

Newspaper Clips

September 27, 2011

Deccan Herald Bangalore 25.09.2011 p-10

IIT-Kanpur may ban wi-fi

➤ Authorities at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, are deliberating on restricting Internet access to students during the night saying that it has a negative effect on their academic performance, PTI reports from Kanpur.

“The campus is wi-fi enabled and it has been found that students use Internet throughout the night on their laptops due to which they are sleepy during classes and it adversely affects their academic performance,” Registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar said.

He said poor performance leads to stress among students and some of them commit suicide after being unable to cope with academic pressure. A decision to restrict Internet access between midnight and 6 am on the campus will be implemented only if a consensus is reached on the matter, Kashalkar said.

On Thursday, a BTech 1st year student committed suicide at the institutes’s hostel which was the ninth such case in the past six years and has become a cause of concern for the authorities.

Deccan Chronicle Hyderabad
25.08.2011 p-8

IIT-KANPUR MULLS RESTRICTING WEB USE

Kanpur, Sept. 24: Authorities at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here are deliberating on restricting Internet access to students during the night saying that it has a negative effect on their academic performance. “The campus is wi-fi enabled and it has been found that students use Internet throughout the night on their laptops due to which they are sleepy during classes and it adversely affects their academic performance,” Registrar Sanjeev Kashalkar said.

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Indian students continue to be on top

SREERUPA MITRA

Bangalore

DESPITE a dip in the volume of Indian students going for MBA programmes abroad, most of the top international management schools have claimed that Indian students still continued to top the chart when it came to the number of foreign applications for the two-year management pro-

grammes revealed a 2011 Application Trends Survey conducted by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).

As per the survey, about 61 per cent of programmes reported India as their top source of foreign talent, while about 39 per cent of programmes claimed that India is their fastest growing source of foreign applicants. "India and China are the

leading Asia Pacific countries contributing to the influx of applications for the full time MBA programmes. The overwhelming response clearly indicates the value placed on quality graduate management education by candidates from this region," said Ashish Bhardwaj, Managing Director, Graduate Management Admission Council (India), and Regional Director,

South Asia, GMAC. According to the survey, international applicants make up 53 per cent of full-time MBA programme applications, on an average and applicants from Asia-Pacific account for 57 per cent of international students applying to programmes in the United States.

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Take clue from China to grow Indian medical tech industry: Trivitron

N VASUDEVAN

Bangalore

THE privIndia is still an import dependent country with over 80 per cent of medical equipment, devices and diagnostic equipment being imported that adds to the cost of healthcare, according to Dr GSK Velu, founder and managing director, Trivitron Healthcare.

Velu feels that there is ample scope for making India a global hub for medical technology manufacturing as the country has the required talent and skills in addition to cost advantage. According to him, India should take clue from Chi-

na that was in similar situation 10 years before but today is one of the top 3 countries to export over 50 per cent of medical technology products.

A July 2010 Deloitte report on the medical technology industry in India stated it is nascent and highly fragmented with limited indigenous manufacturing — imports constitute over 75 per cent of the estimated \$2.75 billion market. Key categories of items that are imported into India include imaging equipment, pacemakers, orthopaedic and prosthetic appliances, breathing and respiration apparatus, and dental equipment.



"Government should identify medical technology industry as a separate entity, create regulatory frameworks suitable to India though we can have

USFDA as guidelines and restrictions on MNCs to have direct access to the Indian market like in China. MNCs should be present with the technology but

Long way to go

■ A July 2010 report on the medical tech industry in India stated it is nascent and highly fragmented

■ India is referred as tech lab of the world, China is referred as factory due to difference in value

■ India's medical tech is a form of home-grown entrepreneurship, whereas China's is backed by FDI

thus encouraging the volumes. Medical technology education, design engineering should be a part of high end engineering education while medical technology R&D should be encouraged to provide opportunities for students to tap their skills, talents. We have to stop brain drain," Velu said.

Founded in 1997, today Trivitron Healthcare claims to be the largest medical technology company of Indian origin with over 400 products catering to 15 medical specialties. Comparing the scenario in India with that of China, he further said while India is referred as technology lab of

the world, China is referred as factory/workshop due to difference in value versus volume. India's medical technology is a form of home-grown entrepreneurship, whereas China's is backed by Foreign Direct Investment. India's medical technology nurturing environment for domestic firms is supported by stronger infrastructure that allows enterprises to flourish, while China's restricted environment with many obstacles for private domestic firms is preventing them from challenging state-owned enterprises, he said.

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IITs Gear Up for a Bright Start to Placements

Registrations up; first-time hirers queue up

DEVINA SENGUPTA
BANGALORE

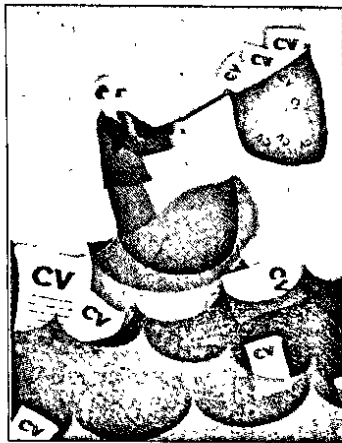
India Inc may well be treading with caution on hiring this year, but on the campuses of India's premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), there is an air of optimism around final placements. Registrations at IIT Bombay, Delhi and Madras outshine or maintain last year's numbers, and first-time hirers are pouring in for placements, scheduled in December.

"Companies are upbeat and there is no reason hiring will stop; in fact it may even increase," says Kushal Sen, placement head, IIT Delhi. Over 150 companies have registered with IIT Delhi as of September 22. A similar number of firms had registered last year.

IIT Madras currently has 100 firms registered in their placement portal compared with last year's 60, says Ramesh Babu, placement head. Foreign companies such as Japan's NTT Communications and Infoaxe from the US, have registered for the first time this year. Among the Indian first-timers are FMC Technologies, Broadcom India, MNDastur, eGain, Essex Lake Group and Tribi Systems. NIIT University wants to hire PhD students, says Babu.

Finisar from Malaysia, which hired last year, has confirmed this year as well. Singapore's Sumitomo has been visiting the campus since 2009 and has also registered this year. Company profiles reveal that global salaries can go up to as much as \$60,000, says Babu. R&D and engineering firm King Abdullaziz from Saudi Arabia, which had hired students for 96,000 Saudi riyals last year, is yet to register, but the institute is hopeful.

At IIT Bombay, 100 companies had registered till August, and by December, the institute expects to cross last year's 250-mark. Ravi Sinha, placement head did not divulge the names of the companies, but expects firms from Japan, Korea, North America and few Eu-



ropean nations. Work Applications, a Japanese enterprise resource management firm, has approached IIT Bombay for the first time, says Sinha.

Companies that are interested in hiring students from the IITs expected to get the requisite approvals from the placement committee

Over 150 companies have registered with IIT Delhi. A 100 firms have registered with IIT Madras compared with last year's 60

and then sign into the placement portals. They have to mention the job profile, location and salary, based on which students can decide which firm's interview to take. All those who register do not necessarily come for the placements, which last till June.

Not just the IITs, but Kolkata-based Jadavpur University too has its share of first-timers — Tokyo-headquartered IT firm Job Tessio and Abu Dhabi's iron and steel firm Al Ghurair Group are in the process of selecting students. The Japanese firm is expected to offer Rs31 lakh per year while the latter will take care of accommodation, food and travel expenses of its employees, besides paying a salary of Rs 3.6 lakh, according to Siddharth Bhattacharya, officer of placement and training.

JOY OF GIVING: START BIDDING TO GET INTO IIM-A FOR A DAY

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

AHMEDABAD: Now one can get into the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) without appearing for the common admission test (CAT), albeit for a day only. As part of the institute's Joy of Giving initiative, it will allow complete outsiders to spend a day at IIM-A between September 27 and 30.

The Joy of Giving is a yearly initiative by IIM-A students meant to help the under-privileged.

"Those interested will have to bid and 50 highest bidders, 10 to 15 persons per day, will be chosen to spend the day at IIM-A," said Divya Suresh, media coordinator of a student body at the institute.

The selected batch will be taught by the IIM-A faculty.

"During the day, students will learn interesting things about the campus. They will also experience first-hand the academic rigour the students are exposed to," general secretary of the student body Parampreet Singh Bhaseen said.

Proceeds from the bidding will go to Prayaas, a social initiative of IIM-A students to teach under-privileged children around the campus in Ahmedabad.

Times of India ND 27/09/2011

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Eleven scientists selected for Bhatnagar award

Smita Pandey | TIG

Eleven scientists have been selected for the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology this year. The award was announced by director general of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Samir Brahamachari, at the foundation day celebration of CSIR at Vigyan Bhavan. It will be given out by the Prime Minister later this year.

First given in 1958, the country's highest award in science is named after the founder director of CSIR, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar. It is given to a scientist up to 45 years of age and carries a prize of Rs 5 lakh. Union science and technology minister and vice-president of CSIR, Vilasrao Deshmukh, minister of state for science and technology, earth sciences and planning Ashwani Kumar and ex-director general of CSIR, R A Mashelkar, attended the ceremony on Monday. Vilasrao Deshmukh congratulated the winners and lauded CSIR's ceaseless contribution towards promotion of science and innovation in the country. As CSIR entered the 70th year of its "memorable journey", he suggested that the council institute two new Bhatnagar Prizes in the domains of trans-disciplinary research and innovation. "I see a special role for CSIR in the current context where there is increased focus on knowledge-led economic development and innovation," he said.

The winners this year include Amit Prakash Sharma of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi and Rajan Sankaranarayanan of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad for the biological sciences category. In the chemical sciences category, Balasubramanian Sundaram of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore and Garikapati N Sastry were nominated for the award.

Extending "warm felicitations" to the winners, Ashwani Kumar urged CSIR "to redefine innovations to go beyond formal research and development parameters and facilitate innovative solutions that must lead to inclusive growth for the people by the people". Promising that science and technology would find a distinctive place in the 12th five year Plan, he said, "I see for CSIR a special role in the 12th Plan. I am confident that CSIR would carve out a unique placement for itself through the plan effort in times to come."

The award for earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences category went to Shankar Doraiswamy of National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. In the engineering sciences category, Sirshendu De of IIT, Kharagpur and Upadrasta Ramamurty of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, were nominated for the award. Mahan Maharaj of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Howrah and Palash Sarkar of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata were picked for the award in mathematical sciences category. In the medical sciences category, Kithiganahalli N Balaji of IISc, Bangalore, was nominated while the award for physical sciences category went to Shiraz Minwalla of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

Several other prizes, including the CSIR Young Scientist Award, CSIR Technology Awards and CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School Children, were also awarded during the ceremony.

Meet India's brightest young scientific minds

City schoolboy wins award for his invention

By Mail Today Science Bureau in New Delhi

FROM studying the depths of the earth's crust to developing new molecular pathways for drug development, young scientists are engaged in pioneering work in different laboratories across the country. Seven such scientists were given the CSIR Young Scientist Award for 2011 on Monday.

Each award consists of a citation, a cash prize of ₹50,000 and a plaque. The awardees are also entitled to a research grant of ₹5 lakh a year for five years and an honorarium of ₹7,500 per month till they attain the age of 45.

Dr Arun Singh of the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, won the award for his contribution to understanding of earthquakes in relation to mantle deformation patterns of the Indian plate. Dr Rajeev Saraswat of the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, has developed techniques for studying relative strength of northeast and southwest monsoon during the past 1,40,000 years.

Awardees get ₹5L grant a year for five years

The award in chemical science category was given to Dr Dattatraya Hanumant Dethé of the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, for developing new methods of synthesising biologically active alkaloids, while his colleague Dr Rahul Banerjee won the award for research relating to designing of new materials for hydrogen storage.

Dr Bikash Kumar Jena of the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar, Dr Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni of the National Chemical Laboratory, and Dr Kaushik Biswas of the Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata are the other awardees.

Eleven winners of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize — India's highest science award — for 2011 were also announced by CSIR director general Samir Brahmachari.

The winners in different categories are Mahan Maharaaj (Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda University), Palash Kumar (Indian Statistical Institute), Amit Prakash Sharma

THOSE WHO WILL SHAPE THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE

SHEKHAR YADAV



RAJEEV SARASWAT

National Institute of Oceanography, Goa

Work: Developing technique to study relative strength of northeast & southwest monsoon over 1,40,000 years



KAUSHIK BISWAS

Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata

Work: Developing transparent glass ceramics containing rare earth nanocrystals

RAHUL BANERJEE

National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

Work: Research into new materials for hydrogen storage



BIKASH KUMAR JENA

Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar

Work: Developing methods for synthesising 'shape control' structures (materials that control their shapes)



DATTATRAYA HANUMANT DETHÉ

National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

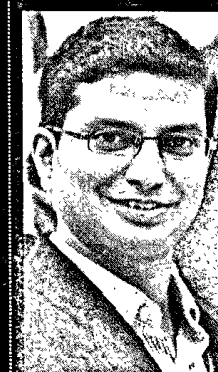
Work: New way of synthesising biologically active alkaloids



ARUN SINGH

National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad

Work: Study on earthquakes in relation to mantle deformation patterns of the Indian plate

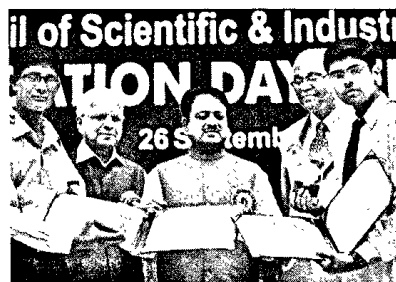


AMOL ARVINDRAO KULKARNI

National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

Work: Designing micro-reactors that allow studying chemical reactions in a miniature form

(International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology), Rajan Sankaranarayanan (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology), Balasubramanian Sundaram (Jawahar Lal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research), Ganikapati Narahari Sastry (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology), Shiraz Minwalla (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research), K. Narayanaswamy Balaji and Upadrashta Ramamurthy (both of the Indian Institute of Science), Sirshendu De (IIT Kharagpur) and Shankar Doraiswamy (National Institute of Oceanography). These awards will be presented by the Prime Minister later.



THE CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School Children for 2010 was given to two inventions selected out of the 353 proposals received in various categories. Shantanu Gangwar (on right in pic with science & technology minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and MoS Planning Ashwani Kumar) of Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram, won ₹10,000 for developing an infra-red based path guidance system (smart stick) for the blind. Ankit Kumar Mittal (on left) of Dr Raghuraj Parkash S.D. Sen Secondary School Barnala, Punjab, got ₹5000 for developing a modified lock for zips that are used in travel bags and jackets. No entry was considered for the first prize worth ₹50,000.

At Tech Campuses, a Talent War Rages

TREND SPOTTING Top IT recruiters shrug off recession worries and hire in big numbers. But, students are turning very choosy, picking only the top-end performers

Fight for Talent: Demand Rises, Supply Lags

RECORD PLACEMENTS

Cognizant



1,050
from Amrita University

TCS



1,214
from SRM University

THE TRENDS

Cognizant and TCS are the hot favourites at campuses

Top technology firms are sharing First Slots across campuses

Despite a grim economic scene, companies have not lowered hiring projections

Wipro has returned to campus after nearly two years and is finding tough to attract talent

The IT-BPO industry in India may aggregate revenues of \$88 billion in FY11 and expected to hire 2.5 million directly

SUPPLY OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED TALENT

	FY2009E	FY2010E	FY2011F
Total Engineering Graduate Output	451,700	497,475	636,480
Total Engineering Post-Graduate Output	62,400	72,777	87,332
Technology graduate and post-graduate (Computer Science, Electronics & Telecommunication) Output	268,622	295,846	376,624
Engineering IT Graduates	185,515	203,642	258,119

E ESTIMATES, F, FORECAST.
SOURCE: NASSCOM STRATEGIC REVIEW 2011



SANGEETHA KANDAVEL & JAYADEVAN PK CHENNAI | BANGALORE

It is an all-out war at engineering campuses and only outperformers are winners. While a grim global macro-economy has not prevented IT firms from hiring record numbers from top engineering colleges, students at these institutions are vetting offers very carefully and picking firms with a strong growth track. On their part, top IT recruiters are sharing first slots at campuses in their keenness to tap into the best talent.

Take the case of Amrita University which has campuses in Bangalore, Coimbatore and Kochi. India's second largest IT exporter Infosys and Nasdaq-listed Cognizant shared the first slot. While Cognizant picked up 1,263 students, Infosys went for 1,255. Around 970 students had common offers and finally, 83% of them opted for Cognizant while the remaining chose to go with Infosys.

A similar trend could be seen at Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata, Vellore Institute of Technology, BS Abdur Rahman University (formerly Crescent Engineering College), Chennai and many other tech campuses. The trend is expected to be reinforced even in Karnataka and the National Capital Region where campus placement is going to take place soon. Recruiting has kicked off in a big way in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and West Bengal last month. It's in full steam in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh now.

With a recession looming large, students are not taking any chances. They are watching every IT company closely as a brand and then choosing where to go very carefully. Around 15 students whom ET spoke to across campuses had one thing in common to say: what matters to them is being in a high growth company which offers job stability and has a good brand name.

"I chose Cognizant as they survived recession period two years back," says R Lakshmi of BS Abdur Rahman University.

While companies have started sharing day one slots and letting students make a choice, students are becoming more choosy. "It is good to have two firms in the first slot as it gives us the option to choose what we want rather than going with one offer," says Karthiga Raja, a student of Vellore Institute of Technology.

She goes on to explain: "Earlier a student was not permitted to sit for more than one interview. But now we have options. Our college explains to us in detail how these companies are performing in the market and where they stand. Even minute details like domains are explained. This helps us choose what we want," she added.

Earlier a student was not permitted to sit for more than one interview. But now we have options. Our college explains to us in detail how these companies are performing in the market and where they stand

KARTHIGA RAJA
Vellore Institute of Technology

And the trend of sharing Slot 1 - also called zero slot or first slots - is picking up across colleges. All companies sharing the first slot complete their selection process and announce results in a sealed envelope. At the end of the recruitment process of all firms sharing the first slot, the results are declared and students having more than one job offer have to choose one employer who then rolls out the offer.

Reflecting the change in the Indian IT's pecking order, the Cognizant and TCS are the hot favourites at campuses. At the Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata, Cognizant made 290 offers, Infosys made 219 and Wipro made 126. There were 216 common offers but when the final results came, there was 82% acceptance for

Cognizant, 18% for Infy and nil for Wipro.

During 2011, over 4.3 lakh fresh engineering graduates are expected to pass out with 2.5 lakh will be graduates with an IT degree, says industry lobby Nasscom. However, not all of them are directly employable and hence the huge scramble for talent at top colleges. Companies know this and are making a beeline for the top-level talent. Cognizant, for instance, had shortlisted one student from each campus to promote their company as a brand. These ambassadors study what the company is, the trends, the company's financial performance, study all the options and other facilities that the candidate can avail if she joins the firm.

R Ramkumar, vice president, corporate marketing and communications, Cognizant, says: "It's well acknowledged that faster the company growth, faster the career progression of an individual. This Cognizant brand promise of rapid career progression resonates well in premier engineering campuses."

The global economic uncertainty has so far not made any dent in hiring numbers. Headhonzos.com, which surveyed nearly 65 human resource heads in the IT sector, says the recession will have a limited, short term impact on hiring.

Nearly six out of 10 HR heads said that they have no plans to reduce hiring as a result of global slowdown. However, nearly 30% of respondents expect to scale down hiring plans by up to 20 over the next six months. "The impact is not much at the entry level. Hiring is unaffected there. It is too early to tell how many have been hired from campuses as the cycle is yet to close. However, companies are going out there with an open mind. The impact will be more towards mid and senior levels," Uday Sodhi, CEO, HeadHonzos.com told ET.

The names of some of the students in this article have been changed for sake of confidentiality

DNA Indore 26.09.11 P-3

PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR EXECUTIVES WAS SUPPOSED TO BEGIN FROM SEPTEMBER 16

IIM-I delays PG course in UAE

Aditya Singh Parmar

Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM-I) has delayed its proposed post graduate programme in management for executives (PGPMX) at Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), United Arab Emirates (UAE) by over two months.

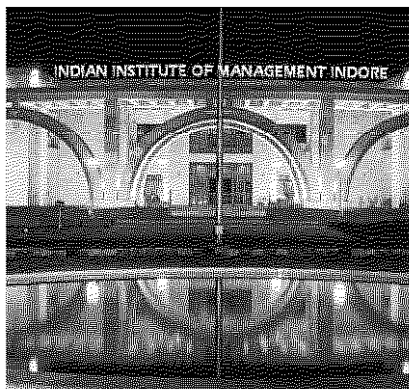
The course was earlier supposed to commence from September 16, then it was extended to October 12.

However, it is learnt that interviews for admission to the programme would be held on November 11 and 12 at GEM Ras Al Khaimah. Commencement of this programme, therefore, is still undecided.

IIM-I director N Ravichandran said due to a large number of requests for applying to the PGPMX - UAE batch of 2011, the institute is going through a special admission process for inaugural batch alone.

Admission procedure timeline has been revised. According to official details, eligibility for the course is CAT with minimum 85 per cent/ GMAT total score 650 and business aptitude test conducted by IIMI at RK on September 7.

Candidates with valid CAT/GMAT scores short-listed for the group discussion or WAT and PI were intimated on September 7.



Universities. The degree would be equivalent to doing an MBA in India.
After completion of the programme the students will be given the alumni status of IIM Indore.

SALIENT FEATURES

PGPMX is uniquely designed for working executives and entrepreneurs in the Emirates region.

The programme is divided into six terms during the course of two years consisting of 52 weekend sessions.

The programme fee is 20700 US dollar if paid in full at the time of registration.

A certificate of 'Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM)' would be offered on completion and the degree recognised by Association of Indian

Hindu Chennai 25.09.2011 p-3

IIT-M traffic survey from today

First step towards setting up Advanced Traveller Information System

Ajai Sreevatsan

CHENNAI: A comprehensive traffic survey, the first step towards setting up an Advanced Traveller Information System (ATIS) at 13 junctions in the vicinity of IIT-Madras, will commence on Sunday.

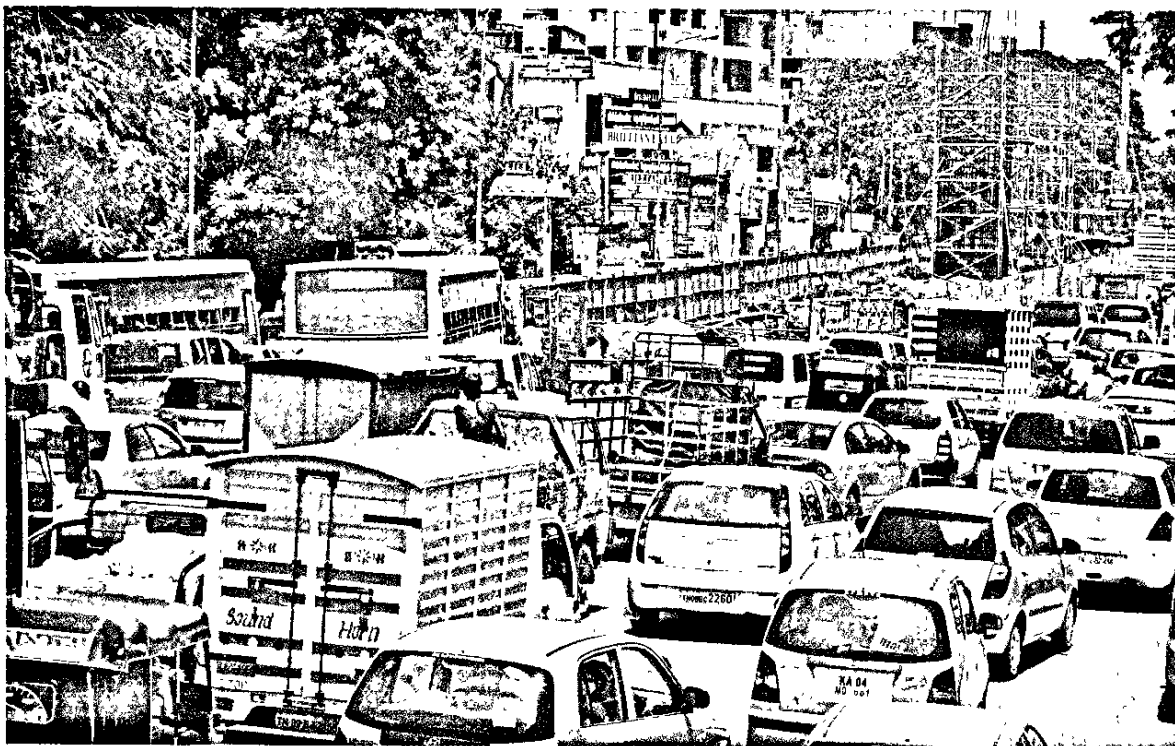
The objective of the project is to set up intelligent electronic signboards that would provide information to motorists about congestion and suggest alternative routes. The survey might also be able to throw up some interesting revelations on the impact of Metro Rail work on the traffic flow on arterial roads.

Some stretches of the study route fall on roads where Metro Rail work is in progress.

The average vehicle speed on the stretch of Anna Salai near Little Mount was around 26 kmph during rush hour in 2008, according to the Chennai Comprehensive Traffic Study. Any changes since then would become evident when IIT-M's study measures vehicular volume, density and speed over a period of three days this week.

A virtual loop will be formed by installing surveillance cameras at appropriate vantage points on all 13 busy intersections. The loop begins at Little Mount, passes via the Raj Bhavan junction, Madhya Kailash, SRP Tools junction, Vijay Nagar junction, and Halda, before returning to the starting point.

Probe vehicles, fitted with



TRAFFIC SNARL: The stretch of Anna Salai from the junction of Sardar Patel Road to Little Mount, where Metro Rail work is under way. — PHOTO: R. RAGU

GPS, will be launched every 15 minutes to study the effects of congestion on travel time.

R. Sivanandan, Transportation Engineering Professor, IIT-M, said that irrespective of Metro Rail work, congestion has steadily worsened on all arterial roads. "The morning and evening rush-hour traffic lasts nearly four hours each. Rush hour has trans-

formed into peak period and only a dramatic improvement in public transport services can reverse this trend."

A senior Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) official said that things would get a bit worse before getting better, as the underground phase of the project is set to commence by January. But residents must keep long-term interests in mind and bear the

inconvenience for a few years, he said. Unlike New Delhi, which also witnessed traffic snarls during the construction phase of the Delhi Metro, Chennai does not have the advantage of wide roads parallel to existing arterials.

Weekly and monthly 'package reviews' are also being undertaken to ensure that the project sticks to strict deadlines, he added. While a pre-

liminary traffic management plan is in place to aid soil testing and surveying work, a comprehensive plan would kick in once underground tunnelling starts.

The ATIS project is being funded through a grant from the Department of Information Technology, New Delhi. The intelligent electronic signboards are expected to be commissioned within a year.

ISB Hyderabad to set up incubator for entrepreneurs

■ This will help in business plan preparation, strategy creation and biz development support

Kritika Suneja
New Delhi, Sept 26

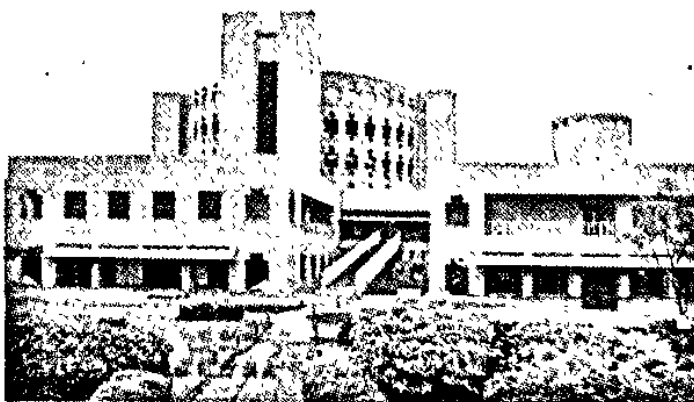
HYDERABAD-BASED Indian School of Business (ISB) is all set to establish an entrepreneurship incubator for its students, alumni and even outsiders. The institute only has a virtual incubator, called K-Hub, at present, which supports the start-ups and growth of high technology ventures.

"With more than 20% of the students being involved in entrepreneurship in some way or the other, there is huge growth happening in this area. Hence, we are working on a physical incubator model," said Prof Kavil Ramachandran, professor of family business and entrepreneurship at ISB.

The incubator, which will take at least one year to come into being, will help those with an entrepreneurial bent of mind, those who run family businesses and others who want to set

up their own ventures by mentoring them through the start-up and growth phases. Besides idea validation, the incubator will help in business plan

toring, the programme aims to accelerate growth and self-sufficiency of these enterprises. More than 100 SMEs have already benefited from the programme.



ISB Hyderabad campus

preparation, strategy creation and business development support.

The current K-Hub is a hybrid business incubator created in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government. It provides virtual incubation support to new and emerging SMEs. Through specialised men-

"Setting up the physical incubator is a priority item for the institute and it will be based on the virtual incubator model," said Ramachandran.

The incubator will be initially set up at ISB's Hyderabad campus and may be extended to its upcoming Mohali campus later.

Hindustan Times 27/09/2011 P13

100% quake prediction is impossible: Experts

KumKum Dasgupta

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NEW DELHI: Six seismologists and a bureaucrat in Italy are facing criminal charges of manslaughter. Reason: they failed to warn the residents L'Aquila of the earthquake that killed over 200 people in 2009.

While it seems rather extreme for seismologists to be accused of murder considering seismology is an inexact science, the question is do our seismologists do enough in terms of warnings or safety measures?

Experts say that 100% earthquake prediction is impossible. "We can predict an earthquake the same way we can predict an obese man more prone to a heart attack," explains Sudhir K Jain, Director, IIT, Gandhinagar.

"We know it will happen, but we cannot predict the time, day or intensity. We can minimise damage by constructing houses according to the government's seismic codes," Jain adds.

Studies have shown that more than 60% of India is vulnerable and most deaths occur

We know it (quake) will happen, but we can't predict time or intensity. We can minimise damage by constructing houses according to seismic codes

SUDHIR K JAIN
director, IIT Gandhinagar

due to the collapse of buildings. Alpa Sheth, seismic advisor, Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority says: "For instance, Gangtok has complexities of sloping terrain and high seismic hazards coupled with poor access to good structural engineering." Seth and Jain both lament the rejection of traditional knowledge suited to quake-prone regions like bamboo houses.

Are seismologists doing their job? At any given point in time, seismologist may have a lot of information which is passed on to the administration.

Many times, this information is not sent so that it does not lead to panic. Scientists, on their

part, also don't know how to translate this information and make habitats safe. There is also serious paucity of political will and a resistance to fund seismic safety programmes.

Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, agrees that these problems exist. But he says the government is increasing the density of seismic stations and bringing them under one grid to improve quake detection. In addition, scientists are digging a 7-km deep borehole in Koyna (Maharashtra) to provide new insights into the processes that cause earthquakes.

Can seismologist in India be charged with negligence? Jain feels that often officials are made scapegoats when the responsibility lies somewhere else.

Sheth says technically, builders and governments can be made liable if they are found to have been negligent but that does not happen often. Instead of the blame-game, Jain believes, everyone needs to be responsible. "But above all, we need proactive and not reactive governance," he adds.

Janvani Meeruth 25.09.11, p-1

इंटरनेट ने चिंता में डाला आईआईटी को

नौ छात्रों की आत्महत्या के बाद रात 12 से सुबह छह बजे तक इंटरनेट पर रोक की तैयारी

● कानपुर, एजेंसी



22 सितंबर को छात्रावास में रहने वाले बीटेक प्रथम वर्ष के छात्र महताब ने आत्महत्या की थी

प्रस्ताव पहले छात्रसंघ के समक्ष रखा जाएगा फिर इसे डीन स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर के पास भेजेंगे

छात्र-छात्राण मानसिक तनाव में रहते हैं। सुबह जब वह क्लास में आते हैं या परीक्षा देने जाते हैं तो वह तरोताजा नहीं होते। उनका मन न तो पढ़ाई में लगता है और न ही परीक्षा में और वे धीरे धीरे मानसिक तनाव का शिकार हो जाते हैं। आईआईटी के रजिस्ट्रार संजीव कशालकर ने बताया कि छात्र-छात्राओं को मानसिक तनाव से बचाने के लिए संस्थान रात में इंटरनेट पर रोक लगाने पर विचार कर रहा है। इंटरनेट पर रात में रोक का प्रस्ताव पहले छात्रसंघ के समक्ष रखा जाएगा। इसके बाद इसे डीन स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर के पास भेजा जाएगा। सबकी सहमति मिलने पर ही इसे लागू किया जाएगा। रजिस्ट्रार संजीव ने कहा कि संस्थान में लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया (डेमोक्रेसी) है इसलिए सबकी सहमति जरूरी होती है। कशालकर ने बताया कि पता चला है कि महताब इंटरनेट पर काफी समय बिताता था।

इंटरनेट के अधिक इस्तेमाल और छात्रों में आत्महत्या के बढ़ते मामलों ने आईआईटी संस्थानों को चिंता में डाल दिया है। तकनीक को जन्म देने वाले इन संस्थानों में इंटरनेट एक 'वायरस' के रूप में घुस गया है। इसी के मद्देनजर आईआईटी कानपुर अपने यहां रात 12 बजे से लेकर सुबह 6 बजे तक इंटरनेट के इस्तेमाल पर पाबंदी लगाने पर विचार कर रहा है। संस्थान यह कदम छात्रों में आत्महत्या के बढ़ते मामलों को लेकर उठा रहा है।

गौरतलब है कि आईआईटी कानपुर में 22 सितंबर को छात्रावास में रहने वाले बीटेक प्रथम वर्ष के छात्र महताब ने आत्महत्या कर ली थी। इस तकनीकी संस्थान में पिछले 6 साल में 9 छात्रों की आत्महत्या के मामले सामने आ चुके

हैं। आईआईटी कानपुर परिसर वाईफाई इंटरनेट सुविधा से लैस है। फिलहाल, यह चौबीसों घंटे

सक्रिय रहता है। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि छात्र देर रात तक इंटरनेट से जुड़े रहते हैं। इससे