MUMBAI: The heads of placement committees across the Indian Institutes of Technology will hold an emergency
meeting on Friday with one agenda: A strategy for startups and ecommerce companies after Flipkart postponed the
hiring of campus recruits. "Our AIPC (all-IITs placement committee) meeting was scheduled for October. But we are
having to convene this out-of-turn meeting in light of recent developments," Professor Kaustabha Mohanty, convenor of
the panel, told ET.

The meeting will take place in Mumbai and those who won't be able to make it, will log in via Skype. The placement
heads will discuss, among other things, the slotting of startups, which ones to invite and which to refuse during campus
interviews. They may decide on action against Flipkart, which delayed the joining dates of all new campus recruits by six
months and offered to pay Rs 1.5 lakh as joining bonus.

Even after several requests from IITs and the Indian Institutes of Management, Flipkart hasn't changed its stance on
reducing the delay or increasing the compensation. India's largest online retail platform maintained that it is committed
to taking all trainees on board in December. ET reported last week that Flipkart may lose its day 1slot in the placement
programme across leading IITs.

Brand strategy expert Harish Bijoor, CEO of Harish Bijoor Consults, said the student community weighs the worth of a
company's word as reputation and if it postpones joining dates, its standing is suspect.

"Flipkart is a bellwether client of the current era of ecommerce companies. What Hindustan Unilever is to FMCG and
what Infosys was to IT services, Flipkart is to ecommerce," said Bijoor.

"I do believe the brand is already affected by this furore. What's worse is that it is not Flipkart alone, but the entire
industry of ecommerce and the startup world that bears the brunt of this image drubbing. It's temporary for sure and
life will go on, but the scar is left behind for sure." Even other startups including Road-Runnr, Zimply Home Shopping,
Click Labs and PepperTap have delayed joining dates or withdrawn job offers across IITs because of cost pressures and in
some cases, closing of operations. Hopscotch and CarDekho have deferred offers at IIMs. "There are also instances of
some startups reducing pay packages from what was initially promised," said Mohanty.

IITs have now told students to go ahead and consider job offers and interviews with other companies that have
approached them including commerce firms Amazon, Paytm and Voonik.

At B-schools, the process is already under way. "We have had 30-35 companies approach us across sectors as diverse as
consulting, FMCG and startups. Students have already started interviewing with them," said Sapna Agarwal, head of career development services at IIM Bangalore.

Economic Times Hindi ND 03.06.2016 P-08
IIT students reach final of global competition

Kolkata, Jun 2 () A team of three IIT Kharagpur students have made it to the finale of Shell Ideas360, a global competition that connects students to develop ideas to tackle the pressures on the world's food, water and energy resources.

The team comprising Gaurav Jain, Apurva Gajwani and Ankit Lohani has been working for over a year on the solution to the problem of food security in the world.

Swapnil Sharma, Recruitment Marketing Lead, Shell Technology Centre, said, "We understand that the students will be travelling to London for their final presentation as the institution representatives. We look forward for the Institute's continued support and guidance in coaching, mentoring the students in the coming days to help them win".

The team has developed a smart solution for the farm which provides an alternative low cost diagnostic option to the farmers.

Prof D K Swain from the Department of Agriculture and Food Engineering was the guide and institution representative for Shell Ideas360.

The competition was quite tough as 982 ideas were submitted globally, out of which 66 ideas made it in stage 2 and the students from IIT Kharagpur made it to final five.

The final event will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic ground in London on June 30 during 'Make the future London' event. The final will include coaching by Shell experts and presentation of the final idea to a judge panel of senior executives and subjects experts.

The top teams hail from India, Singapore (2 teams), USA and UK, who will be fighting for the prestigious Shell Ideas360 trophy and a once in a lifetime National Geographic Adventure.

Dainik Jagran ND 03/06/2016  P-03
MEA bails out three students held in Italy

NEW DELHI: Three IIT students were detained by Italian police in North Italy’s Ventimiglia town on Monday during a check for illegal immigrants but were released hours later following the intervention of the Indian mission in Rome.

Akshit Goyal and Deepak Bhatt, from IIT Delhi and Uday Kusupati from IIT Bombay were visiting Italy as tourists and carrying valid passports with Schengen visas.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup said Italian authorities have admitted it was a “mistake” on their part to detain the three as their documents were in order. He said Indian mission has taken up the issue with the Italian authorities strongly.

After they were detained at Ventimiglia railway station, the three IITians were flown along with other detainees to Bart, a town almost a 1000 km away in south of Italy.

Swarup said the Indian mission in Romé, after coming to know of the incident from a relative of Akshit, swung into action and contacted Italy’s ministry of interior affairs and police authorities in Ventimiglia. After around 10 hours, the three students were released.

The students were first brought to Indian embassy in Rome on May 31 and then the mission made arrangements for their onward journey to Nice in France the same day where they are enrolled for an internship programme at a university.

Swarup said. He added that the Indian embassy was taking up the issue with authorities.

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UCLA prof’s ‘killer’ is IIT alumnus

Los Angeles, June 2: The Los Angeles police on Thursday identified a graduate engineering student, Mainak Sarkar, as the man who killed a University of California professor in a murder-suicide that prompted a two-hour lockdown of the sprawling urban campus.

Sarkar, a 2000 alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur, shot and killed professor William Klug before killing himself on Wednesday, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing sources.

The attack appeared to be provoked by Sarkar’s belief that Klug had stolen computer code from him, according to a March blog post by a person of the same name. “Your enemy is my enemy. But your friend can do a lot more harm,” Sarkar wrote in the post. “Be careful about whom you trust.”

Late on Thursday, it was revealed that the police found a “kill list” from Sarkar’s Minnesota home with the names of Klug, another UCLA professor and a woman.

The woman, whose name has not been released, was found shot dead in her home in a near-by Minnesota town. The other professor on the list is “ok”, police chief Charlie Beck said.

Mr Beck said it appeared mental issues were involved and that Sarkar’s dispute with Klug was tied to Sarkar thinking the professor released intellectual property that harmed him.

The police asked for the public’s help to find Sarkar’s car, which he drove to Los Angeles.

The shooting prompted a complete lockdown of the campus and deployment of hundreds of police officers as well as federal agents. All university classes were cancelled on Thursday.

The lockdown was lifted shortly after noon. Officials said classes would resume on Thursday.

Klug, 39, was an associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and had been the target of Sarkar’s anger on social media for months, the paper said.

Before enrolling at UCLA, Sarkar earned a master’s degree at Stanford University, according to his LinkedIn page. In 2000, he graduated from the IIT, Kharagpur with a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

— Reuters/PTI
Heads of five Indian missions visit IIM-A

Ahmedabad: As part of Union ministry of external affairs (MEA) outreach to states, five ambassadors and high commissioners of India are on a visit to Gujarat from June 1 to 3. These top MEA officials visited Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) for an interaction with the faculty on Wednesday on the institute's campus.

The delegation included Ashok Kumar Sharma, ambassador of India to Finland, Shamma Jain, ambassador of India to Panama, Dr Ketan Shukla, high commissioner of India to Botswana, Dr T Suresh Babu, ambassador-designate to Mongolia and Sandeep Arya, high commissioner of India to Tanzania.

The discussions involved exchange of ideas to initiate academic cooperation in higher education between IIM-A and the countries represented by the heads of the foreign missions.

The deliberations led to identification of four potential areas to further academic cooperation - foreign students' participation in IIM-A's programmes, faculty exchange to support research collaboration, executive education programmes and distance learning programmes. Shamma Jain extended support to foster academic exchange between IIM-A and leading business institutions in Panama.

Dr Ketan Shukla said, "Our joint efforts can lead to starting projects in the four areas identified in our discussion and can contribute to fostering bilateral relations, economic relations as well as cultural relations between India and the countries represented by the Indian envoys."

He added, "For example, Botswana being a leading exporter of diamond, it will be of tremendous value to have IIM-A faculty undertake research that can mutually benefit and contribute to the growth of the diamond industry of both India and Botswana."

Dr Suresh Babu expressed keenness on faculty exchanges and distance learning opportunities. "IIM-A has aspirations to
interact more intensively with international academics, practitioners and students. We are looking forward to continued dialogue and interactions with Indian embassies and high commissions as we seek to strengthen our global footprint," said Prof Ashish Nanda, director, IIM-A.

**UGC mobile app to combat menace of ragging**


To combat the menace of ragging, the University Grants Commission (UGC) will bring a mobile app which will help students register complaints in case they face any problems.

"The UGC has decided to bring an app as it would help them file complaints where-ever they are. Earlier also there was provision as per which students could file complaints online, but an app would make it easier," a senior official said.

The higher education regulator in a recent meeting has also formed a three member committee which will look into the various aspects related to making of campuses of Central Universities wi-fi enabled.

The committee comprises Central University of Kashmir VC Prof Me'raj Ud Din Mir, Central University of South Bihar VC Prof H C S Rathore and Central University of Haryana VC Prof R C Kuhad, it is learnt.

The HRD ministry plans to install Wifi in all Central Universities. The committee could also co-opt members from the IT sector for effective implementation of the project.