लेना है।

सरकार ने पहली बार सभी आईआईटी में दस फीसदी अतिरिक्त सीट पर विदेशी छात्रों को पढ़ने का मौका देने का फैसला लिया है। इस योजना के तहत श्रीलंका, इथियोपिया, बांग्लादेश, यूएई, नेपाल व सिंगापुर में जेईई एडवांस की परीक्षा के लिए सेंटर बनाए जाएंगे।

Indian Express ND 17.10.2016 P-03

States may have to offer bids, compete now to get projects, events

AMITAV RANJAN

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

THE CENTRE plans to introduce bidding among states for infrastructure projects, hospitals, educational institutions and for hosting national events.

According to a communication from the Cabinet Secretariat, the NDA government plans to adopt the Swiss Challenge Method for "selection of location" for future IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, ports, refineries, LNG terminals and food processing units, as well as film festivals, national games and Pravasi Bhartiya

Divas, among others.

Depending on the issue, states would have to compete over ease of providing land, extent of fiscal concessions, connectivity, provision of utilities, speedy statutory clearances, and quantum of employment to be generated.

Different weightage would be assigned to each parameter, to arrive at a cumulative score. The state with the highest score would be the winner for a particular project, institution or event.

"The basic intent of the Challenge Method is to provide a transparent, objective and

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States may have to offer bids, compete

merit-based decision-making process, that may be adopted for site selection across various sectors and to encourage competition among states to offer the best-suited sites and commit resources in terms of infrastructure support, financial incentives etc," says the letter.

Each department has been asked to submit a list of projects, institutions or events under them with a matrix of indicative parameters and possible weight assigned to each parameter to the Cabinet Secretariat by this month.

The collated list would then be put up in the public domain for any state to start the bidding. A state's original offer would be made public so as to invite competing counter proposals. Under the Swiss Challenge Method, if a third party's bid is more efficient, the first bidder is asked to resubmit a fresh bid. If the first bidder comes up with a better proposal, it gets the project, and if it fails, the one with the more efficient bid wins the project.

The Challenge route has been widely used in recent years, including to approve redevelopment of 400 railway stations, and to award roads and housing contracts.

Jansatta ND 17.10.2016 P-01

कूड़ा जलाने से बदरंग होने लगा ताजमहल

वाशिंगटन, 16 अक्टूबर (भाषा)।

एक भारतीय-अमेरिकी अनुसंधान दल ने पाया है कि ऐतिहासिक ताजमहल के पास शहर का ठोस कूड़ा जलाना इस विश्व धरोहर स्मारक को बदरंग करने में अहम भूमिका निभा रहा है। इस नए अनुसंधान में ताजमहल और इसके आसपास रहने वाले लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर उपलों के जलाने और ठोस कूड़ा जलाने के असर की तुलना की गई।

नए उपायों के प्रयोग से, मिनेसोटा विश्वविद्यालय के अजय नागपुरे और जॉर्जिया इंस्टीट्यूट आफ टेक्नोलॉजी के राज लाल सहित शोधकर्ताओं ने वैज्ञानिक समूह दिए कि स्मारक के पास ठोस कूड़ा जलाना वायु प्रदूषक 'पार्टिकुलेट मैटर' (पीएम) के नुकसानदेह स्तर में योगदान कर सकता है।

वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि खुले में ठोस कूड़ा जलाने से पीएम 2.5 का प्रति वर्ष करीब 150 मिलीग्राम प्रति घंटा मीटर ताजमहल को सतह पर जमा होता है जबकि इसकी तुलना में



उपले जलाने पर यह आंकड़ा 12 मिलीग्राम प्रति घंटा मीटर प्रति वर्ष है। शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी कहा कि वे दोनों स्रोत मिल कर

पीएम 2.5 से जुड़ी समयपूर्व मृत्युदर के आकलन पर आधारित एक गंभीर स्वास्थ्य चिंता पैदा करते हैं। जॉर्जिया इंस्टीट्यूट

● आइआईटी कानपुर के सचिवा त्रिपाठी और मिनेसोटा विश्वविद्यालय के अनु रामस्वामी सहित अनुसंधानकर्ताओं ने कहा कि अगर में पार्टिकुलेट मैटर स्वास्थ्य चिंताएं पैदा करता है। वहीं यह वायु गुणवत्ता में गिरावट और प्राचीन इमारतों के बदरंग होने जैसी कई समस्याएं भी बढ़ाता है।

आफ टेक्नोलॉजी से आर्किटेक्ट रसेल ने कहा, 'हमारे शुरुआती अनुसंधान में पाया गया कि ठोस कूड़ा जलाने पर पूरी तरह पाबंदी लगाना असंभव नहीं है क्योंकि हो सकता है कि लोगों के पास कोई अन्य विकल्प नहीं हो।' रसेल ने कहा कि बल्कि, कूड़ा उठाने के साथ गंदगी वाले क्षेत्रों में सेवाएं देने के नई तरीके अपनाने चाहिए। विश्लेषण में भारत के अलग अलग शहरों में धनाभाव, गरीब और मध्यम आय वाले लोगों के क्षेत्रों के पास में ठोस कूड़ा जलाने और उत्सर्जन पर गौर किया गया। आइआईटी कानपुर के सचिवा त्रिपाठी और मिनेसोटा विश्वविद्यालय के अनु रामस्वामी सहित अनुसंधानकर्ताओं ने कहा कि शहर में पार्टिकुलेट मैटर स्वास्थ्य चिंताएं पैदा करता है। वहीं वायु गुणवत्ता में गिरावट और प्राचीन इमारतों के बदरंग होने जैसी कई समस्याएं भी बढ़ाता है। उन्होंने पत्रिका 'एनवायरनमेंटल रिसर्च लेटर्स' में लिखा कि ताज नगरी आगरा में अधिकारियों ने इस स्मारक में स्थानीय वायु प्रदूषण के असर पर कानू पाने के लिए कई उपाय किए हैं।

October 16

Times of India ND 16.10.2016 P-13

10% extra IIT seats for foreign students

Exams To Be Held In Six Countries

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Kolkata: Up to 10% additional seats in each IIT course can now go to foreign students. Casting the enrolment net for foreign students wider, the IITs will now hold their entrance exam at six international centres instead of just one so far.

"Foreign candidates will have to qualify the JEE advanced examination for an IIT seat. The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) for entry to MTech courses will be held in these six countries as well," said an official. Foreign candidates, however, will not have to take the JEE main examination.

Induction of foreign students will not mean less seats for Indian students. "The 10% intake is in addition to

In another change, the cut-off for the aggregate marks in Class XII for SC and ST candidates has been reduced from 70% to 65% in JEE advanced 2017

the existing seats available in each of the 23 IITs," the official clarified. Also, 20,000 more candidates will be eligible to write the exam after clearing JEE main, thus taking the total number to 2,20,000.

The examination will be held in six countries outside India — Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, UAE, Nepal and Singapore. The number of foreign students can't exceed 10% of the total seats in each course offered by the IITs and ISM-Dhanbad. There will also be no quota in this category.

In another significant change, the cut-off for the aggregate marks in Class XII for SC and ST candidates has been reduced from 70% to 65% in JEE advanced 2017.

"Various interactive fea-

tures are conceived to make the process of registration, fee payment, result announcement, choice filling, etc, less strenuous. Features like short video tutorial and SMS services will be used extensively to help the candidates," said a senior official.

From next year, candidates who register late for the IIT-JEE advanced exam will also be charged a late fee of Rs 500.

The registration fee has been increased to Rs 1,200 from Rs 1,000 for girls and reserved category students, and to Rs 2,400 from Rs 2,000 for others. Students from Sarc countries will pay \$135 and those from other countries \$270. The late fee for them is \$80.

In another change, candidates applying under PWD category with dyslexia must submit a certificate from a doctor specialising in psychiatry and associated with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) or Dyslexia Associations. The medical certificate must mention the word 'severe'.

Where to go in Chennai to feel the entrepreneurial buzz

HANGOUTS FOR FOUNDERS

Amethyst, Royapettah | Chamiers, Nandanam | Ashvita Nirvana, Adyar | **Anna Centenary Library, Kotturpuram** | Starbucks, multiple locations | **Besant Nagar beach**



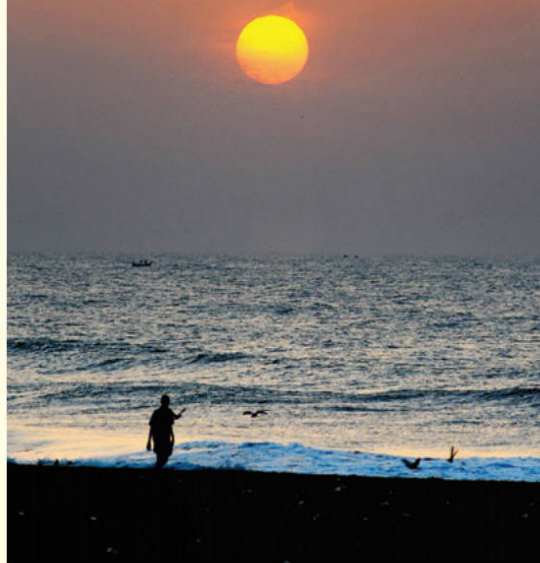
CO-WORKING SPACES

Karya Space | @works, multiple locations | iKeva, OMR

INCUBATORS/ACCELERATORS

IIT Incubation Cell, IIT Research Park, Guindy | TBI, Anna University | The Startup Centre, Thiruvanniyur | Nasscom Warehouse, Tidel Park | Paypal Startank, Sholinganallur | GSF India, Guindy

SEASIDE CITY STARTUP GUIDE



No. of startups

1,181

Total funding received from Jan to June 2016

\$16.65mn
(11 rounds)

BEST-KNOWN STARTUPS: Freshdesk, Zoho, Mad Street Den, Magzter, BankBazaar, Uniphore Software, Caratlane, Vakilsearch, Sulekha, Chargebee, OrangeScape, Tenmiles

INVESTORS

Peepul Capital, RA Puram | TVS Capital, Alwarpet | Ventureast Fund Advisors, Alwarpet | Keiretsu Forum, Alwarpet | The Chennai Angels, Adyar



PROMINENT ANGELS

Suresh Kalpathi | R Narayanan | Gopal Srinivasan | Padma Chadrasekaran | Girish Mathrubootham | Vellayan Subbaiah

WHAT MAKES CHENNAI'S STARTUP ECOSYSTEM UNIQUE

The city probably has the highest number of **SaaS (software as a service) and IT product-based startups** in the country. Tamil Nadu boasts of a **massive pool of engineering graduates** and while several of them migrate to cities such as Bengaluru, most prefer to stay home and innovate in the IT products space. **IIT Madras and its IIT Research Park** (in pic below) is among the **first incubators to be set up in the country**. It draws engineering students from across the country, who seek to be mentored by as well as partner with IIT-M faculty to build apps and products. Industry sources say the **educational institution is well on its way to becoming the Stanford of India**

Compiled by Ranjani Ayyar



Times of India ND 16.10.2016 P-22

It is crucial to understand if a founder can handle criticism

Ranjani.Ayyar@timesgroup.com

A decade ago to the day, a small but brave initiative, the Rural Technology Business Incubator (RTBI) at IIT Madras, was started. Under the stewardship of **Ashok Jhunjunwala**, who received the Padma Shri in 2002, the organization has grown into a vibrant hub for entrepreneurs aiming to build socially-inclusive startups that serve people in rural areas. Jhunjunwala, 63, who has been at IIT-M for 35 years, tells STOI about the early days of the incubator and the challenges he faces while nurturing entrepreneurs in domains as varied as education, healthcare, agriculture and financial inclusion.

How did RTBI come into being?

In the late 1990s, when I was with the Telecommunications and Computer Networks group (Tenet) at IIT Madras, social ventures were cropping up, and the government was interested in supporting entrepreneurship. We realised that business and technology were not thriving. Everyone saw the success of Tenet and it was decided that a one-of-its-kind incubator to support ventures that combined social, rural and technology was needed, with funding from the department of science and technology. Since we had limited resources, my lab at IIT Madras was used at

first. As soon as I started RTBI, I met a lot of people eager to work for the incubator and youngsters outside IIT interested in starting social ventures. Though we had very little money, this gave me the confidence to bring people in, train them and set the ball rolling.

Social ventures have unique challenges. How did you overcome them?

Social ventures take more time than usual so entrepreneurs need to be prepared to run patient ventures. It is not enough to have an idea to set up shop. One has to explore, build the technology and business model to back the idea, and then set up the venture. Because the market is the rural population, the benefit they perceive has to be significant [for the entrepreneur] to see any reward.

What is your role in shaping the companies RTBI incubates?

I have a personal rapport with the founders and have their complete confidence. I am also extremely

critical. I am never satisfied and keep pushing them to aim higher. Some have the ability to take the pressure, some don't. It is crucial to understand whether a founder can handle my criticism or not.

What remains the biggest challenge, and what makes it worth the trouble?

It is hard when entrepreneurs who are capable choose to be laid back and take the easy way out. With one startup that I helped with financing, they were not moving in the right direction and pace. I insisted on a personal guarantee from the founders. I kept the papers in my drawer till the day they came to me and said they had succeeded. As a teacher, we have to play the balancing act of being critical and motivating them.

I have experienced moments of pride when founders strive to do their best. Once,

I learnt that a founder had stopped eating lunch as the startup was going through a financial crunch. The founder was barely managing to pay salaries of her employees and when I asked why she didn't come to

me, she said she wanted to stand on her own feet.

What is lacking in the Indian startup ecosystem?

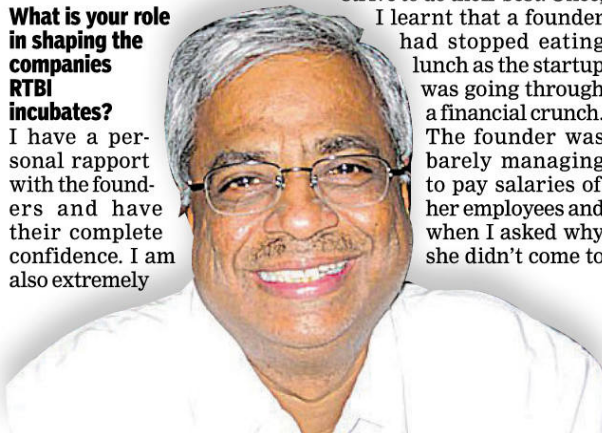
The concept of incubation is still in its infancy. Careful nurturing is required for the ecosystem to mature. There is dearth of experienced entrepreneurs, repeat ventures, trained resources and support. Social ventures, though popular, have a negative connotation. A charity culture seeps in, which does not help drive business. The thought that if one is in a social venture, one need not do business has to change. While the government is supportive, it is still difficult for startups. Compliance requirements and one-sided deals eat into the founder's time and money, and there is no redressal mechanism.

What is your vision for RTBI for the next 10 years?

I want the organization to live beyond me. While it is fairly independent, its true success will be when it lives beyond the people who build it.

What is your message to aspiring entrepreneurs?

For those who do not have an immediate obligation on graduation, there is no better career option than entrepreneurship. The learning and growth is unparalleled and if one chooses to build a venture with RTBI, one will not only be working for this generation but the next as well.



DNA ND 16.10.2016 P-17

B-schools snub start-ups from placement list

Kritika Sharma

kritika.sharma@dnaindia.net

New Delhi: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) had earlier this year put a blanket ban on 31 start-ups after Flipkart had delayed the joining of freshers from IITs. Following that, the placements from e-commerce industry and start-ups have dipped in B-Schools as well. Experts in the industry believe that the trend will catch up with all prominent B-schools.

According to the data shared by Xavier School of Management (XLRI), for their summer jobs this year, the number of placements have dipped by half to 4 per cent this year, as compared to 8 per cent of the total placements last year.

The top recruiters on campus in terms of numbers were Accenture, Aditya Birla Group, BCG, General Electric, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra, Mondelez among others. The top recruiting sectors were FMCG, BFSI, conglomerates, manufacturing, and consulting among others.

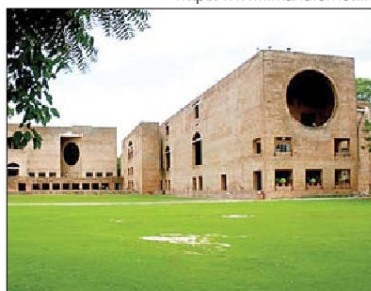
While e-commerce was a major recruiter last year, accounting for 8 per cent of the offers, this number has halved this year and the share has reduced to 4 per cent.

In another institute, MDI Gurgaon, placements in e-commerce sectors have gone down by 10 per cent, while manufacturing has gone up by 3 per cent.

While e-commerce contributed to 3 per cent of the total offers, five per cent of the offers came from telecom. Some of the major recruiters included Godrej, JPMorgan Chase, American Express and Axis Bank.

Explaining the reason behind, IIM Ahmedabad Director Ashish

<http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/>



IIM Ahmedabad

The e-commerce industry has a greater variability, which means the rate at which it grows, it can slow down at the same rate. When they are growing, they are hungry for people, when they are slow, the first thing they do is cut down on people

— **Ashish Nanda**, IIM Ahmedabad Director

Nanda told DNA, “The Flipkart fiasco was actually not the cause but a symptom of this whole change. The e-commerce industry has a greater variability, which means the rate at which it grows, it can slow down at the same rate. This is what is happening with start ups and e-commerce, the industry is slow. When they are growing they are hungry for people, when they are slow, the first thing they do is to cut down on people.”

While B-schools cannot put blanket ban on any industry, students and placement cells have been less encouraging towards start-ups.

DNA ND 16.10.2016 P-17

Times of India ND 16.10.2016 P-22

how i made it to



When complex equations led to simple decisions

PRAVEEN SRIRAM

"Praveen, have you done your homework?"

"No mom! I am not interested in studying! I don't want to do it!" This used to be the typical conversation between my mother and me, when I was in class eight. I had no interest in academics. I had decided to be a cricketer and don the Indian jersey like Sachin Tendulkar.

One day, my mother invited Shaikh Sir home, and entrusted him with the task of teaching me concepts in Physics, Chemistry, and Math. Initially, I hesitated to attend his class; I'd find excuses to bunk it. But the way he explained various concepts, and showed how everything manifested in the physical world, caught my attention. I started developing an intense curiosity, and soon it started becoming an enjoyable experience to see how some complex equations on paper translated to beautiful theorems and laws which governed the world around us. I also started participating in many competitive exams and Science Olympiads. My school - Kendriya Vidyalaya, IIT Powai, is located in the IIT Campus, and I used to attend TechFest, a technology festival organised by the students of IIT Bombay. I wanted to become 'like' them and study in India's premier institute for engineering. Once I completed my class ten board exams, I was sure that I wanted to prepare for the JEE.

But I had to take a very important decision at that point - to either continue in a conven-

tional school, or get admission in a junior college and attend the IIT coaching classes in the evenings, or to enroll myself in an integrated programme which had IIT coaching and junior college, all under one roof.

Bala uncle, my guide for everything in life, helped me in making a decision by clearly stating out the pros and cons of each option. With the conventional school option, I'd get a more all-round education with the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities (which I was very fond of) and comparatively less time for IIT preparation. After giving it some thought, I decided to join the integrated programme. I was ready to sacrifice the conventional college education.

So that was it. I started my class eleven in the Pace integrated coaching centre. I did well in the first couple of tests, but my performance kept fluctuating. I felt very dejected and started studying a lot more. But again Bala uncle taught me a very important lesson - the two-year IIT-JEE preparation is like a marathon. There's no use putting too much effort in the beginning and getting burned out towards the end. He said that it was important to peak at the right time. I also learned to focus on concepts, rather than on short-cuts to solve problems. These words of wisdom helped me endure these two tough years. And I made it to IIT Bombay!

Praveen Sriram is pursuing his third year in Electrical Engineering at IIT Mumbai.

NEWSMAKER OF THE WEEK



VIRENDRA GUPTA:
MAKING NEWS
BY SELLING IT

Growing up in Jodhpur, Virendra Gupta read mostly Hindi newspapers, magazines and comic books. So, when the IIT-Bombay graduate decided to do a venture of his own in 2007, after a few stints with corporates, he thought of building an app that aggregates Indian language content. It started as NewsHunt, but was later renamed DailyHunt. The app soon became enormously successful - it today has 28 million monthly active users and 4.5 billion monthly page views. On Saturday, it announced a fresh round of funding of \$25 million from China's ByteDance and existing investors Matrix, Sequoia, Falcon Edge, Omidyar and former CEO of Vodafone, Arun Sarin. Gupta is a telecom veteran. Before DailyHunt, he had more than 11 years of experience with players like BPL Mobile, OnMobile and Airtel. "When you work with telecom companies like Airtel, you are subconsciously wired to think of a product that will serve the masses," says the 44-year-old. At Airtel, Gupta had developed e-topup, an online prepaid recharge. DailyHunt started as an SMS and browser-based service, because there weren't many smartphones in 2007. The app came four years later and helped to dramatically increase reach. It has seen 130 million downloads. Gupta has tested the waters in overseas markets, but says he is focussed on India. "India itself is like 30 different countries. Around 80% of the offline advertising budget still goes to Indian language sources," he says. DailyHunt gets around 80% of its revenue from advertisements. "In India, consumer growth and usage precedes monetization. We will leapfrog in the next few years," says Gupta, who still gets his daily dose of news from Hindi newspapers. "Everybody loves to know what is happening in their home town," he says.

Hindustan ND 16.10.2016 P-06

28 अक्टूबर तक संशोधन का मौका

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी और आईआईसी के एमएससी, ज्वाइंट एमएससी-पीएचडी, एमएससी-एमटेक व अन्य स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश के लिए 12 फरवरी 2017 को होने वाली संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जैम-2017) के लिए जिन छात्रों ने श्रेणी व लिंग गलत भर दिया है, वे 28 अक्टूबर तक इसमें संशोधन कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए एक आवेदन के साथ निर्धारित शुल्क का डिमांड ड्रफ्ट 'चेयरमैन जैम आईआईटी दिल्ली के नाम बनवाना होगा।

Deccan Herald ND 15.10.2016 P-6

Centre mulls giving IITs autonomy in structuring fee

NEW DELHI: The Centre is considering giving permission to all seven older Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to decide the structure of their tuition fee.

The board of governors of IIT-Kharagpur, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras, Delhi, Guwahati and Roorkee will be vested with the power to fix their respective tuition fee structures.

A proposal for giving these seven premier technical institutes freedom to decide their tuition fee, fill 20% vacancies with foreign faculty, open up campuses for PhD programmes and admit 20% international students to their undergraduate and postgraduate level programmes was approved by the IIT council at its meeting last month.

“The proposal to allow IITs to enjoy autonomy in these matters has been approved by the council to help them figure in the list of top 200 institutions in the global ranking under project Vishwajeet,” sources in the HRD ministry said.

DH News Service

Pfizer and IIT-Delhi announce their Innovation and IP Program for healthcare startups

<https://yourstory.com/2016/10/pfizer-iit-delhi-innovation-and-ip-program-for-healthcare-startups/>

Healthcare is slowly becoming one of India's largest sectors, both in terms of revenue and employment. The healthcare sector in the country is growing at a brisk pace and is expected to reach \$280 billion by 2020, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.9 percent.

Given the talent, infrastructure, academic and research capabilities in the country today, this should come as no surprise. With the growing demand for healthcare solutions, cost-effective, easy-to-deploy and scalable innovations are the need of the hour. On the other hand, there has never been a better time to be an entrepreneur in this space, with the Indian Government's increased focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property rights.

The Pfizer IIT-Delhi Innovation and IP Program is an incubation accelerator co-created by Pfizer and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi). The programme, supported by the Startup India initiative, aims to fulfil the campaign's fundamental aim of fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive for the growth of startups.

The programme promotes, celebrates, and rewards advancements in healthcare – innovations that take shape in India and can help patients, healthcare professionals, and other targeted beneficiaries in the country. From devices to diagnostics, mobile health to medical informatics – the programme will bring to life innovations that are made in India and made for India. Those selected will receive comprehensive support in the form of funding, resources, expertise and infrastructure, to propel their healthcare innovations from idea to IP.

An independent panel of subject matter experts established by FITT and Pfizer Limited will review and recommend the shortlisted proposals to the FITT Board. The Board will select the final proposals for the programme.

Pfizer will provide an unencumbered grant of upto Rs 50 lakh to each innovator selected by the committee. Patents obtained as a result of the incubation will belong to the innovators, who will be free to commercialise them as they desire.

Programme details

This programme is open to Indian nationals – both individuals and startup companies. For innovators seeking comprehensive support to translate their healthcare ideas into patents, the programme provides two years of residential incubation at IIT Delhi, with funding of upto Rs 50 lakh for each innovator. Participants will get mentoring support from IIT Delhi's faculty and access to the institute's top-level infrastructure and prototyping laboratories. They will also get support with IP search and filing services and guidance from Pfizer's global experts, in addition to access to venture capitalists and other industry connections.

Innovators who already have a ready proof of concept and are seeking to obtain a patent, will gain access to IP attorneys and services (covering the patent fee).

IIT Bombay researchers a step closer to treating Parkinson's

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sci-tech-and-agri/iit-bombay-researchers-a-step-closer-to-treating-parkinsons/article9226043.ece>



Work in progress: Further studies will reveal if the mesenchymal stem cells become matured neurons, says Subhadeep Das from IITB-Monash Research Academy. — Photo: Special arrangement

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT B) have taken the first successful step at regenerating neurons in a Parkinson mouse model by using mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) encapsulated in an amyloid hydrogel. The hydrogels which provide scaffolding for stem cells to develop into neurons when implanted in the brain are developed from a special class of proteins called amyloids. The results were published in the journal *NPG Asia Materials*.

Neuron-like cells

The hydrogel enabled the delivery and engraftment of mesenchymal stem cells in two regions of the mice brain — substantia nigra and striatum — where the cells were injected. “We do not have direct proof that mesenchymal stem cells have become neurons. But the stem cells transplanted at the substantia nigra site were differentiating into neuron-like cells,” says Subhadeep Das from IITB-Monash Research Academy, IIT Bombay and the first author of the paper.

“We wanted to first know if the cells were surviving and were contained at the site. So the time point was short, and we sacrificed the animals at the end of the seventh day after transplantation,” he says. “Further studies for prolonged periods will tell if the mesenchymal stem cells become matured neurons.”

In the case of Parkinson's, neurons based in the substantia nigra region of the brain release dopamine at the striatum. Since the connection between the two regions is lost in the case of Parkinson's, the researchers implanted the stem cells at both the sites.

But before transplanting the stem cells encapsulated in the hydrogel into the brain of the mice, the researchers tested the hydrogel in the lab for toxicity. Both neural precursor cell lines and mesenchymal stem cells were cultured in the amyloid hydrogel. And 2D and 3D culture tests for toxicity were carried out for both short (24 hours) and long (120 hours) term and the results compared with a collagen hydrogel, which served as control. “The compatibility of amyloid hydrogel was similar to collagen,” says Das.

Besides being a good scaffold that facilitates the differentiation of stem cells into neurons and not being toxic, the hydrogel should also not trigger the immune system from mounting a violent reaction against it when implanted into the brain. So the researchers injected the hydrogel into rat brain to test for any possible inflammatory response or immune rejection of the amyloid hydrogel. While two types of inflammatory cells - microglia and astrocytes - accumulated near the hydrogel, their levels subsided by 21 days.

In a next step, they implanted the hydrogel containing the mesenchymal stem cells in the brain of the Parkinson mouse model. “The hydrogel was able to improve the viability of the transplanted cells and were able to contain them at the site where they were implanted,” says Das. The control cells that were not contained in hydrogel were three times less viable than the cells contained in the hydrogel.

“Amyloids are among the most robust protein/peptide-based materials ever evolved in nature. We just utilised these superior materials property of amyloids for targeting stem cell delivery in the brain and their differentiation to neurons. On the one hand, amyloid-based hydrogels are capable of protecting delicate stem cells within the hydrogels matrix, while on the other hand, they are able to guide the differentiation of stem cells towards neurons,” Samir K. Maji from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Bombay and the corresponding author of the paper says in a release.

Major challenges

There are three major challenges when stem cells are transplanted or injected into the brain - the cells should survive, should not migrate to different places where they are not required, and should become functional neurons and integrate with the existing neural circuit. “Our material has solved the first two challenges. We are now working on the third one,” says Das confidently.