Newspaper Clips
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पिंजौर के अमरावती एनक्लेव मामले में आवास मंत्री पंवार ने दिये निर्देश

आईआईटी दिल्ली करेगी सुरक्षा मानकों की जांच

चंडीगढ़, 28 सितंबर (ट्रिन्यू)

पिंजौर के अमरावती एनक्लेव में आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग के लोगों के लिये बनाये जा रहे फ्लैट्स के सुरक्षा मानकों की जांच भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली द्वारा की जाएगी। प्रदेश के परिवहन एवं आवास मंत्री कृष्णलाल पंवार ने विभाग के अधिकारियों के इसके आदेश दिये हैं। उन्होंने इस मामले को लेकर सोमवार को विभाग के अधिकारियों की बैठक भी ली। बैठक में हाउसिंग बोर्ड के अलावा हरियाणा शहरी विकास प्राधिकरण (हूडा), सिंचाई, टाउन एंटी कंट्री प्लानिंग के अधिकारी व डीएलएफ कंपनी के प्रतिनिधि मौजूद रहे। पिछले सप्ताह मंत्री ने इन फ्लैट्स के निर्माण कार्यों की मौके पर जाकर समीक्षा भी की थी। इसी के बाद यह बैठक हुई।

पंवार ने अमरावती एन्क्लेव में बनाए जा रहे 720 फ्लैट्स का औचक निरीक्षण करते हुए इनके सुरक्षा संबधी मानकों पर चिंता जाहिर की है। बैठक में जब उन्होंने अधिकारियों से सुरक्षा मानकों पर चर्चा की तो उन्हें अवगत करवाया गया कि फ्लैट्स के निर्माण को लेकर पूर्व में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) रूड़की से सुरक्षा मानकों का आकलन करवाया गया था।

पंवार ने कहा कि ये फ्लैट्स कौशल्या डैम के समीप बन रहे हैं। यहां किसी भी प्रकार के ज़ान-माल का नुकसान न हो, इसके लिए इनके सुरक्षा मानकों का पुनः आंकलन भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी), दिल्ली द्वारा करवाया जाना चाहिए। आज की बैठक में हाउसिंग बोर्ड, हरियाणा शहरी विकास प्राधिकरण, सिंचाई, टाउन एंड कंट्री प्लानिंग विभाग तथा डीएलएफ कंपनी के अधिकारी मौजूद थे।

गौरतलब है कि दैनिक ट्रिब्यून ने इस मामले में खबर प्रकाशित करके मामला उठाया था।

An IIT-Delhi student launches Safely Home app in Gurgaon

http://www.thewiire.com/technology/an-iit-delhi-student-launches-safely-home-app-in-gurgaon/12896/

In a hoard to promote the road safety importance among the Delhilites, recently a road safety app Safely Home was launched. The app was launched by, an IIT-Delhi student Ishan Jindal, who after working two years on the pp development, launched a pioneering road safety app in gurgaon.

Talking about the app features, Ishan Jindal, an IIT-Delhi said that the Safe Home App is fully automatic and is very effective in detecting road accidents to give early help to road accident victims.

Meanwhile, till now more than 300 people have already been reported using the app on trial basis in Delhi, Ishan Jindal added.

The report related to the launch of the app claimed that the app named as Safely Home comes with a unique feature that in the event of an emergency, the app doesn't require you to press a panic button.

Moreover, if anyone who has installed the app in their Smartphone for any reason damages his\ her phone, then the app would automatically sends out an SOS to the police, ambulance and your family.

Along with this the features including showing the live city traffic feed and roadside assistance, will too be shown by the app.

Economic Times ND 29/09/2015
P-10

Indian Ranking System for Edu Institutes to Come Out Today

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The government will roll out on Tuesday an India-specific ranking framework covering higher educational institutes, in an answer to global ranking agencies where Indian universities and institutes including the IITs have never been able to make the cut.

The ranking framework will be across disciplines which takes into account the perception of an institute, outreach, research activity and inclusivity through reservations.

It will be released by HRD minister Smriti Irani following marathon meetings of a core committee headed by the ministry's higher education secretary. The parameters which would be used for ranking are "teaching learning and resources, research, consulting and collaborative performance, graduation outcome, outreach and inclusivity (through reservations) and perception" said an official note.

Each of these has been further subdivided into nearly 20 sub criteria to comprehensively assess an institute. The rankings will cover all institutes offering courses on engineering, law, management and humanities and the first ranking list is expected by January-February 2016.

A core committee comprised National Board of Accreditation Chairman (NBA) Surendra Prasad, IIT-Kharagapur Director PP Chakraborty, IIT-Madras Director Bhaskar Ramamurthi, besides the higher education secretary and HRD ministry officials.

Hindustan Times ND 29/09/2015 P-13

India leaps into elite space league with Astrosat launch

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY Six foreign satellites also part of mission, which was 31st successful project of Isro's trusted PSLV

Vanita Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: India took a giant leap in space research on Monday as it successfully launched an astronomical observatory into earth's orbit to join an elite global club.

Astrosat, the country's first dedicated satellite for astronomy, will attempt a deeper study of the universe and star systems in particular.

The Isro's trusted Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) that blasted off from Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota base also carried six foreign satellites, embellishing India's credentials as a major player in the lucrative space market.

The observatory, considered India's equivalent of NASA's Hubble telescope, has put the country in an exclusive science fraternity: until now only the United States, Russia, Japan and the European Space Agency could do astronomy from orbit.

"It is an eventful day. This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe," Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chairman Dr Kiran Kumar said. "One of the unique features of this mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite."

The success came less than a week after Isro celebrated the first anniversary of its landmark Mangalyaan mission to Mars.

The flight is also historic because this the first time that US satellites have been launched by India. The four small LEMUR satellites were dispatched on a commercial basis for a San Francisco-based company.

The mission also carried a Canadian and an Indonesian small earth observing satellite as piggyback payload. This was the 31st launch of the workhorse PSLV rocket, which has had 30 consecutive successful flights till date.

Just over 22 minutes into the journey, the rocket ejected Astrosat at an altitude of 650km carrying four X-ray payloads, a UV telescope and a charged-particle monitor. Soon after, the six other satellites were put into orbit.

Astrosat will observe universe in the optical, ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, while most other scientific satellites are capable of observing a narrow range of wavelength band.

ASTROSAT FACTS

India joins US, Russia, Japan and European Space Agency

1,513kg Lift-off mass

PSLV-C30 Carrier vehicle

22 minutes Duration of flight

650km Distance of orbit

$45million Cost of mission

Isro's PSLV-C30 blasts off with Astrosat in Sriharikota on Monday. PTI

welldone

I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to you and your entire team at the Indian Space Research Organization on the successful launch of PSLV-C30 carrying ASTROSAT

Pranab Mukherjee, President, in a message to Isro chairman AS Kiran Kumar

Well done @isro. This is one more grand accomplishment for Indian science & our scientists

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted

Congratulations to the entire nation for the successful launch of India's first astronomy satellite ASTROSAT.#ISRO

Harsh Vardhan, Union minister of science and technology and earth sciences

Delighted at @isro's remarkable feat of launching PSLV-C30 carrying #Astrosat, India's 1st space observatory. Congratulations@isro

N Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh chief minister

Mint ND 29/09/2015 P-03

NEW MILESTONE

With Astrosat launch, India has an observatory in space

Some of the objectives of the satellite include understanding high energy processes in binary star systems

By Nikita Mehta
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NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Monday successfully launched astro-nomy satellite Astrosat along with six foreign satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

This is India's first dedicated satellite for astronomy mission. The satellites were released through the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLC-C30.

Astrosat, the 1,513kg astronomy satellite with an expected operating lifetime of five years, carries five payloads for simultaneous multi-band observations.

Together, these telescopes and detectors will be used to observe celestial objects by performing observations in ultraviolet, optical, low and high-energy X-ray wavebands.

Institutions that were involved in payload development of the astronomy satellite include Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Indian Institute of Astrophysics and Raman Research Institute.

Two of the payloads were developed in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency and the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

"There is an exciting possibility to address new investigations in astronomy using our own, largely indigenously-built facility in space," said P. Sreekumar, director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

"A near-continuous observational capability in space for astronomical studies, complementing existing ground-based facilities."

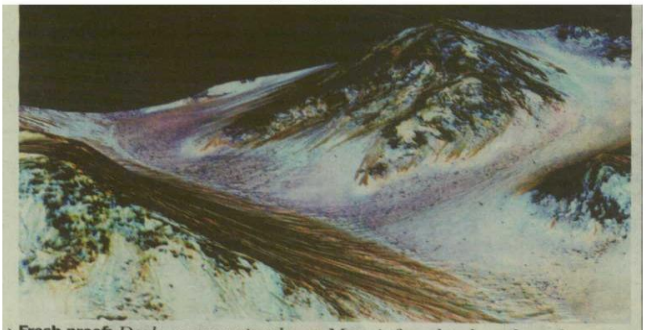
Some of the scientific objectives of the satellite include understanding high-energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes, studying star birth regions and high-energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy, and detecting new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky.

"Up to now, Indian scientists can propose for observing time on X-ray telescopes launched by other countries. With the launch of Astrosat, we get our own telescope. Initially, Astrosat will be used completely by Indian scientists and the instrument building team. Eventually, some time will be available for foreign scientists as well," said Varun Bhalerao, a post-doctoral fellow at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, who was part of the teams that developed Astrosat.

The foreign satellites launched along with Astrosat will be used for maritime monitoring by the respective countries. These include one from Indonesia and Canada and four from the US.

Senthil Kumar/PTI

Blasting off: *Isro's PSLV-C30, carrying space observatory Astrosat, lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Monday.*



Fresh proof: *Dark, narrow streaks on Mars inferred to have been formed by contemporary flowing water are seen in an image produced by Nasa.*

MARS PROBE

Nasa scientists find evidence of liquid water on Red Planet

By Eric Roston
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NEW YORK

The holy grail of space exploration is to find extraterrestrial life. An important precursor to that is finding liquid water—and that's exactly what Nasa on Monday announced that scientists have discovered on Mars.

The findings, which are described in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, offer an explanation for peculiar, long streaks that sometimes appear on sloping Martian terrain.

The dark features, which can reach 5 metres wide and more than 100 metres long, were first noticed in 2010.

By analyzing their reflected light signature, a team of eight scientists has concluded that the streaks consist of mineral salts that easily absorb moisture—and that flowing water is the likeliest explanation for their appearance.

The Red Planet has been known for years to have ice, and its surface bears the topographical scars of ancient water flow. This latest research, though, is the first to provide compelling evidence for the ongoing existence of flowing water on Mars.

The findings date back to 2010, when Lujendra Ojha, then a University of Arizona undergraduate and now the lead author on this new research, started sifting through images from a powerful Nasa camera orbiting the Red Planet.

His professor, Alfred McEwen, is another co-author on the research and the camera's lead scientist for Nasa.

"There were these stark, linear, narrow features forming" all over the planet, Ojha said, "and they were only forming when the temperature was ideal for liquid water." In the Martian winter, the features, called "recurring slope lineae", disappeared.

Another instrument, called the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars, or CRISM, records the wavelengths of light reflecting off Mars's surface. Scientists use CRISM to collect light spectra, match them to the known light signatures of minerals, and then conclude, for example, what soil might be made of on another planet.

Now a graduate student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Ojha began looking at the CRISM data for Mars's sloping streaks at the end of last year, unpacking pixel after pixel. Using these images, he and his colleagues confirmed what they had already suspected—the presence of salts called perchlorates that are terrific at absorbing water.

The significance of the finding goes beyond scientists' usual glee at the discovery of anything Earth-like in the heavens. Liquid water is a necessary precursor to life. So, if Mars has water, it might also...

Well, don't go there just yet.

The new images don't actually show flowing water, which doesn't last long on the Martian surface. It evaporates quickly, and the thin atmosphere wicks it up and away. The orbiter collects its data at about 3pm Mars time. That's a bad time for watching water, because the relative humidity is so low. Eight hours earlier or later, the scientists may have caught the water itself, Ojha said.

Instead, what's left are these patches of freshly hydrated salts, which bond with molecular water whenever it's around, leaving dark streaks. That's what Ojha and colleagues see in the images, and how they know there's water on Mars. It's locked in these salts, and couldn't be there without some recent influx.

The ultimate question, whether Mars can host living things, belongs squarely to astrobiology, the study of life's origins.

Towards the end of their new paper, Ojha, McEwen and their co-authors say that the conditions on Mars—arid and salt-rich—are similar in some ways to the Atacama desert in western Latin America. There, water-retaining salt beds provide an oasis for microbes.

Unfortunately for ET-hunters, on Mars "the water activity in perchlorate solutions may be too low to support known terrestrial life", the authors wrote.

There's an irony in searching for life-friendly conditions on Mars, or elsewhere. The more promising the discovery, the more thoughtful humans (or our robots) should be in approaching it. Areas where life might propagate are declared "special regions" and treated with caution by scientists. That's because virtually everything on Earth—your smartphone, the doorbell, bananas, yesterday's socks, spacecraft—is slathered with microbes. Nasa has an entire Office of Planetary Protection to ensure that the search for extraterrestrial life doesn't turn up expat terrestrial life.

"Maybe in the future, we can have a mission to go there," Ojha said, "but I think we have to be really careful about transferring of life from Earth to Mars. We might be the ones creating the second Genesis." **BLOOMBERG**

Digital India: India will play big part in driving technology forward, says Sundar Pichai

http://computer.financialexpress.com/news/digital-india-india-will-play-big-part-in-driving-technology-forward-says-sundar-pichai/13873/

India will play a big part in driving technology forward in the future, Google CEO Sunder Pichai said today and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accelerating India's effort to become the next global hot bed of innovation and entrepreneurship.

India will play a big part in driving technology forward in the future, Google CEO Sundar Pichai said and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accelerating India's effort to become the next global hot bed of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Driving technology forward would really improve people's lives in India and all around the world, Pichai said."I am not just excited because I grew up in India, I am excited because I deeply care about technology and know that India will play a big part in its future," he said, adding that a lot of that is becoming possible because Modi is driving it forward.

"He (Modi) has accelerated India's effort to become next global hot bed of innovation and entrepreneurship," Pichai told a gathering of top Silicon Valley CEOs at a dinner hosted in honour of the Prime Minister, who is on a two-day visit to the city of San Jose.More importantly, Modi understands that technology is an enabler to drive change at a massive scale, the kind of scale that India needs, he added.

The 43-year-old IIT alumnus said it is not just being on line, it is about what you get online. "People are educating themselves, connecting with loved ones and creating and sharing videos. For example on You Tube, there are many home makers in India who make a living by posting videos on line," he said.

Sundar Pichai who was in India last year, praised the presence of what he described as "hungry" entrepreneurs, the same kind one would like in the Silicon Valley. "The presence of that, motivation and Indians coming online at an unprecedented scale, was very clear to me that this is a once in a life time opportunity," he said, adding that there is evidence of this all around.

There are more than 3,000 startups in India. "By many matrices, India is the fastest growing startups in the world. Companies like Flipkart, Hike, Zomato, Snapdeal these are all evidence of these are happening all around us. They are not just Indian success stories, they are global success stories and they create thousands of jobs," he said.

He said that Google is proud at what is happening in India and share Prime Ministers vision for a Digital India and want to play a part in it. Observing that two main things computing and connectivity — are foundation for a digital India, Pichai said android today is available in many Indic languages.

Stating that in order to push digital literacy forward, it is very important for people to type in their native languages, Pichai announced that next month Google would make it possible for people to type in 10 different languages in India, including Gujarati. Pichai said Google is working on many connectivity projects, which he would announce when Modi visits Google headquarters.

"More than anywhere else, India has the innovative spirit that lies in the DNA. It is doing great things with it. It's that spirit that drives everyone here," Pichai said.

Next best thing: Why India has become the new China for US technology companies

BANGALORE: US technology companies desperately want to win over people like Rakesh Padachuri and his family.

Padachuri, who runs a construction business in this city, the center of India's technology industry, uses his smartphone to reserve movie seats through BookMyShow and to order pizzas from Domino's. His wife, Vasavi, orders clothes from Myntra and Amazon.com, and downloads videos and games from YouTube and the Google Play store to entertain their 4-year-old daughter.

They all stay in touch via a group chat they have set up on WhatsApp, a free messaging service owned by Facebook. "There's no need to call each other," Rakesh Padachuri said last month during an interview at his home, which is next to a Best Western hotel.

The Padachuri family's love of technology helps explain why India and its 1.25 billion residents have become the hottest growth opportunity — the new China — for US Internet companies. Blocked from China itself or frustrated by the onerous demands of its government, companies like Facebook, Google and Twitter, as well as startups and investors, see India as the next best thing.

"They are looking at India, and they are thinking, 'Five years ago, it was China, and I probably missed the boat there. Now I have a chance to actually do this,'" said Punit Soni, a former Google executive who was lured back to India recently to become the chief product officer of Flipkart, a Bangalore e-commerce startup similar to Amazon.

The increasing appeal of India, now the world's fastest growing major economy, was underscored in recent days.

During a meeting in Seattle on Wednesday with US technology executives, China's president, Xi Jinping, was unwavering on his government's tough Internet policies.

PM Narendra Modi, on the other hand, was on a charm offensive during his own US tour. After a stop in New York City, he headed to Silicon Valley, where he visited Tesla and attended a dinner with tech chieftains including Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Sundar Pichai of Google.

On Sunday, Modi participated in a town hall discussion with Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive. He also planned to drop by Google and Stanford University, mingle with entrepreneurs and address a sold-out arena of 18,000 people in San Jose, California, before heading back to New York to meet with President Barack Obama on Monday.

"For India to keep making progress, it needs to be a leader online," Modi said during the Facebook event. He acknowledged that tech companies like Facebook were not connecting people out of pure altruism, but he told Zuckerberg, "I hope this will not just be something to enhance your company's bank balance."

The overall message to Silicon Valley from Modi, who posts regularly on Twitter and Facebook: Help India become an Internet powerhouse.

Two years ago, India's rise as a digital nation was hard to imagine. Internet penetration was modest, mobile phone networks were glacially slow, and smartphones were a blip in a sea of basic phones.

Read more at:
Since 2013, however, the number of smartphone users in India has ballooned and will reach 168 million this year, the research firm eMarketer predicts.

India already conducts more mobile searches on Google than any country besides the United States. Yet "we are barely scratching the surface of availability of Internet to the masses," said Amit Singhal, Google's senior vice president in

charge of search, who emigrated from India to the United States 25 years ago.

Indians have long loved to connect with one another online, accounting for much of the growth of early social networks like Friendster. So it's not surprising that Facebook already has 132 million Indian users, trailing only the United States.

WhatsApp, the messaging service that Facebook bought last year for nearly $22 billion, has become the most popular app in the country, offering free texting and free phone calls in a place where many people earn just a few dollars a day. Facebook's Messenger app is No. 2, according to the analytics firm App Annie.

And that only touches on Facebook's ambitions in India. "We need to focus on the billion people who are not connected," said Kevin D'Souza, head of growth and mobile partnerships for Facebook India.

To reach them, Facebook is offering basic versions of its service that work on simple phones and slow networks. Under an umbrella initiative called Internet.org, Facebook is also working with a local cellphone operator to offer a package of free services, including news, job listings and text-only versions of Messenger and its social network aimed at those who can't afford a data plan.

India still poses many challenges. Internet.org has come under fire from regulators and activists who are concerned that Facebook is favoring its own services. And despite Modi's outreach, government agencies are trying to censor content they consider unfavorable or offensive. Last year, Facebook received 10,792 requests from the Indian government to remove information, far more than from any other country.

Making money is also difficult in India, where the amount spent on digital advertising is expected to total about $940 million this year, according to eMarketer — a fraction of the $58 billion that is expected to be spent in the US.

While revenue is tiny so far, Internet companies say they are playing the long game, focusing on getting more people online now and profiting later.

Google, for example, wants 500 million Indians online by 2017. Most of these newcomers will be using phones powered by Google's Android operating system, which accounts for most of the Indian smartphone market. That will let Google expose these users to its other services, like search and YouTube, as well as plenty of ads.

The effort to get more Indians online, however, has forced tech companies to re-examine some fundamental assumptions. Only one in six Indians knows enough English to surf the Web in the language. But there are few Web pages in Hindi or India's 21 other official languages.

Google, Facebook and Twitter have all added support for more Indian languages and are prodding developers and users to create more local-language content.

To deal with India's poor mobile data connections, which can run at a hundredth of the speed that Americans expect, Google is compressing Web pages on its servers so that they use 80 percent less data and load four times as fast.

Similarly, Indians can download YouTube videos while they have a high-speed connection, such as Wi-Fi at school or work, and save them to watch later when they are offline.

Of course, none of this matters to those who have never used the Internet. To reach them, Google has formed a partnership with Intel and a local charity to send female tutors, who travel by bicycle, to thousands of villages to teach rural women about the Internet. So far, 200 bikes equipped with solar-powered tablets and smartphones are on the road, and Google hopes to increase that number to 10,000.

The immaturity of India's Internet market allows companies like Twitter, which has just 20 million users in the country, to treat it as a laboratory. "If you are starting from a clean slate, what should Twitter look like?" asked Valerie Wagoner, Twitter's senior director for growth, who joined the company after it acquired her India-based startup, ZipDial.

Hundreds of millions of Indians still use basic phones that cannot run apps, but they can receive text messages free. Using technology pioneered by ZipDial, Twitter allows people to view the tweets of cricket stars, politicians or brands by calling a special phone number, then immediately hanging up. The subsequent tweets are delivered as texts.

Last month, Twitter began testing a new idea in India — a tab of tweets made up entirely of news stories. The idea is to reposition Twitter as a real-time news service, instead of a collection of random items from random accounts.

"This is a market where we can do tests," said Amiya Pathak, a founder of ZipDial and a director of product management at Twitter. "Prove it out in India first, and as you prove it out, take it to other markets."

NITs mull IIT-style admissions

http://www.abplive.in/india/2015/09/29/article726952.ece/NITs-mull-IIT-style-admissions

New Delhi: The National Institutes of Technology will this week decide whether to select students through the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced), bringing their admission process on a par with that of the elite Indian Institutes of Technology.

Currently, the NIT selection process accords 40 per cent weightage to a student's Class XII board marks and 60 per cent to his scores in the JEE Main, conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education and taken by over 13 lakh candidates.

But the IITs use the JEE Main just as a filter. They conduct one further exam, the JEE Advanced, which only the top 1.5 lakh performers in the JEE Main are allowed to take.

The IITs prepare their merit list solely on the basis of JEE Advanced scores while also using the eligibility criterion of 75 per cent marks or an 80 percentile score, whichever is lower, in the candidates' board exams.

Now this will also become NIT practice, barring any possibly different eligibility criterion, if the latest recommendation is endorsed on Thursday by the NIT council, headed by the human resource development minister and made up of the institute directors and chairpersons.

If it does, one advantage will be the simplification of the admission process. The IITs and the NITs now hold common counselling --- to prevent students blocking seats --- but have to follow different merit lists based on different norms.

Also, the number of candidates allowed to take the JEE Advance will have to be raised to at least 2 lakh, so that the 10,000 IIT seats and 18,000 NIT seats can be filled.

Only about 1.25 lakh of the 1.5 lakh eligible candidates now take the exam. So, if the ceiling is raised to 2 lakh, about 1.6 lakh may take the test, an IIT director reckoned.

The idea of switching to the JEE Advanced came last week from the standing committee of the NIT council, made up of the directors of 10 among the 31 institutes and the heads of higher education regulatory bodies, two of its members told The Telegraph.

A further suggestion was that the NITs join the Central Board of Secondary Education in organising the JEE Main while the IITs continue to conduct the JEE Advanced on their own.

Earlier, an expert panel headed by IIT Bombay director Devang Khakhar had suggested that the NITs scrap the weightage given to Class XII board marks and select students solely on the basis of their JEE Main score.

It made three points: delayed publication of results by some school boards was holding up NIT admissions, and the board weightage had failed in its stated objectives of increasing the intake of rural students and discouraging private coaching.

But the standing committee, while agreeing to drop the board weightage, felt that the NITs and the IITs, both of which enjoy "institution of national importance" status, should have a uniform selection process.

It couldn't be confirmed whether the standing committee had accepted the Khakhar panel's suggestion of introducing an eligibility criterion of 55 per cent board marks or 60 percentile, whichever is lower.

A few years ago, the IITs had balked at the idea of a single nationwide engineering test, insisting on a separate JEE Advanced by citing their premier status. They had also resisted, initially, the idea of common counselling.

If the latest proposal is accepted, the IITs' premier status will be reflected only in the candidates' preferences apart from their sole right to conduct the JEE Advanced.

Yesterday, the Joint Admission Board, made up of IIT directors, discussed a proposal to make the JEE Advanced a computer-based test from 2017. Two concerns were expressed: whether all rural candidates would be proficient enough with computers and whether two lakh computers can be arranged at one go.

IIT-M students get a chance to join NISAR

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/iitm-students-get-a-chance-to-join-nisar/article7700082.ece

Students at the Indian Institute of Technology–Madras now have an enviable opportunity of joining NASA and ISRO.

On Monday, two scientists, Yunjin Kim, project manager of the National Aeronautical Space Administration-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (NISAR), and Alok K. Chatterjee, interface manager for NISAR, presented to students the details of the mission.

The scientists are working with the Indian Space Research Organisation to put radar in the earth’s orbit that would offer valuable information on natural hazards and ecosystem disturbances.

The satellite, likely to be placed in the earth’s orbit by ISRO’s launch vehicle, is equipped with technology to collect a detailed view of the earth, measure surface deformation to predict earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides. It would also help in monitoring groundwater and glacial movements, all of which would help not only manage hazards but also provide information to farmers and scientists.

The two scientists made a presentation on the project in a bid to enthuse students to consider joining NASA and ISRO.

“The biggest challenge is to get academicians and students involved. ISRO and NASA need engineers and space scientists. Now, NASA involves students even at high school level. The same has to be done in India, to pick interested students at a young age,” said Dr. Chatterjee.

There is plenty of scope for students at both NASA and ISRO, making it an enriching and fulfilling experience, he added. Dr. Kim, who explained in detail the process that the satellite would use to collect data, said: “There is a lot of data that NISAR would provide. We need students to work with the data that can be used by the public, including for agriculture applications. You can measure water extraction, glacier movement and changes in the forest.”

IIT-M’s Hari Ramachandran and David Koilpillai, professors in electrical engineering, showcased a satellite which a group of students were creating. The IITMSAT would be handed over to the ISRO next summer, the professors said.

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IIT में प्री-प्लेसमेंट ऑफर्स की बरसात

इस साल PPO में 50% का इजाफा, ई-कॉमर्स कंपनियां ऑफर देने में आगे

♦ | प्राची वर्मा & श्रीराधा डी बसु | नई दिल्ली & मुंबई |

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (IITs) के प्री प्लेसमेंट ऑफर्स (PPO) में इस साल 50 पर्सेंट बढ़ोतरी हुई है। यह प्रीमियम इंजीनियरिंग स्कूलों के स्टूडेंट्स के लिए अच्छी खबर है क्योंकि इस दिसंबर में फाइनल प्लेसमेंट शुरू होने से पहले ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स के हाथ में जॉब्स होंगी। पिछले साल सितंबर तक IIT मद्रास को लगभग 35 प्री प्लेसमेंट ऑफर्स मिले थे जबकि इस साल इनकी संख्या लगभग 50 तक पहुंच गई है।

IIT बॉम्बे को इस साल 123 PPO मिले हैं, जो पिछले साल पूरे सीजन में सिर्फ 110 रहे थे। IIT कानपुर को इस बार 90 मिले हैं, जो पिछले साल महज 24 थे। इस साल IIT खड़गपुर को 142 PPO मिले हैं, जो पिछले साल के 92 के मुकाबले 55% ज्यादा हैं।

बहुत सी इनवेस्टमेंट बैंकिंग और फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज कंपनियां IIT कैंपस में दो साल के गैप के बाद लौटी हैं। इन कंपनियों में जेपी मॉर्गन, मॉर्गन स्टैनले और बार्कलेज शामिल हैं, जो इस बार IIT मद्रास और IIT खड़गपुर आई हैं। इनके अलावा क्रेडिट सुईस और कैपिटल वन जैसी कंपनियों ने IIT मुंबई से पहल की है। ईकॉमर्स और स्टार्टअप कंपनियां सबसे बड़ी रिक्रूटर्स बनी हुई हैं। IIT कानपुर के ओवरऑल प्लेसमेंट कोऑर्डिनेटर दिव्य प्रताप सिंह ने बताया, 'अब तक सबसे बड़ा ऑफर फेसबुक से आया है।'

- **कई इनवेस्टमेंट** बैंकिंग और फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज कंपनियां IIT कैंपस में दो साल के गैप के बाद लौटी हैं
- **इन कंपनियों** में जेपी मॉर्गन, मॉर्गन स्टैनले और बार्कलेज शामिल हैं, जो इस बार IIT मद्रास और IIT खड़गपुर आई हैं

उन्होंने डिटेल नहीं दिए, लेकिन कोऑर्डिनेटर्स और जिन स्टूडेंट्स को ऑफर मिले हैं, उनसे बातचीत के आधार पर अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है कि टॉप सैलरी 1 से 1.5 करोड़ रुपये सालाना हो सकती है। PPO एमेजॉन इंडिया के लिए टैलेंट सोर्सिंग का बड़ा जरिया है। कंपनी के ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डायरेक्टर राज राघवन ने कहा, 'एमेजॉन में इंटर्न्स को अपना फ्यूचर लीडर माना जाता है। आधी से ज्यादा कैंपस हायरिंग प्री प्लेसमेंट ऑफर से होती है और यह हमारे लिए टैलेंट्स की पहचान और उनकी हायरिंग का एक अहम जरिया बना रहेगा।' एमेजॉन में पिछले दो साल में इंटर्न के पीपीओ तक आने का सिलसिला बढ़ा है। IIT से इसकी 60 पर्सेंट से ज्यादा हायरिंग PPO रूट से हो रही है। इस साल के टॉप PPO रिक्रूटर्स में सैमसंग, एडोबी, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज, टाटा स्टील, फ्लिपकार्ट और स्ट्रैड लाइफ साइंसेज शामिल हैं।

पिछले साल के मुकाबले इस साल IIT इंटर्न्स की संख्या पिछले साल से 60 पर्सेंट ज्यादा है। उसने ज्यादातर स्टूडेंट्स को PPO दिए हैं और वे कंपनी को ज्वाइन करने वाले हैं। सैमसंग इंडिया के स्पोक्सपर्सन ने कहा, 'हमारा मानना है कि इंटर्नशिप से इंटर्न और ऑर्गनाइजेशन दोनों को लंबे समय तक एक दूसरे के बारे में जानने का मौका मिलता है। इससे स्टूडेंट्स के लिए ऑफर मिलने पर फैसला लेना और ज्वाइनिंग के बाद ऑर्गनाइजेशन में उनका समायोजन आसान हो जाता है।'

PPO के लिए पहली बार IIT-BHU आनेवाली कंपनियों में टेक्सस इंस्ट्रूमेंट्स, JSW ग्रुप, अमेरिकन एक्सप्रेस और एक्सियम हैं। बेंटले सिस्टम्स इंडिया, फजी लॉजिक्स, इनोप्लेक्सस कंसल्टिंग सर्विसेज, क्वेटजाल ऑनलाइन, ग्लो होम्स टेक्नोलॉजीज और जिंपली IIT रुड़की गई हैं।